



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20503

February 2, 2024

John Greenewald, Jr.
The Black Vault

Sent via: john@greenewald.com

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This letter responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) originally dated and received in this office on March 30, 2014, and assigned tracking number 2014-080. On April 27, 2017, we administratively closed your FOIA request after you did not respond to our email dated March 14, 2017. On May 11, 2017, you emailed us to express your continued interest in your original FOIA request. We, therefore, re-opened your FOIA request and assigned it tracking number 2017-267. Your request seeks “all emails to and from Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Director that contain the term “Obamacare” or alternative “Obama care” from the years 2012 to date.”

We thank you for your patience. OMB is experiencing a significant backlog of FOIA requests and we are doing our best to respond to each request as quickly as possible in the order they are received. In response to your FOIA request, OMB conducted a search of its files for potentially responsive records and we identified a total of 145 responsive documents, consisting of 828 pages. We are releasing all 145 documents in part, with redactions made pursuant to Exemptions 5 and 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §§ 552(b)(5), (b)(6). The material redacted under Exemption 5 consists of pre-decisional and deliberative intra- or inter-agency communications, the disclosure of which would inhibit the frank and candid expressions of views that are necessary for effective government decision-making. Under Exemption 6, certain portions of the materials have been redacted (such as names, phone numbers and email addresses) because their disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Additionally, we have reviewed the information protected by the cited exemption under a presumption of openness, but have determined that it is reasonably foreseeable that the disclosure of the information would harm an interest protected by the applicable exemption.

Enclosed are all 145 documents. Should you have any additional questions or need any further assistance, you may contact the FOIA Requester Service Center or OMB’s FOIA Public Liaison at 202-395-FOIA. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. You may also administratively appeal by writing to OMB. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of this response.

Sincerely,

Michael Nelson

Michael Nelson / (Michael Nelson p.p.)
Tim Nusraty
FOIA Officer

This document is made available through the declassification efforts
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

The Black Vault



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are
responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages
released by the U.S. Government & Military.

Discover the Truth at: **<http://www.theblackvault.com>**



MEMORANDUM

March 18, 2011

To: Senator Tom Coburn

From: Christopher M. Davis, Analyst on Congress and the Legislative Process
Henry B. Hogue, Analyst in American National Government

Subject: **Independent Payment Advisory Board Membership: The President's Recess Appointment and Removal Authorities**

This responds to your request for a memorandum identifying the President's options with regard to several aspects of membership on the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). Specifically, you asked

1. Could the President appoint members of the IPAB using his recess appointment authority?
2. If so, could he recess appoint enough members of his own political party to give the board a working majority without appointing any members of a party other than his own? and
3. What authority does the President have to remove IPAB members?

IPAB Membership Provisions

The Independent Payment Advisory Board was established by Sections 3403 and 10320 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.¹ The IPAB is charged by that law with developing proposals to "reduce the per capita rate of growth in Medicare spending."²

Under the terms of the Act, the IPAB is to be composed of 15 members appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.³ The Act requires the President to consult with the Speaker of the House, the House minority leader, and the Senate majority and minority leaders, each on the appointment of three IPAB members. Although not specified by the Act, the remaining three IPAB appointments are presumably the selections of the President alone. The Chairman of the IPAB is appointed by the President from among the 15 members of the Board and the position is also subject to Senate confirmation. In addition to the President's 15 IPAB appointments, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the

¹ P.L. 111-148. 124 Stat. 489, 125 Stat 949.

² For more information on the duties of the IPAB and associated health policy issues, see: CRS Report R41511, *The Independent Payment Advisory Board*, by David Newman and Christopher M. Davis.

³ §3403(g)(1). This citation and similar citations in this section are citations to the text of P.L. 111-148, as amended.

Administrator of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) serve as *ex-officio* nonvoting members of the Board.⁴

The Act requires the appointed membership of the IPAB to include individuals who enjoy “national recognition” in several stated aspects of health policy, including health finance and economics, and further stipulates occupations which should be represented on the Board including physicians and “experts in pharmaco-economics.” The Act specifies that the appointed IPAB members have broad geographic representation and that the Board be balanced between urban and rural representatives. In order to preclude conflicts of interest, the Act stipulates that a majority of the appointed members of the IPAB are not be persons “directly involved” in the provision or management of the delivery of items and services covered by Medicare.⁵

Each individual appointed to the IPAB will hold office for a term of six years, except that the President’s initial appointments to the IPAB have staggered terms: Five are appointed for a term of one year, five are appointed for a term of three years, and five for a term of six years.⁶ With the exceptions noted below, an IPAB member may not serve more than two full consecutive terms. Members appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which that Member’s predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of that term. Members appointed to complete the remaining term of a vacancy in this way are eligible to serve two additional consecutive full terms. Additionally, members appointed to the IPAB may continue to serve beyond the expiration of their term until their successor has taken office.

Under the terms of the Act, a majority of the 15 appointed members of the IPAB constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, although a lesser number may hold hearings. The statute further stipulates that no vacancy on the Board will impair the right of the remaining IPAB members to exercise all of the powers of the Board.⁷

Recess Appointment Authority and IPAB Membership

Under the Constitution, the President and the Senate share the power to make appointments to the highest-level politically appointed positions in the federal government. It states:

[The President] shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.⁸

The Constitution also empowers the President unilaterally to make a temporary appointment to such a position if it is vacant and the Senate is in recess, by providing that “The President shall have Power to fill

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ §3403(g)(1)(B).

⁶ §3403(g)(2).

⁷ §3403(g)(4).

⁸ Article II, Section 2, clause 2.

up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.”⁹

There is no constitutional or statutory qualification on the President’s “Power to fill up all Vacancies” Because the President’s recess appointment authority is unqualified, it appears that he could fill member positions on the IPAB by recess appointment during any period when he could otherwise make such appointments. Under certain circumstances, such appointments might be subject to pay restrictions, but the analysis of such a possibility is beyond the scope of this memorandum.¹⁰

Were the President to make recess appointments to the IPAB, he could fill whichever positions on the board he chose to, consistent with the statutory requirements described above with regard to consultation, qualifications, and term specifications. He need not ensure that the result of his appointments is a politically balanced board. It is possible that he could, in fact, make recess appointments only to those membership slots that are likely to be filled by members of his own party: the three filled in consultation with the Senate majority leader, the three filled in consultation with the House minority leader, and the three filled without consultation. If the President were to make such recess appointments, 9 of the 15 member positions would be filled, and this number would be, as noted above, sufficient to provide a quorum for the board to conduct business. In addition, he could use his recess appointment power to appoint one of these nine members as chair. Inasmuch as the chair is empowered to “exercise all of the executive and administrative functions of the Board,” this act would facilitate the managerial activities, such as the hiring of personnel and expenditure of funds, that would be necessary to start up the agency.¹¹

In general, recess appointments made during a recess within the current session of the Senate would expire when the Senate adjourns *sine die* at the end of the second session of the 112th Congress, most likely in the Fall of 2012.

It might be noted that political considerations could decrease the likelihood of the President taking the action described above. Such an action might be perceived by Senators as a circumvention of the advice and consent process or of the statutory board design for political balance. In the past, under such circumstances, Senators have sometimes reacted by placing holds on other nominations or legislation important to the President, or by attempting to prevent the Senate from adjourning into a recess of sufficient duration for further recess appointments. It may also be worth noting that under the terms of the Act, if the IPAB is required in a given year to develop a proposal and fails to do so, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall do so.

Removal of IPAB Members

Unless otherwise specified in law, appointees to executive branch positions usually serve at the pleasure of the President. That is, they serve for an indeterminate period of time and can be removed by the President at any time for any reason (or no stated reason).¹² In some cases, however, Congress has

⁹ Article II, Section 2, clause 3.

¹⁰ Two provisions of law may prevent a recess appointee from being paid. These include 5 U.S.C. § 5503(a), which links recess appointee pay to the submission of a nomination for the position to the Senate, and a provision included the FY2008 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act that may prevent a recess appointee from being paid after the rejection by the Senate (P.L. 110-161, Div. D, § 709; 121 Stat. 2021).

¹¹ See 42 U.S.C. § 1395kkk(g)(3).

¹² It has long been recognized that “the power of removal [is] incident to the power of appointment.” *Ex Parte Hennen*, 38 U.S. (13 Pet.) 230, 259 (1839).

periodically elected either to set a specific term of office for a particular position or to restrict the President's power of removal for a particular position, or both. Fixed terms and removal restrictions are usually intended to reduce the President's influence over particular offices and, thereby, increase their independence. The degree to which this may be accomplished is related to the specific provisions employed. In addition, while such provisions might provide the opportunity for an officeholder to exercise independence from the President, an appointee might still choose to adhere closely to the President's wishes for other political or policy reasons.

As noted above, the IPAB statute provides for members with fixed terms and also for restrictions on the President's power of removal. With regard to the latter, it states: "Any appointed member may be removed by the President for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office, but for no other cause."¹³

Commonly referred to as "for cause" removal provisions, restrictions such as those in the IPAB statute stipulate that incumbents of an office can be removed by the President only when certain grounds are established. Regarding grounds for removal, it should be noted that there is no clear standard clarifying these statutory terms.¹⁴ Congress has stated, however, that a removal for good cause must be based on "some type of misconduct," as opposed to the refusal to carry out a presidential order.¹⁵

For cause removal provisions are commonly used with regard to the members of independent collegial boards and commissions, particularly those with regulatory or adjudicatory powers. Removal restrictions are explicitly provided for in the cases of, for example, members of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Federal Maritime Commission, the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, the Federal Reserve System Board of Governors, the Federal Trade Commission, National Labor Relations Board, National Transportation Safety Board, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, and Surface Transportation Board. As a matter of tradition and case law, members of other regulatory and quasi-judicial boards and commissions are generally thought to enjoy protection from removal, even where the enabling statute is silent on such matters. Agencies where this is thought to be the case include the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.¹⁶

¹³ 42 U.S.C. § 1395kkk(g)(4).

¹⁴ See Marshall J. Breger, Gary J. Edles, "Established by Practice: The Theory and Operation of Independent Federal Agencies," *Administrative Law Review*, vol. 52, 2000, p. 1111, at pp. 1144-45.

¹⁵ See Independent Counsel Reauthorization Act of 1987, S.Rep. No. 100-123, 100th Cong., 1st sess., pp. 1-3 (1987).

¹⁶ See Office of the Chairman, Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS), *Multi-member Independent Regulatory Agencies: A Preliminary Survey of Their Organization*, May, 1992, p. 2; and U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, *Study on Federal Regulation: Volume V, Regulatory Organization*, committee print, 95th Cong., 1st sess., December 1977 (Washington: GPO, 1977), pp. 36-39; *SEC v. Blinder, Robinson & Co., Inc.*, 855 F.2d 677, 681 (10th Cir. 1988).

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Fri May 17 2013 23:20:59 EDT
To: Moussavian, Roxana </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=moussavian, roxanaace>
CC:
Subject: FW: IPAB--Sen. Coburn Press Release and CRS Paper
Attachments: CRS report on IPAB and membership.pdf

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Please move to ACA Ty

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Reilly, Thomas M.
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2013 09:18 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Wright, Sophia M.; Carroll, Mario; Moussavian, Roxana; Rzeczkowski, Kristin; Toyama, Taryn
Subject: FW: IPAB--Sen. Coburn Press Release and CRS Paper

As I mentioned the other day.....

From: Wright, Sophia M.
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2013 9:17 AM
To: Reilly, Thomas M.
Cc: Moon, Cindy H.; Nathanson, Ashley
Subject: IPAB--Sen. Coburn Press Release and CRS Paper

FYI—Sen. Coburn’s press release (below) cites a CRS memo (attached) that states in the absence of IPAB recommendations, the Secretary makes the recommendations that would be submitted to Congress.

May 16 2013

New CRS Memo Shows HHS Secretary is the IPAB-of-One

Speaker Boehner and Leader McConnell wrote to the President, saying they “respectfully decline” to make recommendations to the President for appointments to the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) under Obamacare.

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) already confirmed in a memo to Dr. Coburn that the President could recess appoint a functioning majority of IPAB nominees. Dr. Coburn’s summary of that is here. (Note that this CRS analysis predates more recent court action related to the recess appointments at the National Labor Relations Board.)

CRS confirmed in a memo to Dr. Coburn what many had feared: under section 3403(d) of PPACA, if the relevant spending threshold is met but IPAB fails to make a recommendation, the Secretary of HHS must make the recommendation, and the Secretary’s recommendation contain the same fast-track procedures that effectively circumvent Congress.

Here’s what CRS said:

“This memorandum responds to your request to CRS for clarification of what would happen under the terms of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) in the event that the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) established by that Act failed to submit a legislative proposal to Congress for its consideration as required in years in which specific fiscal conditions are met. . . . In short, should the IPAB fail to submit a package of recommendations in a required submission year, the Secretary is obligated by law to do so. In either event, such legislation would be governed by the ‘fast track’ procedures established by the Act.” (emphasis added)

This means that even if President Obama does not appoint IPAB nominees, Secretary Sebelius by default under the law effectively becomes an IPAB-of-One. That’s likely one reason former HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt said, Obamacare “puts more power than is prudent in the hands of one person.”

See the complete memo here.

Permalink: <http://www.coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2013/5/new-crs-memo-shows-hhs-secretary-is-the-ipab-of-one>



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From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Mon May 20 2013 06:52:54 EDT
To: Moussavian, Roxana </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=moussavian, roxanaace>
CC:
Subject: Fw: OMB Nightly - May 19, 2013
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Brown, Calla
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2013 10:50 PM
To: DL-OMB-PADs and Policy Officials; DL-OMB-Assistants to Policy Officials; DL-OMB-DADs; DL-OMB-Branch Chiefs; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Subject: OMB Nightly - May 19, 2013

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

APPROPRIATIONS, BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT MATTERS

Sunday, May 19, 2013– OMB Legislative Affairs

HOUSE

This week the House is expected to consider the following:

- H.R. 258 - Stolen Valor Act of 2013 (Sponsored by Rep. Joe Heck / Judiciary Committee)
- H.R. 1073 - Nuclear Terrorism Conventions Implementation and Safety of Maritime Navigation Act of 2013 (Sponsored by Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner / Judiciary Committee)
- H.R. 1412 - Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013 (Sponsored by Rep. Mike Coffman / Veterans' Affairs Committee)
- H.R. 570 - American Heroes COLA Act, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Jon Runyan / Veterans' Affairs)

Committee)

- H.R. 1344 - Helping Heroes Fly Act, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Tulsi Gabbard / Homeland Security Committee)
- H.R. 324 - To grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Jeff Miller / Financial Services Committee)
- S. 982 - Freedom to Fish Act (Sponsored by Sen. Lamar Alexander / Transportation and Infrastructure Committee)
- S.Con.Res. 16 - Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for the unveiling of a statue of Frederick Douglass (Sponsored by Sen. Chuck Schumer / House Administration Committee)
- H.R. 3 - Northern Route Approval Act, Rules Committee Print (Subject to a Rule) (Sponsored by Rep. Lee Terry / Transportation and Infrastructure Committee / Energy and Commerce Committee / Natural Resources Committee)
- H.R. 271 - Resolving Environmental and Grid Reliability Conflicts Act of 2013 (Sponsored by Rep. Pete Olson / Energy and Commerce Committee)
- H.R. 1949 - Improving Postsecondary Education Data for Students Act, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Luke Messer / Education and the Workforce Committee)
- H.R. 1911 - Smarter Solutions for Students Act, Rules Committee Print

On Monday, May 20th, the House will meet at 2:00 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

SENATE

On Monday, May 20th, the Senate will convene at 2:00 pm and proceed to a period of morning business.

At 3:00pm, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013 (S. 954).

At 5:00 pm, the Senate will proceed to Executive Session in order to consider the following nominations:

* Sheri Polster Chappell to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

* Michael J. McShane to be a United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

Upon the use or yielding back of time [at approximately 5:30 pm], the Senate will proceed to vote in relation to the above nominations.

HEARINGS/MARKUPS

Senate

Tuesday, May 21st

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee markup to vote on the nominations of Brian Deese to be deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget; Michael O'Keefe and Robert Okun each to be an associate judge for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. TBA, S-216.

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House

Monday, May 20th

House Energy and Commerce Committee Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on "Health Insurance Premiums Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act." 4:00 pm, 2123 Rayburn.

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House Education and Workforce Committee hearing on "Reviewing the President's FY2014 Budget Proposal

for the U.S. Department of Education." 10:00 am, 2175 Rayburn.

House Ways and Means Committee hearing on "The President's and Other Bipartisan Proposals to Reform Medicare." 10:00 am, 1100 Longworth.

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House Armed Services Committee Readiness Subcommittee markup of H.R.1960, the "National Defense

Authorization Act for FY2014." 10:30 am, 2212 Rayburn.

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Tue May 21 2013 07:23:13 EDT
To: Moussavian, Roxana </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=moussavian, roxanaace>
CC:
Subject: Fw: OMB Nightly - May 20, 2013
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Delete

From: Brown, Calla
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2013 11:23 PM
To: DL-OMB-PADs and Policy Officials; DL-OMB-Assistants to Policy Officials; DL-OMB-DADs; DL-OMB-Branch Chiefs; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Subject: OMB Nightly - May 20, 2013

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

APPROPRIATIONS, BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT MATTERS

Monday, May 20, 2013– OMB Legislative Affairs

HOUSE

Today the House considered and passed the following suspensions:

- * H.R. 258 - Stolen Valor Act of 2013
- * H.R. 1073 - Nuclear Terrorism Conventions Implementation and Safety of Maritime Navigation Act of 2013

Tomorrow the House is expected to consider the following:

- H.R. 1412 – Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013 (Rep. Coffman – Veterans’ Affairs)
- H.R. 570 – American Heroes COLA Act, as amended (Rep. Runyan – Veterans’ Affairs)
- H.R. 324 – To grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II, as amended (Rep. Miller (FL) – Financial Services)
- H.R. 1344 – Helping Heroes Fly Act, as amended (Rep. Gabbard – Homeland Security)
- S. 982 – Freedom to Fish Act (Sen. Alexander – Transportation and Infrastructure)
- S.Con.Res. 16 – Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for the unveiling of a statue of Frederick Douglass (Sen. Schumer – House Administration)

On Tuesday, May 21st, the House will meet at 12:00 p.m. for legislative business. First and last votes are expected between 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

SENATE

Today the Senate considered the following:

- Nomination of Sheri Polster Chappell to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida
 - o The Chappell nomination was confirmed by a roll call vote of 90-0.
- Nomination of Michael J. McShane to be a United States District Judge for the District of Oregon
 - o The McShane nomination was confirmed by voice vote.
- A resolution strongly supporting the full implementation of United States and international sanctions on Iran and urging the President to continue to strengthen enforcement of sanctions legislation (S.Res. 65)/Consent Agreement
 - o At 4:00pm on Wednesday, May 22, 2013, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S.Res. 65, with one hour for debate equally divided and controlled between Senators Menendez and Corker, or their designees.
 - o Upon the use or yielding back of time [at approximately 5:00pm], the Senate will proceed to vote in relation to S.Res. 65.

The Senate passed/adopted the following by unanimous consent:

* A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol (S. 309, as amended by Harkin amendment of a perfecting nature (#951), which was agreed to by unanimous consent).

* A resolution designating the week of May 19 through May 25, 2013 as “National Public Works Week.” (S.Res. 149)

On Tuesday, May 21st, the Senate will convene at 10:00am and proceed to a period of morning business for one hour.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013 (S. 954).

o The following amendment is currently pending to the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013 (S. 954):

§ Cantwell amendment to allow Indian tribes to participate in certain soil and water conservation programs. (#919)

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From: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
Sent: Wed Jul 24 2013 15:46:33 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: FW: Tweets - Tom Cole re: gov't shutdown
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

I wanted to flag so you have a bit of a flavor for Tom Cole. He stood by Rep. King to fight for Sandy money so he is someone that gets it while also being conservative R in House.

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2013 3:39 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: Tweets - Tom Cole re: gov't shutdown

Chad Pergram @ChadPergram2m

Rep Tom Cole says Senate R's efforts to cut funding for Obamacare or close gov't. "I don't think you destroy the gov't to save the gov't."

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2013 3:36 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: Tweets - Tom Cole re: gov't shutdown

Chad Pergram @ChadPergram8m

Rep Tom Cole (R-OK), an appropriator, accuses Senate R's of "blackmail" in their effort to either defund Obamacare or shut down gov't.

Chad Pergram @ChadPergram8m

Rep Tom Cole, an appropriator, says Senate R's efforts to cut funding for Obamacare or close gov't puts R control of Hse & Senate at risk.

Chad Pergram @ChadPergram6m

Rep Tom Cole says Senate R's efforts to cut funding for Obamacare or close gov't is "the political equivalent of throwing a temper tantrum"

Chad Pergram @ChadPergram29s

Rep Tom Cole says Senate R's efforts to cut funding for Obamacare or close gov't is "will cost Republicans at the ballot box."

From: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
Sent: Tue Jul 30 2013 08:00:38 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
CC: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya c.5dc>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>
Subject: Three Q&As for your review
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Sylvia, Brian

(b) (5)

[Redacted]

(b) (5)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

From: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
Sent: Sat Aug 17 2013 11:51:12 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: Re: looming budget showdown
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Yes 3pm ET works well.

Just sent you an email on this broad issue. Look forward to discussing.

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Saturday, August 17, 2013 11:24 AM
To: Deese, Brian C.
Subject: Fw: looming budget showdown

Please read below.

Can we catch up tomorrow at 1pm my time 3pm your time?

Hope you have had an enjoyable time.

Sylvia

From: Erskine [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Saturday, August 17, 2013 09:18 AM
To: Tom (Carper) Richards <Tom Ex 5 - (5 U.S.C. Sec 552 (b)(5)) senate.gov>; Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: Re: looming budget showdown

Tom. I'm around today. Ex 6 - (5 U.S.C. Sec 552 (b)(6))

Harwood is reporting some of the options being kicked around that I hear. Here are the 3 scenarios I hear from both sides in congress with lots of options off each one (I assume Sylvia and Dennis have heard these too although I haven't spoken with either) :

(1) Best Case - Camp gets a bill out of committee that reforms tax code on revenue neutral basis for starters. Baucus/ Hatch come forward with tax reform that is revenue positive - say \$400b -- but it is contingent on entitlement reform savings of same amount that would include means testing , cost sharing on medicare , and chained cpi among other things. With that agreed to they would agree to up to two- thirds of sequester cut being replaced with other mandatory cuts from ag , PBGC , Higher ed, user fees , and the like.

The debt ceiling would be extended subject to above.

(2) Next case - Replace up to 2/3s of sequester cuts for 1-3 years with Other Mandatory cuts and some Symbolic revenue (maybe fees , corporate jets , ets). Doc Fix for one year with phony medicare cuts that are worth more on paper than reality. Procedural gimmick similar to McConnell to defer debt limit -- President makes a recommendation to defer it subject to disapproval from congress , contingent on a plan that meets certain parameters.

(3) Next Case (Even more pitiful and painful to imagine) - Sequester stays in place. CR for 1 year with plus ups - 1/2 Republican plus ups in defense , 1/2 democrat plus ups in NDD -- paid for with gimmick spending cuts -empty spending authority that was never going to be spent anyway. Doc Fix for one year offset by medicare cuts that are greater on paper than reality. Debt ceiling extended for short period of time on request to President , subject to congressional disapproval , contingent on President coming forward with a plan that meets certain parameters.

These are the things I have heard discussed on both sides. I maintain that in reality revenue is really not the problem. Health care cuts are. The republicans know they are not going to get Obamacare thrown out or anything like Premium Support. But they do want what they call a few singles and doubles in the form of means testing , cost sharing , age. All of which I believe should be negotiated with appropriate low income supports . I by no means am knowledgeable about where the WH is on anything.

Call if I can help but the above is about all I hear. Thanks so much for trying and caring Tom. Erskine

From: Richards, Tom (Carper) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Saturday, August 17, 2013 12:05:40 AM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Erskine
Cc: Richards, Tom (Carper)
Subject: looming budget showdown

Sylvia and Erskine, I don't know what's keeping you up late at night as we reach the halfway mark in the month of August, but the NY Times article is one that has helped to focus my attention on this major challenge we continue to face and the need to find a path forward to addressing it. I would welcome the chance to talk with each of you on the phone at some point this weekend to hear what you are thinking and to sharing a thought or two of my own. Hope you and your families are both doing well. tom

P.S. BTW, Martha and I hit the road for a week or so earlier this month on something we called the "Roots Tour." It took us to my family reunion at Grandview State Park in Raleigh County, WV where I was born and, later, to Boone, NC where Martha grew up. We saw some magnificent vistas of the New River and drove right by Hinton, WV and the Bluestone Dam, Sylvia! All in all, we had a wonderful time. I hope you and your families are getting some downtime, too, during this calm before the storm.

NEW YORK TIMES: Puzzle Awaits the Capital: How to Solve 3 Fiscal Rifts

August 15, 2013

By: John Harwood

LINK

WASHINGTON — On the endgame for the budget showdown looming in Washington this fall, only this is clear: President Obama thinks Republicans cannot risk another debt crisis or government shutdown, and Republican leaders agree.

That consensus suggests that the odds of an economy-damaging stalemate are relatively low, despite rising jitters in the capital. Yet everything else about how the White House and Congressional negotiators will try to strike a deal, and then coax majorities to approve it, remains opaque.

“Even those of us quite close to it have a hard time saying how the movie ends,” said Representative Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, the ranking Democrat on the House Budget Committee.

The showdown encompasses three interlocking fiscal disputes that will challenge Mr. Obama and his Republican interlocutors to bridge seemingly irreconcilable goals.

Perhaps easiest to resolve is the effort by some conservative Republicans to eliminate financing for the new health care law in return for keeping the government open beyond Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year. As expected, Mr. Obama is unyieldingly opposed to undercutting his signature domestic policy achievement.

The House Republican leader, Eric Cantor of Virginia, has already rejected the Republican strategy as doomed to fail. Most Senate Republicans have not signed on, and Senator Richard M. Burr of North Carolina has called it “the dumbest idea I’ve ever heard.” Even one supporter, Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, recently suggested that the threat was simply a tool to provoke negotiations.

A second challenge is determining the fate of the across-the-board budget cuts known as the sequester if Congress avoids a shutdown by extending government financing.

Republicans remain adamant that the level of budget cuts required by the sequester, about \$90 billion per year, be continued. But with increasing complaints about the effects of those cuts on the Pentagon and elsewhere — shown by House Republicans’ inability to pass their own transportation spending bill last month — some party leaders want to rearrange the burden of those cuts so they fall instead on entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security.

The White House and Congressional Democrats, however, rule out that trade, except as part of a larger long-term deal that also includes new tax increases. And Republican resistance to tax increases, which has precluded such a “grand bargain” in recent years, has stiffened since the Bush tax cuts for top-earning Americans expired at the end of 2012.

The third challenge may be the most worrisome. While the sequester pinches particular constituencies, and a government shutdown would inconvenience millions, economists warn that a default resulting from a failure to raise the government’s debt limit could tip the economy back into recession.

That challenge also appears, at least on the surface, the most intractable. Speaker John A. Boehner of Ohio has reiterated that Republicans will not raise the debt limit without offsetting spending cuts.

Mr. Boehner’s demand would require fewer cuts than during the 2011 debt crisis, when the debt ceiling needed to rise by about \$110 billion per month to avoid default. That amount has shrunk to around \$70 billion, according to the Bipartisan Policy Center, because the top-end tax increases and revenue from a stronger economy have helped shrink the deficit substantially.

But Mr. Obama, burned by the downgrade of the United States debt rating after those 2011 negotiations, insists he will not negotiate on the issue this time. It is as imposing a fiscal puzzle as veterans of Washington budget fights have seen in years.

“This is, for me, very, very difficult to figure out,” said Stephen Bell, a longtime Senate Republican budget aide now at the Bipartisan Policy Center.

No formal negotiations have begun, although the White House chief of staff, Denis R. McDonough, has been meeting with a few Senate Republicans in search of common ground.

Congressional aides have also started exploring potential stopgaps. They begin with a temporary extension of government funding to allow budget talks to continue through year’s end.

Under one situation sketched out by Democrats, temporary funding for discretionary programs like Pentagon spending would be set just below \$1 trillion — closer to the \$967 billion in the House Republican budget than to the \$1.058 trillion in the Senate Democratic budget.

The aim of negotiations after that would be to come up with new savings approaching \$200 billion.

Part of the savings would come from entitlements, but programs like farm subsidies, rather than the more politically volatile Social Security and Medicare. Part would come from new revenues, but “user fees” tied to special government services, rather than broad-based tax increases.

That could allow both sides to tell key constituencies that they did not violate core principles. And it would be enough to replace cuts in military and domestic programs for about two years, without increasing the deficit.

It would not, however, allow Republicans to argue that they achieved their own condition for raising the debt limit. On this issue, both sides are counting on bitter memories from the 2011 crisis, which damaged the Republican Party’s reputation, to help Mr. Boehner and Mr. Cantor rally enough of their caucus to vote “aye.”

One path would be returning to the mechanism that the Senate Republican leader, Mitch McConnell, came up with in 2011, which allows most lawmakers to vote against a higher debt limit if the president takes responsibility for raising it.

Another path is the option Republicans accepted temporarily earlier this year, which simply suspended enforcement of the debt limit without raising it.

A third is linking a debt limit increase to the effort to achieve a different, if potentially quixotic, Republican priority: overhauling the federal tax code.

None of that would go down easily for conservative Republican activists, who in the early days of the current Congressional recess have urged their lawmakers to fight.

Some Republicans point, if sometimes nervously, to the shared determination of their leaders to avoid political damage as they seek to hold the House and recapture the Senate in 2014.

“There are two things they all agree on: you can’t shut down the government, and you can’t default on the

debt,” said Representative Tom Cole, Republican of Oklahoma. “At some point, leaders have to lead.”

From: Erskine <(b) (6)>
Sent: Sun Aug 18 2013 12:48:29 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=cop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: Re: looming budget showdown
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Just left you vm. Basically I'm just diddling around today. So call any time today or tomorrow that's good for you. E

From: Burwell, Sylvia <(b) (6)>
Sent: Sunday, August 18, 2013 10:06:45 AM
To: 'Tom_Richards (b) (6)'; Erskine
Subject: Re: looming budget showdown

Happy to get on a call today. I am on a flight at 650 to midnight tonight. Just let me know.

Sylvia.

From: Richards, Tom (Carper) [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Sunday, August 18, 2013 12:03 AM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: looming budget showdown

My thanks to both of you for getting back to me today. Erskine, you won't be surprised to hear me say that I vote for option No. 1! The others just leave me shaking my head.

The day before we began the August recess, I spoke separately with both Harry and Mitch, urging them to convene a joint, closed Senate caucus in the old Senate chamber the week that we return from recess. Both seemed amenable. You may recall that we held a similar session for four hours one evening over a month ago when it looked like the nuclear option might well be exercised. With no staff or press present that night, members really opened up with one another, largely constructive ways, laying the foundation for the compromise on nominations that followed later that week. I'm going to try and reach Harry tomorrow to let him know that, unless he objects, I plan to circulate a letter for signatures of other senators – starting with former governors – calling for another joint caucus one evening during the week of September 9 to discuss our options and explore possible compromises that don't include kicking the can down the road or relying on gimmicks to help us get by and avoid making the tough decisions on entitlements and revenues yet again.

Whether I'm able to reach Harry or not, I would like to talk with both of you tomorrow evening on a teleconference call that I would ask my staff to set up if you are available. Please let me know if that might work for you and, if so, what times tomorrow night would work best for you. Many thanks! tom

P.S. Erskine, nine grandchildren under the age of nine! You and Crandall are richly blessed. And speaking of grandchildren, I once asked Christy Whitman what it was like to have grandchildren when she first became a grandmother almost ten years ago. She replied with a smile, "Grandchildren are one of the few things in life that are not overrated." Something else that's not overrated is a terrific new film called "The Butler" which Martha and I saw tonight. It chronicles the life of a young black boy who was born and raised in rural Georgia in the 1930's and ended up making his way to Washington, DC. There, he eventually became a butler at the White House when Ike was President and continued to serve into Ronald Reagan's second term. He saw and heard a lot during those years, and it makes for a moving, bittersweet movie that we'll be recommending to a lot of people. You have the honor of being the first!

From: Burwell, Sylvia [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Saturday, August 17, 2013 11:23 AM
To: (b) (6); Richards, Tom (Carper)
Subject: Re: looming budget showdown

Tom

Glad to hear about your journey and time around the Bluestone. I always find it grounding.

I am around this weekend (in Utah) so please give a call on my cell whenever it works for you. (b) (6).

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Best

Sylvia

From: Erskine [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Saturday, August 17, 2013 09:18 AM
To: Tom (Carper) Richards (b) (6); Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: Re: looming budget showdown

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From: Richards, Tom (Carper) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Saturday, August 17, 2013 12:05:40 AM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Erskine
Cc: Richards, Tom (Carper)
Subject: looming budget showdown

Sylvia and Erskine, I don't know what's keeping you up late at night as we reach the halfway mark in the month of August, but the NY Times article is one that has helped to focus my attention on this major challenge we continue to face and the need to find a path forward to addressing it. I would welcome the chance to talk with each of you on the phone at some point this weekend to hear what you are thinking and to sharing a thought or two of my own. Hope you and your families are both doing well. tom

P.S. BTW, Martha and I hit the road for a week or so earlier this month on something we called the "Roots Tour." It took us to my family reunion at Grandview State Park in Raleigh County, WV where I was born and, later, to Boone, NC where Martha grew up. We saw some magnificent vistas of the New River and drove right by Hinton, WV and the Bluestone Dam, Sylvia! All in all, we had a wonderful time. I hope you and your families are getting some downtime, too, during this calm before the storm.

NEW YORK TIMES: Puzzle Awaits the Capital: How to Solve 3 Fiscal Rifts

August 15, 2013

By: John Harwood

[LINK](#)

WASHINGTON — On the endgame for the budget showdown looming in Washington this fall, only this is clear: President Obama thinks Republicans cannot risk another debt crisis or government shutdown, and Republican leaders agree.

That consensus suggests that the odds of an economy-damaging stalemate are relatively low, despite rising jitters in the capital. Yet everything else about how the White House and Congressional negotiators will try to strike a deal, and then coax majorities to approve it, remains opaque.

“Even those of us quite close to it have a hard time saying how the movie ends,” said Representative Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, the ranking Democrat on the House Budget Committee.

The showdown encompasses three interlocking fiscal disputes that will challenge Mr. Obama and his Republican interlocutors to bridge seemingly irreconcilable goals.

Perhaps easiest to resolve is the effort by some conservative Republicans to eliminate financing for the new health care law in return for keeping the government open beyond Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year. As expected, Mr. Obama is unyieldingly opposed to undercutting his signature domestic policy achievement.

The House Republican leader, Eric Cantor of Virginia, has already rejected the Republican strategy as doomed to fail. Most Senate Republicans have not signed on, and Senator Richard M. Burr of North Carolina has called it “the dumbest idea I’ve ever heard.” Even one supporter, Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, recently suggested that the threat was simply a tool to provoke negotiations.

A second challenge is determining the fate of the across-the-board budget cuts known as the sequester if

Congress avoids a shutdown by extending government financing.

Republicans remain adamant that the level of budget cuts required by the sequester, about \$90 billion per year, be continued. But with increasing complaints about the effects of those cuts on the Pentagon and elsewhere — shown by House Republicans' inability to pass their own transportation spending bill last month — some party leaders want to rearrange the burden of those cuts so they fall instead on entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security.

The White House and Congressional Democrats, however, rule out that trade, except as part of a larger long-term deal that also includes new tax increases. And Republican resistance to tax increases, which has precluded such a “grand bargain” in recent years, has stiffened since the Bush tax cuts for top-earning Americans expired at the end of 2012.

The third challenge may be the most worrisome. While the sequester pinches particular constituencies, and a government shutdown would inconvenience millions, economists warn that a default resulting from a failure to raise the government's debt limit could tip the economy back into recession.

That challenge also appears, at least on the surface, the most intractable. Speaker John A. Boehner of Ohio has reiterated that Republicans will not raise the debt limit without offsetting spending cuts.

Mr. Boehner's demand would require fewer cuts than during the 2011 debt crisis, when the debt ceiling needed to rise by about \$110 billion per month to avoid default. That amount has shrunk to around \$70 billion, according to the Bipartisan Policy Center, because the top-end tax increases and revenue from a stronger economy have helped shrink the deficit substantially.

But Mr. Obama, burned by the downgrade of the United States debt rating after those 2011 negotiations, insists he will not negotiate on the issue this time. It is as imposing a fiscal puzzle as veterans of Washington budget fights have seen in years.

“This is, for me, very, very difficult to figure out,” said Stephen Bell, a longtime Senate Republican budget aide now at the Bipartisan Policy Center.

No formal negotiations have begun, although the White House chief of staff, Denis R. McDonough, has been meeting with a few Senate Republicans in search of common ground.

Congressional aides have also started exploring potential stopgaps. They begin with a temporary extension of government funding to allow budget talks to continue through year's end.

Under one situation sketched out by Democrats, temporary funding for discretionary programs like Pentagon spending would be set just below \$1 trillion — closer to the \$967 billion in the House Republican budget than to the \$1.058 trillion in the Senate Democratic budget.

The aim of negotiations after that would be to come up with new savings approaching \$200 billion.

Part of the savings would come from entitlements, but programs like farm subsidies, rather than the more politically volatile Social Security and Medicare. Part would come from new revenues, but “user fees” tied to special government services, rather than broad-based tax increases.

That could allow both sides to tell key constituencies that they did not violate core principles. And it would be enough to replace cuts in military and domestic programs for about two years, without increasing the deficit.

It would not, however, allow Republicans to argue that they achieved their own condition for raising the debt limit. On this issue, both sides are counting on bitter memories from the 2011 crisis, which damaged the Republican Party's reputation, to help Mr. Boehner and Mr. Cantor rally enough of their caucus to vote “aye.”

One path would be returning to the mechanism that the Senate Republican leader, Mitch McConnell, came up with in 2011, which allows most lawmakers to vote against a higher debt limit if the president takes responsibility for raising it.

Another path is the option Republicans accepted temporarily earlier this year, which simply suspended enforcement of the debt limit without raising it.

A third is linking a debt limit increase to the effort to achieve a different, if potentially quixotic, Republican priority: overhauling the federal tax code.

None of that would go down easily for conservative Republican activists, who in the early days of the current

Congressional recess have urged their lawmakers to fight.

Some Republicans point, if sometimes nervously, to the shared determination of their leaders to avoid political damage as they seek to hold the House and recapture the Senate in 2014.

“There are two things they all agree on: you can’t shut down the government, and you can’t default on the debt,” said Representative Tom Cole, Republican of Oklahoma. “At some point, leaders have to lead.”

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Sun Aug 18 2013 23:53:24 EDT
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
CC:
Subject: FW: looming budget showdown
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Please put Erskine and his numbers on the top of my to do list in yellow. I need to call during the day tomorrow. Thanks.

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Erskine [(b) (6)]
Sent: Sunday, August 18, 2013 12:48 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: Re: looming budget showdown

Just left you vm. Basically I'm just diddling around today. So call any time today or tomorrow that's good for you. E

From: Burwell, Sylvia [(b) (6)] >
Sent: Sunday, August 18, 2013 10:06:45 AM
To: 'Tom_Richards [(b) (6)]'; Erskine
Subject: Re: looming budget showdown

Happy to get on a call today. I am on a flight at 650 to midnight tonight. Just let me know.

Sylvia.

From: Richards, Tom (Carper) [mailto: (b) (6)]
Sent: Sunday, August 18, 2013 12:03 AM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; [(b) (6)] <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: looming budget showdown

My thanks to both of you for getting back to me today. Erskine, you won't be surprised to hear me say that I vote for option No. 1! The others just leave me shaking my head.

The day before we began the August recess, I spoke separately with both Harry and Mitch, urging them to convene a joint, closed Senate caucus in the old Senate chamber the week that we return from recess. Both seemed amenable. You may recall that we held a similar session for four hours one evening over a month ago when it looked like the nuclear option might well be exercised. With no staff or press present that night, members really opened up with one another, largely constructive ways, laying the foundation for the compromise on nominations that followed later that week. I'm going to try and reach Harry tomorrow to let him know that, unless he objects, I plan to circulate a letter for signatures of other senators – starting with former governors – calling for another joint caucus one evening during the week of September 9 to discuss our options and explore possible compromises that don't include kicking the can down the road or relying on gimmicks to help us get by and avoid making the tough decisions on entitlements and revenues yet again.

Whether I'm able to reach Harry or not, I would like to talk with both of you tomorrow evening on a teleconference call that I would ask my staff to set up if you are available. Please let me know if that might work for you and, if so, what times tomorrow night would work best for you. Many thanks! tom

P.S. Erskine, nine grandchildren under the age of nine! You and Crandall are richly blessed. And speaking of grandchildren, I once asked Christy Whitman what it was like to have grandchildren when she first became a grandmother almost ten years ago. She replied with a smile, "Grandchildren are one of the few things in life that are not overrated." Something else that's not overrated is a terrific new film called "The Butler" which Martha and I saw tonight. It chronicles the life of a young black boy who was born and raised in rural Georgia in the 1930's and ended up making his way to Washington, DC. There, he eventually became a butler at the White House when Ike was President and continued to serve into Ronald Reagan's second term. He saw and heard a lot during those years, and it makes for a moving, bittersweet movie that we'll be recommending to a lot of people. You have the honor of being the first!

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Cc: Richards, Tom (Carper)
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August 15, 2013

By: John Harwood

[LINK](#)

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Sent: Sun Aug 18 2013 23:53:24 EDT
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
CC:
Subject: FW: looming budget showdown
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Denis

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: DMCOS
Sent: Sunday, August 18, 2013 02:35 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Nabors, Robert L.
Cc: Deese, Brian C.; Quillian, Natalie
Subject: RE: looming budget showdown

Thanks, Sylvia. I was interested to read what Mr. Bowles and Sen. Carper think may happen.

Safe travels,

Denis.

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Sunday, August 18, 2013 10:19 AM
To: DMCOS; Nabors, Robert L.
Cc: Deese, Brian C.
Subject: FW: looming budget showdown

FYI

Below is an email chain started by Tom Carper to me an Erskine.

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sylvia

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Erskine [(b) (6)]
Sent: Sunday, August 18, 2013 09:33 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Tom (Carper) Richards; Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: Re: looming budget showdown

Tom -- I can do it any time today or tonight or tomorrow after 10:30am , but I leave on a flight to California at 6pm Monday night. Erskine

From: Richards, Tom (Carper) [(b) (6)] >
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To: Burwell, Sylvia; Erskine
Subject: RE: looming budget showdown

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Sent: Saturday, August 17, 2013 12:05:40 AM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Erskine

Cc: Richards, Tom (Carper)

Subject: looming budget showdown

Sylvia and Erskine, I don't know what's keeping you up late at night as we reach the halfway mark in the month of August, but the NY Times article is one that has helped to focus my attention on this major challenge we continue to face and the need to find a path forward to addressing it. I would welcome the chance to talk with each of you on the phone at some point this weekend to hear what you are thinking and to sharing a thought or two of my own. Hope you and your families are both doing well. tom

P.S. BTW, Martha and I hit the road for a week or so earlier this month on something we called the "Roots Tour." It took us to my family reunion at Grandview State Park in Raleigh County, WV where I was born and, later, to Boone, NC where Martha grew up. We saw some magnificent vistas of the New River and

drove right by Hinton, WV and the Bluestone Dam, Sylvia! All in all, we had a wonderful time. I hope you and your families are getting some downtime, too, during this calm before the storm.

NEW YORK TIMES: Puzzle Awaits the Capital: How to Solve 3 Fiscal Rifts

August 15, 2013

By: John Harwood

[LINK](#)

WASHINGTON — On the endgame for the budget showdown looming in Washington this fall, only this is clear: President Obama thinks Republicans cannot risk another debt crisis or government shutdown, and Republican leaders agree.

That consensus suggests that the odds of an economy-damaging stalemate are relatively low, despite rising jitters in the capital. Yet everything else about how the White House and Congressional negotiators will try to strike a deal, and then coax majorities to approve it, remains opaque.

“Even those of us quite close to it have a hard time saying how the movie ends,” said Representative Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, the ranking Democrat on the House Budget Committee.

The showdown encompasses three interlocking fiscal disputes that will challenge Mr. Obama and his Republican interlocutors to bridge seemingly irreconcilable goals.

Perhaps easiest to resolve is the effort by some conservative Republicans to eliminate financing for the new health care law in return for keeping the government open beyond Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year. As expected, Mr. Obama is unyieldingly opposed to undercutting his signature domestic policy achievement.

The House Republican leader, Eric Cantor of Virginia, has already rejected the Republican strategy as doomed to fail. Most Senate Republicans have not signed on, and Senator Richard M. Burr of North Carolina has called it “the dumbest idea I’ve ever heard.” Even one supporter, Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, recently suggested that the threat was simply a tool to provoke negotiations.

A second challenge is determining the fate of the across-the-board budget cuts known as the sequester if Congress avoids a shutdown by extending government financing.

Republicans remain adamant that the level of budget cuts required by the sequester, about \$90 billion per year, be continued. But with increasing complaints about the effects of those cuts on the Pentagon and elsewhere — shown by House Republicans' inability to pass their own transportation spending bill last month — some party leaders want to rearrange the burden of those cuts so they fall instead on entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security.

The White House and Congressional Democrats, however, rule out that trade, except as part of a larger long-term deal that also includes new tax increases. And Republican resistance to tax increases, which has precluded such a “grand bargain” in recent years, has stiffened since the Bush tax cuts for top-earning Americans expired at the end of 2012.

The third challenge may be the most worrisome. While the sequester pinches particular constituencies, and a government shutdown would inconvenience millions, economists warn that a default resulting from a failure to raise the government's debt limit could tip the economy back into recession.

That challenge also appears, at least on the surface, the most intractable. Speaker John A. Boehner of Ohio has reiterated that Republicans will not raise the debt limit without offsetting spending cuts.

Mr. Boehner's demand would require fewer cuts than during the 2011 debt crisis, when the debt ceiling needed to rise by about \$110 billion per month to avoid default. That amount has shrunk to around \$70 billion, according to the Bipartisan Policy Center, because the top-end tax increases and revenue from a stronger economy have helped shrink the deficit substantially.

But Mr. Obama, burned by the downgrade of the United States debt rating after those 2011 negotiations, insists he will not negotiate on the issue this time. It is as imposing a fiscal puzzle as veterans of Washington budget fights have seen in years.

“This is, for me, very, very difficult to figure out,” said Stephen Bell, a longtime Senate Republican budget aide now at the Bipartisan Policy Center.

No formal negotiations have begun, although the White House chief of staff, Denis R. McDonough, has been meeting with a few Senate Republicans in search of common ground.

Congressional aides have also started exploring potential stopgaps. They begin with a temporary extension of government funding to allow budget talks to continue through year's end.

Under one situation sketched out by Democrats, temporary funding for discretionary programs like Pentagon spending would be set just below \$1 trillion — closer to the \$967 billion in the House Republican budget than to the \$1.058 trillion in the Senate Democratic budget.

The aim of negotiations after that would be to come up with new savings approaching \$200 billion.

Part of the savings would come from entitlements, but programs like farm subsidies, rather than the more politically volatile Social Security and Medicare. Part would come from new revenues, but “user fees” tied to special government services, rather than broad-based tax increases.

That could allow both sides to tell key constituencies that they did not violate core principles. And it would be enough to replace cuts in military and domestic programs for about two years, without increasing the deficit.

It would not, however, allow Republicans to argue that they achieved their own condition for raising the debt limit. On this issue, both sides are counting on bitter memories from the 2011 crisis, which damaged the Republican Party's reputation, to help Mr. Boehner and Mr. Cantor rally enough of their caucus to vote “aye.”

One path would be returning to the mechanism that the Senate Republican leader, Mitch McConnell, came up with in 2011, which allows most lawmakers to vote against a higher debt limit if the president takes responsibility for raising it.

Another path is the option Republicans accepted temporarily earlier this year, which simply suspended enforcement of the debt limit without raising it.

A third is linking a debt limit increase to the effort to achieve a different, if potentially quixotic, Republican priority: overhauling the federal tax code.

None of that would go down easily for conservative Republican activists, who in the early days of the current Congressional recess have urged their lawmakers to fight.

Some Republicans point, if sometimes nervously, to the shared determination of their leaders to avoid political damage as they seek to hold the House and recapture the Senate in 2014.

“There are two things they all agree on: you can’t shut down the government, and you can’t default on the debt,” said Representative Tom Cole, Republican of Oklahoma. “At some point, leaders have to lead.”

From: Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>
Sent: Thu Aug 22 2013 10:26:25 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC: Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
Subject: RE: Director Burwell/Political Capital with Al Hunt
Attachments: Possible Questions from Al Hunt.docx

Importance: Normal

Priority: Normal

Sensitivity: None

Some possible questions attached and below.

Possible Questions from Al Hunt, Bloomberg

(b) (5) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (6) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2013 7:12 AM
To: Posner, Steven; Shlossman, Amy; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya
Subject: RE: Director Burwell/Political Capital with Al Hunt

Steve,

If you can get me the list of the qs you predict as soon as possible this am that would be great. I think a lot can be taken from the breakfast, but there are new ones such as (b) (5) ...

Thanks.

S

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Posner, Steven
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 11:30 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Shlossman, Amy; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: Fw: Director Burwell/Political Capital with Al Hunt

From: Albert Hunt (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) [mailto:ahunt1@bloomberg.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 11:18 PM
To: Posner, Steven
Subject: Re: Director Burwell/Political Capital with Al Hunt

Tell her it's much appreciated -- toally open really after 9 30 pm Friday morning (though what matters is her scheudle and cud do 8 am)-- have thing at martin luther king memorial early fri morning -- can do 10 10:30 11 and so forth well thru 4 pm -- thank you a lot.

al

----- Original Message -----

From: Steven_C_Posner (b) (6)
To: Albert Hunt (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: Ryan Kerr (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
At: Aug 21 2013 22:54:13

I checked back with Sylvia and she is going to move some things to make this work on Friday.

Will circle back tomorrow on exact timing.

From: Posner, Steven
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 07:40 PM
To: Albert Hunt (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <ahunt1@bloomberg.net>
Cc: Ryan Kerr <rkerr9@bloomberg.net>
Subject: RE: Director Burwell/Political Capital with Al Hunt

Al,

Deepest apologies about the last minute change in Sylvia's availability. She is very sorry to do this to you and recognizes the difficulty this causes. She'd very much like to find a time to reschedule in September.

Please let us know if you would be interested in having Secretary Duncan on in her place this Friday. Duncan will be traveling with the President on Thursday (accompanying him on the first leg of the education bus tour), but back in town Friday ... so an interview with him would be very timely.

Apologies again.

-Steve

(b) (6)

From: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
Sent: Thu Sep 05 2013 10:18:34 EDT
To: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Hornung, Daniel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=hornung, daniel065>; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>; Menter, Jessica </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jessican.menter27256674>; Brown, Calla </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=calla_r_brown1>; Berman, Lindsey R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bermanl64651664>; Kosiak, Steve </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=stevekosiak53218748>; Timberlake, Courtney B. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=courtneyb.timberlake45577210>
CC:
Subject: RE: Syria and CR SAPs-
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Not yet. Expectation is that HAC-D will see over the weekend or will know more.

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Thursday, September 05, 2013 10:12 AM
To: Sarri, Kristen; Burwell, Sylvia
Cc: Hornung, Daniel; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Shlossman, Amy; Menter, Jessica; Brown, Calla; Berman, Lindsey R.; Kosiak, Steve; Timberlake, Courtney B.
Subject: RE: Syria and CR SAPs-

Have we heard anything more about the substance of the CR?

From: Sarri, Kristen
Sent: Thursday, September 05, 2013 10:10 AM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Hornung, Daniel; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Shlossman, Amy; Menter, Jessica; Brown, Calla; Berman, Lindsey R.; Kosiak, Steve; Timberlake, Courtney B.
Subject: Syria and CR SAPs-

Sylvia and Brian,

(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of text is completely redacted with black ink. The redaction covers approximately 85% of the page width and 15% of the page height.

(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of text is completely redacted with black ink. The redaction covers approximately 90% of the page width and 20% of the page height.

(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of text is completely redacted with black ink. The redaction covers approximately 90% of the page width and 10% of the page height.

From: Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_1_nabors>
Sent: Thu Sep 05 2013 14:45:58 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: Re: CR
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Thursday, September 05, 2013 02:40 PM
To: Nabors, Robert L.
Subject: CR

Rob, please see the note from Kris below. (b) (5)

S

Sylvia and Brian,

(b) (5)

(b) (5)



From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Fri Sep 06 2013 22:41:45 EDT
To: DMCOS </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dmc0s791>; Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_1_nabors>; Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>
CC: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
Subject: FW: RC: Cantor Insists on Budget 'Reforms' in Return for Debt Hike
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

FYI.

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Posner, Steven
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 09:18 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Sarri, Kristen; Timberlake, Courtney B.; Shlossman, Amy; Vorhaus, Dave; O'Connor, Devin
Cc: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Hornung, Daniel; FN-OMB-Communications Office
Subject: FW: RC: Cantor Insists on Budget 'Reforms' in Return for Debt Hike

Just want to be sure folks saw this ...

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Republicans

FR: Eric Cantor

DT: Friday, September 06, 2013

RE: September and October Legislative Agenda

As we return from five weeks of meetings with constituents, small businesses, and local leaders, the House will be confronted with a number of serious issues ranging from federal spending levels to Syria, to Obamacare to domestic energy. In addition, we will continue to focus on America's working middle class as they lose ground when Washington wastes their tax dollars on out-of-control programs, Obamacare increases

their insurance premiums and slashes their hours at work, and their energy prices rise.

We must, as always, remain focused on our conservative policies that can help grow the economy, lessen the burden of government and provide opportunity for working middle class families. Many families are distressed. Countless parents don't remember the last time their employer could afford to give them a raise. Many fear their full-time job will become a part-time job. And many don't have a job at all. And healthcare costs are rising.

Many of these middle class families feel squeezed out and don't feel the government is paying attention to their needs, and that their voices don't matter. Well their voices matter to us, and we're going to fight for them this month and every month after with an agenda focused on economic security and opportunity for working middle class families.

While this memo is not exhaustive of the issues the House will deal with in the fall, the outline below will give you a sense of what to expect over the next two months. I look forward to hearing your input in shaping our conservative agenda.

Appropriations

As the new fiscal year begins at the end of the month we find ourselves needing a short-term CR due to the Senate's failure to pass even a single appropriations bill. Enactment of a CR at sequester levels would contain \$64 billion in less spending compared to the current funding levels President Obama signed into law a mere five months ago. In signing a CR at sequester levels, the President would be endorsing a level of spending that wipes away all the increases he and Congressional Democrats made while they were in charge and returns us to a pre-2008 level of discretionary spending.

Debt Limit

The administration announced that it expects to run out of borrowing authority by mid-October. While we do not know the precise date of when that authority will lapse, the House will act to prevent a default on our obligations before that point. Over the past three decades during times of divided government, increases in the debt limit have been accompanied by major spending, fiscal, and regulatory reforms and I expect that model to play out once again. Gramm-Rudman, the Congressional Review Act, and the Budget Control Act all were enacted on previous increases of the debt limit. Therefore, House Republicans will demand fiscal reforms and pro-growth policies which put us on a path to balance in ten years in exchange for another increase in the debt limit.

Syria

Understanding that there are differing opinions on both sides of the aisle, it is up to President Obama to make the case to Congress and to the American people that this is the right course of action. Members should expect a robust debate and vote on an authorization of use of military force pertaining to Syria in the next two weeks.

Nutrition

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has ballooned since President Obama took office with one in seven Americans now receiving food stamps. As SNAP has grown, working middle class families are footing the \$80 billion bill for a safety net gone well beyond assistance to children, seniors, and the disabled. That is why, with Chairman Lucas, a working group of our conference came together to address the major problems to reform SNAP while still preserving the safety net for those who truly need it. The Nutrition Reform and Work Opportunity Act restores the intent of the bipartisan welfare reforms adopted in

1996 by ensuring that work requirements for able-bodied adults without children are enforced – not waived – and eliminates loopholes exploited over the last few years to avoid the program’s income and asset tests. It also empowers states to engage able-bodied parents in work and job training as part of receiving food stamps to help move them to self-sufficiency. Most importantly, no individual who meets the income and asset guidelines of the SNAP program and is willing to comply with applicable work requirements will lose benefits as a result of these reforms. It is expected that these simple reforms will save taxpayers an estimated \$40 billion over ten years.

Obamacare

As the Speaker outlined in July, the House will hold a series of strategic votes throughout the fall to dismantle, defund, and delay Obamacare. The coalition supporting Obamacare cracks when forced to vote on the most unpopular aspects of the law. Remember, we have successfully forced the president to sign seven bills into law that either repeal parts of or significantly reduce spending on his signature law. And earlier this summer, 22 and 35 House Democrats voted to delay the individual and employee mandates, respectively.

We have seen in recent months that Obamacare is unworkable as the administration has missed half the deadlines in the law, according to a report published by CRS. Most recently, the administration has delayed the mandate on insurance companies that caps out-of-pocket insurance costs. As the October 1st implementation approaches, we will continue to pursue the strategy of systematically derailing this train wreck and replacing it with a patient-centered system which removes Washington from health care decisions.

Immigration

We know that the current legal immigration system is broken and should be fixed in a deliberate and responsible manner. That is why the Judiciary and Homeland Security committees have produced a number of specific bills which the House may begin considering this fall. Before we consider any other reforms, it is important that we pass legislation securing our borders and providing enforcement mechanisms to our law enforcement officials.

Domestic Energy

The working middle class is struggling under the weight of increased energy costs all while the United States has enough natural gas and newly discoverable oil finds to meet our energy needs for almost a century. We must focus on expanding our energy production in an environmentally friendly way to lower the price of energy for all Americans. That is why we will consider Bill Flores’s bill, the Protecting States’ Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act (H.R. 2728). This bipartisan legislation prohibits the Interior Department from enforcing federal hydraulic fracturing regulations in any state that already has existing regulations and recognizes states’ rights to regulate this type of activity.

While energy is certainly a jobs issue, for millions of American families it is a pocketbook issue — working middle class families who in 2001 spent 12% of their earnings to pay for their energy bills, today spend 21% of their income on the same bill. According to the research firm IHS Global Insight, shale energy production, which could not be done successfully without hydraulic fracturing, has created billions of dollars in additional revenues for federal, state and local governments, helped American consumers save an average of \$926 annually per household, and supported more than 1.75 million jobs in 2012. Throughout the fall, House Republicans will continue to bring environmentally friendly energy legislation like this to the floor to bring down the cost of energy, create jobs for the middle class, and make the United States more energy independent.

Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act

For over 100 years, the federal government has managed our national forests while sharing with impacted local communities a percentage of management revenue. Chairman Doc Hastings's bill, Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act (H.R. 1526), renews the government's commitment to rural communities, improves forest health, and will help prevent catastrophic wildfires which threaten millions of Americans through proactive measures. The bill also provides a short-term extension of the Secure Rural Schools payments program.

WRRDA

The Water Resource Reform and Development Act of 2013 (WRRDA) is model for a new way to do business here in Washington and I applaud Chairman Bill Shuster and his committee for developing a bill with much needed reforms. The legislation cuts federal red tape and bureaucracy, streamlines the project delivery process, improves competitiveness, strengthens water resources infrastructure, and promotes fiscal responsibility. Most importantly, WRRDA contains no earmarks. It also increases transparency, accountability and Congressional oversight in reviewing and prioritizing future water resources development activities without ceding Constitutional Congressional authority to the executive branch.

Kids First Research Act

H.R. 2019, The Kids First Research Act, introduced by Gregg Harper, Tom Cole, and Peter Welch clearly reflects Congressional priorities in funding: medical research before political parties and conventions. In the era of limited federal resources, it is critical that we set the right priorities and now more than ever our priority should be medical breakthroughs that help children who are suffering from diseases and disorders like autism, juvenile diabetes, Down syndrome, and cancer. This bipartisan bill eliminates the Presidential Election Campaign Fund and diverts the remaining money, approximately \$130 million, to expand pediatric research at the National Institutes of Health. Autism Speaks, Children's Hospital Association, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society are among the more than three dozen groups which support passage of this bill. It is no secret that Healthcare costs coupled with our nation's demographic trends disproportionately cloud the fiscal outlook for the federal government. By promoting cures, this legislation also reflects a long term commitment to fiscal balance.

Oversight

In September and October, House committees will continue to hold an out-of-touch government in Washington accountable. Congressional oversight that exposes abuses, such as political targeting by the IRS, is the first step in restoring trust in government, controlling spending, and reforming Washington. Working middle class families deserve a government that is working for them, not against them.

As I detailed in a memo to you last month, House committees are actively pursuing over 150 inquiries. While the IRS and Benghazi investigations remain priorities, the committees continue to focus on wasteful spending, job-killing regulations including the implementation of Obamacare and the administration's energy policies, and national security.

Conclusion

This fall's legislative agenda is aimed at promoting our conservative solutions that produce results for all Americans. We will need to address additional issues this fall, including a review of our intelligence programs and cyber security. A variety of other items are likely to be considered and members will receive weekly schedule updates at our conference meetings. Upon return to Washington, if we stay focused on our solutions and how they can benefit all Americans dealing with their every day challenges, I am convinced we will achieve more significant policy victories in the months ahead.

Thank you for all the hard work you do on behalf of your constituents and all Americans.

Eric

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 5:28 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial
Subject: RC: Cantor Insists on Budget 'Reforms' in Return for Debt Hike

<http://blogs.rollcall.com/goppers/cantor-demands-path-to-balanced-budget-in-return-for-debt-hike/>

Cantor Insists on Budget 'Reforms' in Return for Debt Hike

Roll Call // Steven Dennis and Matt Fuller

5:26 PM

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., outlined a plan Friday to hold federal spending and the debt limit hostage — but not necessarily over Obamacare.

“House Republicans will demand fiscal reforms and pro-growth policies which put us on a path to balance in ten years in exchange for another increase in the debt limit,” Cantor wrote in a memo to GOP lawmakers.

With President Barack Obama vowing not to negotiate, the United States faces a default crisis a little over a month after lawmakers return.

Cantor’s threat has a somewhat different standard than the demand from Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, that any increase in the debt ceiling be accompanied by an equivalent amount of “cuts and reforms.”

Boehner’s demand, known as the “Boehner rule,” was violated earlier this year when the House punted on the debt limit, but the speaker recently promised a “whale of a fight” this fall.

Cantor also said Republicans would demand Obama agree to keep the sequester in place past Sept. 30 — and slash \$64 billion from the levels Obama signed months ago.

“In signing a CR at sequester levels, the President would be endorsing a level of spending that wipes away all the increases he and Congressional Democrats made while they were in charge and returns us to a pre-2008 level of discretionary spending,” Cantor said.

Whether Obama will sign such a short-term spending bill is an open question. The White House has repeatedly declined to answer whether Obama would sign a bill that lets the sequester continue. If the Senate

blocks the measure, or Obama vetoes it, a partial government shutdown will ensue.

That, of course, would require Cantor to be able to actually pass such a bill through the House. And Cantor's memo makes no mention of tying the CR to Obamacare — something scores of the GOP conference have sought.

Instead, Cantor alludes to Boehner's strategy to chip away at the law through "a series of strategic votes."

If that's not enough for the rank and file, GOP leadership will either have to include Obamacare defunding in the CR and endure headlines saying they are risking a government shutdown, or they will have to woo Democrats for votes.

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Sat Sep 07 2013 12:23:36 EDT
Timberlake, Courtney B. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=courtneyb.timberlake45577210>; Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy l.058>; Vorhaus, Dave </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=davida.vorhaus13178357>; O'Connor, Devin </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=devin_1_oconnor>
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>; Hornung, Daniel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=hornung, daniel065>; FN-OMB-Communications Office </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=media>
CC:
Subject: RE: RC: Cantor Insists on Budget 'Reforms' in Return for Debt Hike
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Thanks Courtney that will be helpful. S

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Timberlake, Courtney B.
Sent: Saturday, September 07, 2013 11:44 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Posner, Steven; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Sarri, Kristen; Shlossman, Amy; Vorhaus, Dave; O'Connor, Devin
Cc: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Hornung, Daniel; FN-OMB-Communications Office
Subject: RE: RC: Cantor Insists on Budget 'Reforms' in Return for Debt Hike

(b) (5)



From: Posner, Steven
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 9:19 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Sarri, Kristen; Timberlake, Courtney B.; Shlossman, Amy; Vorhaus, Dave; O'Connor, Devin
Cc: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Hornung, Daniel; FN-OMB-Communications Office
Subject: FW: RC: Cantor Insists on Budget 'Reforms' in Return for Debt Hike

Just want to be sure folks saw this ...

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Republicans

FR: Eric Cantor

DT: Friday, September 06, 2013

RE: September and October Legislative Agenda

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We must, as always, remain focused on our conservative policies that can help grow the economy, lessen the burden of government and provide opportunity for working middle class families. Many families are distressed. Countless parents don't remember the last time their employer could afford to give them a raise. Many fear their full-time job will become a part-time job. And many don't have a job at all. And healthcare costs are rising.

Many of these middle class families feel squeezed out and don't feel the government is paying attention to their needs, and that their voices don't matter. Well their voices matter to us, and we're going to fight for them this month and every month after with an agenda focused on economic security and opportunity for working middle class families.

While this memo is not exhaustive of the issues the House will deal with in the fall, the outline below will give you a sense of what to expect over the next two months. I look forward to hearing your input in shaping our conservative agenda.

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reforms and pro-growth policies which put us on a path to balance in ten years in exchange for another increase in the debt limit.

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We have seen in recent months that Obamacare is unworkable as the administration has missed half the deadlines in the law, according to a report published by CRS. Most recently, the administration has delayed the mandate on insurance companies that caps out-of-pocket insurance costs. As the October 1st implementation approaches, we will continue to pursue the strategy of systematically derailing this train wreck and replacing it with a patient-centered system which removes Washington from health care decisions.

Immigration

We know that the current legal immigration system is broken and should be fixed in a deliberate and responsible manner. That is why the Judiciary and Homeland Security committees have produced a number of specific bills which the House may begin considering this fall. Before we consider any other reforms, it is important that we pass legislation securing our borders and providing enforcement mechanisms to our law enforcement officials.

Domestic Energy

The working middle class is struggling under the weight of increased energy costs all while the United States has enough natural gas and newly discoverable oil finds to meet our energy needs for almost a century. We

must focus on expanding our energy production in an environmentally friendly way to lower the price of energy for all Americans. That is why we will consider Bill Flores's bill, the Protecting States' Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act (H.R. 2728). This bipartisan legislation prohibits the Interior Department from enforcing federal hydraulic fracturing regulations in any state that already has existing regulations and recognizes states' rights to regulate this type of activity.

While energy is certainly a jobs issue, for millions of American families it is a pocketbook issue — working middle class families who in 2001 spent 12% of their earnings to pay for their energy bills, today spend 21% of their income on the same bill. According to the research firm IHS Global Insight, shale energy production, which could not be done successfully without hydraulic fracturing, has created billions of dollars in additional revenues for federal, state and local governments, helped American consumers save an average of \$926 annually per household, and supported more than 1.75 million jobs in 2012. Throughout the fall, House Republicans will continue to bring environmentally friendly energy legislation like this to the floor to bring down the cost of energy, create jobs for the middle class, and make the United States more energy independent.

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For over 100 years, the federal government has managed our national forests while sharing with impacted local communities a percentage of management revenue. Chairman Doc Hastings's bill, Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act (H.R. 1526), renews the government's commitment to rural communities, improves forest health, and will help prevent catastrophic wildfires which threaten millions of Americans through proactive measures. The bill also provides a short-term extension of the Secure Rural Schools payments program.

WRRDA

The Water Resource Reform and Development Act of 2013 (WRRDA) is model for a new way to do business here in Washington and I applaud Chairman Bill Shuster and his committee for developing a bill with much needed reforms. The legislation cuts federal red tape and bureaucracy, streamlines the project delivery process, improves competitiveness, strengthens water resources infrastructure, and promotes fiscal responsibility. Most importantly, WRRDA contains no earmarks. It also increases transparency, accountability and Congressional oversight in reviewing and prioritizing future water resources development activities without ceding Constitutional Congressional authority to the executive branch.

Kids First Research Act

H.R. 2019, The Kids First Research Act, introduced by Gregg Harper, Tom Cole, and Peter Welch clearly reflects Congressional priorities in funding: medical research before political parties and conventions. In the era of limited federal resources, it is critical that we set the right priorities and now more than ever our priority should be medical breakthroughs that help children who are suffering from diseases and disorders like autism, juvenile diabetes, Down syndrome, and cancer. This bipartisan bill eliminates the Presidential Election Campaign Fund and diverts the remaining money, approximately \$130 million, to expand pediatric research at the National Institutes of Health. Autism Speaks, Children's Hospital Association, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society are among the more than three dozen groups which support passage of this bill. It is no secret that Healthcare costs coupled with our nation's demographic trends disproportionately cloud the fiscal outlook for the federal government. By promoting cures, this legislation also reflects a long term commitment to fiscal balance.

Oversight

In September and October, House committees will continue to hold an out-of-touch government in

Washington accountable. Congressional oversight that exposes abuses, such as political targeting by the IRS, is the first step in restoring trust in government, controlling spending, and reforming Washington. Working middle class families deserve a government that is working for them, not against them.

As I detailed in a memo to you last month, House committees are actively pursuing over 150 inquiries. While the IRS and Benghazi investigations remain priorities, the committees continue to focus on wasteful spending, job-killing regulations including the implementation of Obamacare and the administration's energy policies, and national security.

Conclusion

This fall's legislative agenda is aimed at promoting our conservative solutions that produce results for all Americans. We will need to address additional issues this fall, including a review of our intelligence programs and cyber security. A variety of other items are likely to be considered and members will receive weekly schedule updates at our conference meetings. Upon return to Washington, if we stay focused on our solutions and how they can benefit all Americans dealing with their every day challenges, I am convinced we will achieve more significant policy victories in the months ahead.

Thank you for all the hard work you do on behalf of your constituents and all Americans.

Eric

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 5:28 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial
Subject: RC: Cantor Insists on Budget 'Reforms' in Return for Debt Hike

<http://blogs.rollcall.com/goppers/cantor-demands-path-to-balanced-budget-in-return-for-debt-hike/>

Cantor Insists on Budget 'Reforms' in Return for Debt Hike

Roll Call // Steven Dennis and Matt Fuller

5:26 PM

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., outlined a plan Friday to hold federal spending and the debt limit hostage — but not necessarily over Obamacare.

"House Republicans will demand fiscal reforms and pro-growth policies which put us on a path to balance in ten years in exchange for another increase in the debt limit," Cantor wrote in a memo to GOP lawmakers.

With President Barack Obama vowing not to negotiate, the United States faces a default crisis a little over a month after lawmakers return.

Cantor's threat has a somewhat different standard than the demand from Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, that any increase in the debt ceiling be accompanied by an equivalent amount of "cuts and reforms." Boehner's demand, known as the "Boehner rule," was violated earlier this year when the House punted on the debt limit, but the speaker recently promised a "whale of a fight" this fall.

Cantor also said Republicans would demand Obama agree to keep the sequester in place past Sept. 30 — and slash \$64 billion from the levels Obama signed months ago.

"In signing a CR at sequester levels, the President would be endorsing a level of spending that wipes away all the increases he and Congressional Democrats made while they were in charge and returns us to a pre-2008 level of discretionary spending," Cantor said.

Whether Obama will sign such a short-term spending bill is an open question. The White House has repeatedly declined to answer whether Obama would sign a bill that lets the sequester continue. If the Senate blocks the measure, or Obama vetoes it, a partial government shutdown will ensue.

That, of course, would require Cantor to be able to actually pass such a bill through the House. And Cantor's memo makes no mention of tying the CR to Obamacare — something scores of the GOP conference have sought.

Instead, Cantor alludes to Boehner's strategy to chip away at the law through "a series of strategic votes."

If that's not enough for the rank and file, GOP leadership will either have to include Obamacare defunding in the CR and endure headlines saying they are risking a government shutdown, or they will have to woo Democrats for votes.

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Sat Sep 07 2013 13:34:46 EDT
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
CC:
Subject: FW: RC: Cantor Insists on Budget 'Reforms' in Return for Debt Hike
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Please print for Monday. Meeting. ty

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Saturday, September 07, 2013 7:10 AM
To: Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: Re: RC: Cantor Insists on Budget 'Reforms' in Return for Debt Hike

I had the same question, which Dave answered for me. The \$64 is the full discretionary sequester cut in 13.

We are used to the \$55b figure - which is the pre-sequester starting point of \$1043 down to the \$988(9) current operating level.

The \$64b is that \$55 plus the sequester on uncapped BA (oco, disaster etc).

So what Cantor is saying is that if they continue current operating levels it will sustain a level that is \$64b below the 13 pre-sequester CR.

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 10:34 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.
Subject: FW: RC: Cantor Insists on Budget 'Reforms' in Return for Debt Hike

What level does his 64 billion referring to. Full sequester or current services? Can you tell. I thought 21 billion is the additional cut or 109.

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Posner, Steven

Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 09:18 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Sarri, Kristen; Timberlake, Courtney B.; Shlossman, Amy; Vorhaus, Dave; O'Connor, Devin

Cc: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Hornung, Daniel; FN-OMB-Communications Office

Subject: FW: RC: Cantor Insists on Budget 'Reforms' in Return for Debt Hike

Just want to be sure folks saw this ...

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Republicans

FR: Eric Cantor

DT: Friday, September 06, 2013

RE: September and October Legislative Agenda

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To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial
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<http://blogs.rollcall.com/goppers/cantor-demands-path-to-balanced-budget-in-return-for-debt-hike/>

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From: Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy.1.058>
Sent: Sat Sep 07 2013 14:05:48 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian.c.ad5>
CC:
Subject: draft email
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely blacked out, indicating redacted content. The redaction covers approximately two lines of text.A single line of text is completely blacked out, indicating redacted content.Two lines of text are completely blacked out, indicating redacted content.A single line of text is completely blacked out, indicating redacted content.A single line of text is completely blacked out, indicating redacted content.A single line of text is completely blacked out, indicating redacted content.A single line of text is completely blacked out, indicating redacted content.A large rectangular area of the document is completely blacked out, indicating redacted content. The redaction covers approximately three lines of text.

From: Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy.1.058>
Sent: Sat Sep 07 2013 14:35:06 EDT
To: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia.m.801>
CC:
Subject: RE: CR update
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Saturday, September 07, 2013 2:34 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Shlossman, Amy
Subject: Re: CR update

Looks good

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Saturday, September 07, 2013 02:30 PM
To: Shlossman, Amy; Deese, Brian C.
Subject: CR update

Thanks. Amy. Did some edits. Brian let me know if you have any thoughts.

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

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(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of text is completely redacted with black ink.

From: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
Sent: Sun Sep 08 2013 00:34:28 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC: Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
Subject: RE: CR update
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Yes. I'll draft tomorrow.

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Saturday, September 07, 2013 10:27 PM
To: Sarri, Kristen
Cc: Shlossman, Amy; Deese, Brian C.
Subject: FW: CR update

Kris, think this gives you enough to get started on drafting the sap. Thanks S

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Saturday, September 07, 2013 10:24 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: 'DMCOS'; Nabors, Robert L.
Cc: Deese, Brian C.; Quillian, Natalie
Subject: RE: CR update

(b) (5)



Thanks.

S

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: DMCOS

Sent: Saturday, September 07, 2013 07:27 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Nabors, Robert L.

Cc: Deese, Brian C.; Quillian, Natalie

Subject: Re: CR update

(b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia

Sent: Saturday, September 07, 2013 07:21 PM

To: Nabors, Robert L.; DMCOS

Cc: Deese, Brian C.; Quillian, Natalie

Subject: RE: CR update

(b) (5)

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Nabors, Robert L.

Sent: Saturday, September 07, 2013 05:35 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: DMCOS; Burwell, Sylvia

Cc: Deese, Brian C.; Quillian, Natalie

Subject: Re: CR update

(b) (5)

From: DMCOS

Sent: Saturday, September 07, 2013 05:30 PM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Nabors, Robert L.

Cc: Deese, Brian C.; Quillian, Natalie

Subject: RE: CR update

(b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Saturday, September 07, 2013 2:50 PM
To: DMCOS; Nabors, Robert L.
Cc: Deese, Brian C.; Quillian, Natalie
Subject: CR update

Denis/Rob,

(b) (5)



(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

We also have started on FAQ's for folks to review.

We can discuss next steps Monday morning, just sending today so you can know we are focused and working on it.

Sylvia

From: Weatherly, Mark A. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=marka.weatherly80541063>
Sent: Sun Sep 08 2013 16:36:13 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: David Rogers stole my rant
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Hi Sylvia. You may recall when you first came on board and were gracious enough to go around meeting staff, when you stopped by my office (b) (5)
(b) (5)
(b) (5) So for what it's worth here's the gist of what I had in mind, much or all of which I'm sure you know.

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(b) (5)
(b) (5)

Thanks for letting me rant, and I apologize if this is offensive in any way; it's just meant to give you another

window in to the great institution you head up. I'd be happy to discuss anytime, and shall now return to my duty station.

Mark

From: Berman, Lindsey R.

Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 5:48 PM

To: Sarri, Kristen; DL-OMB-PADs and Policy Officials; DL-OMB-DADs; DL-OMB-PAD Row Assistants

Cc: Neill, Allie; Menter, Jessica; Berman, Lindsey R.; Brown, Calla

Subject: Approps Update: Latest on FY 2014 CR

At this time, the House is planning on taking up the CR on the floor on Thursday, with the Rules Committee meeting Wednesday, and the bill filed on Tuesday. We're hearing the House CR is through December 13, 2013, which David Rogers also reports below.

House GOP to advance stopgap spending bill

To appease conservatives, the leadership is also debating how to defund Obamacare.

By DAVID ROGERS and JOHN BRESNAHAN | 9/6/13 4:57 PM EDT

As a new stopgap spending bill takes shape in the House, President Barack Obama is paying a price for having dropped his guard in negotiations last spring over top domestic priorities.

The White House caved early to pressure then from Republicans, who cut hundreds of millions from Obama's appropriations requests to implement health care and Wall Street reforms. Those reductions were compounded by sequestration in March, and the draft CR or continuing resolution in the House extends this pattern into the first months of fiscal 2014 beginning Oct. 1.

Final details have not yet been released, but Republicans have stepped up their activity in anticipation of bringing a bill to the floor next week to keep the government funded into mid-December.

The GOP leadership is still debating how to handle the pressure from conservatives for a vote on the CR to cut off all funding for health care reform. But the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which plays a major role in implementing the president's initiative, is a prime example of the squeeze on Obama.

The president had requested \$4.82 billion last year for the CMS "program management" account but then settled for \$3.8 billion last spring. Through the summer, the Department of Health and Human Services was able to bridge the gap by tapping other resources, including \$453 million from a preventive care fund. But the CR now would put Obama back at square one and at least \$1.4 billion below his request for 2014.

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission, charged with a major role in regulating the derivatives market, would go into its fourth year of being effectively frozen at more than a third below the president's request. And the Internal Revenue Service, with an important support role in financial and health reforms, will have been left with less funding than it had in 2010 before these responsibilities were added.

The situation captures a larger crisis facing Obama, who seems locked in a holding pattern with three years left still in his presidency.

House Republicans are a big part of his frustration. But the president has also hurt himself by failing to put more muscle into the annual appropriations process.

In the summer of 2012, for example, Obama undercut old allies by signing onto a deal that put the entire government under a CR for the first six months of fiscal 2013. As if exhausted by the New Year's "fiscal cliff" showdown over taxes, the White House never put much energy into the grittier appropriations talks that followed in March and allowed itself to be boxed in by the GOP.

There are signs now that the administration is prepared to take a tougher line this fall, but it wants to navigate first past the debt ceiling deadline in October. At the same time, the CR draft in the House Appropriations Committee — which runs to Dec. 13 — is a month longer than some in the Senate want and could pose problems too for the agencies most impacted.

The Syria debate hugely complicates the political landscape as well. And while the president is focused on that, House leaders are willing to let the Senate take the lead on Syria next week and use the time to try to move other legislation.

The CR is the chief example since both sides want to avoid the threat of an Oct. 1 government shutdown. With a major five year farm bill pending, Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.) also wants a floor vote soon on his package of \$40 billion in 10-year savings from food stamps.

GOP aides said they could not rule out taking up the Cantor bill next week. But the leader's own staff signaled that with so much invested — and the political situation in flux — that he is more likely to wait until the following week.

From: Sarri, Kristen

Sent: Thursday, September 05, 2013 06:41 PM

To: DL-OMB-PADs and Policy Officials; DL-OMB-DADs; DL-OMB-PAD Row Assistants

Cc: Berman, Lindsey R.; Neill, Allie; Menter, Jessica

Subject: Update on CR

The House may take up the CR as early as next week. (b) (5)

On emails concerning the CR, please cc: both Lindsey and me. Thanks, Kris

House May Take Up Stopgap Funding Bill Next Week

By Kerry Young, CQ Roll Call

The House is likely to take up a short-term, stopgap funding measure next week that would avert a government shutdown at the end of this month and put off fights over fiscal issues until Congress decides whether to grant President Barack Obama authority to launch a military strike against Syria, congressional

aides said.

The measure is expected to contain few, if any, controversial riders and is not expected to last more than two to three months. It's likely to continue discretionary spending into fiscal 2014, which begins on Oct. 1, at the current rate of roughly \$988 billion, aides said.

House leaders are likely to announce next week's floor schedule on Friday.

Many conservative Republicans oppose funding the government at the fiscal 2013 level, and would prefer to immediately drop to the \$967 billion level, so GOP House leaders may need to whip their caucus to move a CR at the higher level. Some conservatives also have continued to press for a bid to block funding for the 2010 health law (PL 111-148, PL 111-152) through the CR.

Still lawmakers in both parties and chambers this week indicated that they are expecting Congress to back a short-term measure to allow members to focus on Syria.

Congress had been expected to spend much of this month waging a partisan fight over a range of spending issues leading up to the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30. Both parties were eyeing the need for a CR as a way to perhaps also force action on the sequester and to raise the nation's borrowing limit by mid-October.

The White House this week sent Congress a short list of special provisions, or anomalies, that it wants included in any CR. The Office of Management and Budget would not comment on any proposed changes, but most are expected to be technical and relate to expiring authorizations and were not likely to be highly controversial.

From: Neill, Allie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=allie_r_neill>
Sent: Mon Sep 09 2013 18:53:45 EDT
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>;DL-OMB-PADs and Policy Officials </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dlombpadsandpolicyofficials85717766>;DL-OMB-DADs </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dlombdads38414334>
CC: DL-OMB-Assistants to Policy Officials </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dlombassistantstopolicyofficials10336635>
Subject: RE: Follow up from today's PADs/DADs
Attachments:

Importance: High
Priority: Urgent
Sensitivity: None

All,

Please find the Cantor memo below.

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Republicans

FR: Eric Cantor

DT: Friday, September 06, 2013

RE: September and October Legislative Agenda

As we return from five weeks of meetings with constituents, small businesses, and local leaders, the House will be confronted with a number of serious issues ranging from federal spending levels to Syria, to Obamacare to domestic energy. In addition, we will continue to focus on America's working middle class as they lose ground when Washington wastes their tax dollars on out-of-control programs, Obamacare increases their insurance premiums and slashes their hours at work, and their energy prices rise.

We must, as always, remain focused on our conservative policies that can help grow the economy, lessen the burden of government and provide opportunity for working middle class families. Many families are distressed. Countless parents don't remember the last time their employer could afford to give them a raise. Many fear their full-time job will become a part-time job. And many don't have a job at all. And healthcare costs are rising.

Many of these middle class families feel squeezed out and don't feel the government is paying attention to their needs, and that their voices don't matter. Well their voices matter to us, and we're going to fight for them this month and every month after with an agenda focused on economic security and opportunity for working middle class families.

While this memo is not exhaustive of the issues the House will deal with in the fall, the outline below will give you a sense of what to expect over the next two months. I look forward to hearing your input in shaping

our conservative agenda.

Appropriations

As the new fiscal year begins at the end of the month we find ourselves needing a short-term CR due to the Senate's failure to pass even a single appropriations bill. Enactment of a CR at sequester levels would contain \$64 billion in less spending compared to the current funding levels President Obama signed into law a mere five months ago. In signing a CR at sequester levels, the President would be endorsing a level of spending that wipes away all the increases he and Congressional Democrats made while they were in charge and returns us to a pre-2008 level of discretionary spending.

Debt Limit

The administration announced that it expects to run out of borrowing authority by mid-October. While we do not know the precise date of when that authority will lapse, the House will act to prevent a default on our obligations before that point. Over the past three decades during times of divided government, increases in the debt limit have been accompanied by major spending, fiscal, and regulatory reforms and I expect that model to play out once again. Gramm-Rudman, the Congressional Review Act, and the Budget Control Act all were enacted on previous increases of the debt limit. Therefore, House Republicans will demand fiscal reforms and pro-growth policies which put us on a path to balance in ten years in exchange for another increase in the debt limit.

Syria

Understanding that there are differing opinions on both sides of the aisle, it is up to President Obama to make the case to Congress and to the American people that this is the right course of action. Members should expect a robust debate and vote on an authorization of use of military force pertaining to Syria in the next two weeks.

Nutrition

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has ballooned since President Obama took office with one in seven Americans now receiving food stamps. As SNAP has grown, working middle class families are footing the \$80 billion bill for a safety net gone well beyond assistance to children, seniors, and the disabled. That is why, with Chairman Lucas, a working group of our conference came together to address the major problems to reform SNAP while still preserving the safety net for those who truly need it. The Nutrition Reform and Work Opportunity Act restores the intent of the bipartisan welfare reforms adopted in 1996 by ensuring that work requirements for able-bodied adults without children are enforced – not waived – and eliminates loopholes exploited over the last few years to avoid the program's income and asset tests. It also empowers states to engage able-bodied parents in work and job training as part of receiving food stamps to help move them to self-sufficiency. Most importantly, no individual who meets the income and asset guidelines of the SNAP program and is willing to comply with applicable work requirements will lose benefits as a result of these reforms. It is expected that these simple reforms will save taxpayers an estimated \$40 billion over ten years.

Obamacare

As the Speaker outlined in July, the House will hold a series of strategic votes throughout the fall to dismantle, defund, and delay Obamacare. The coalition supporting Obamacare cracks when forced to vote on the most unpopular aspects of the law. Remember, we have successfully forced the president to sign seven bills into law that either repeal parts of or significantly reduce spending on his signature law. And earlier this summer, 22 and 35 House Democrats voted to delay the individual and employee mandates, respectively.

We have seen in recent months that Obamacare is unworkable as the administration has missed half the deadlines in the law, according to a report published by CRS. Most recently, the administration has delayed the mandate on insurance companies that caps out-of-pocket insurance costs. As the October 1st implementation approaches, we will continue to pursue the strategy of systematically derailing this train wreck and replacing it with a patient-centered system which removes Washington from health care decisions.

Immigration

We know that the current legal immigration system is broken and should be fixed in a deliberate and responsible manner. That is why the Judiciary and Homeland Security committees have produced a number of specific bills which the House may begin considering this fall. Before we consider any other reforms, it is important that we pass legislation securing our borders and providing enforcement mechanisms to our law enforcement officials.

Domestic Energy

The working middle class is struggling under the weight of increased energy costs all while the United States has enough natural gas and newly discoverable oil finds to meet our energy needs for almost a century. We must focus on expanding our energy production in an environmentally friendly way to lower the price of energy for all Americans. That is why we will consider Bill Flores's bill, the Protecting States' Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act (H.R. 2728). This bipartisan legislation prohibits the Interior Department from enforcing federal hydraulic fracturing regulations in any state that already has existing regulations and recognizes states' rights to regulate this type of activity.

While energy is certainly a jobs issue, for millions of American families it is a pocketbook issue — working middle class families who in 2001 spent 12% of their earnings to pay for their energy bills, today spend 21% of their income on the same bill. According to the research firm IHS Global Insight, shale energy production, which could not be done successfully without hydraulic fracturing, has created billions of dollars in additional revenues for federal, state and local governments, helped American consumers save an average of \$926 annually per household, and supported more than 1.75 million jobs in 2012. Throughout the fall, House Republicans will continue to bring environmentally friendly energy legislation like this to the floor to bring down the cost of energy, create jobs for the middle class, and make the United States more energy independent.

Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act

For over 100 years, the federal government has managed our national forests while sharing with impacted local communities a percentage of management revenue. Chairman Doc Hastings's bill, Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act (H.R. 1526), renews the government's commitment to rural communities, improves forest health, and will help prevent catastrophic wildfires which threaten millions of Americans through proactive measures. The bill also provides a short-term extension of the Secure Rural Schools payments program.

WRRDA

The Water Resource Reform and Development Act of 2013 (WRRDA) is model for a new way to do business here in Washington and I applaud Chairman Bill Shuster and his committee for developing a bill with much needed reforms. The legislation cuts federal red tape and bureaucracy, streamlines the project delivery process, improves competitiveness, strengthens water resources infrastructure, and promotes fiscal responsibility. Most importantly, WRRDA contains no earmarks. It also increases transparency, accountability and Congressional oversight in reviewing and prioritizing future water resources development

activities without ceding Constitutional Congressional authority to the executive branch.

Kids First Research Act

H.R. 2019, The Kids First Research Act, introduced by Gregg Harper, Tom Cole, and Peter Welch clearly reflects Congressional priorities in funding: medical research before political parties and conventions. In the era of limited federal resources, it is critical that we set the right priorities and now more than ever our priority should be medical breakthroughs that help children who are suffering from diseases and disorders like autism, juvenile diabetes, Down syndrome, and cancer. This bipartisan bill eliminates the Presidential Election Campaign Fund and diverts the remaining money, approximately \$130 million, to expand pediatric research at the National Institutes of Health. Autism Speaks, Children's Hospital Association, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society are among the more than three dozen groups which support passage of this bill. It is no secret that Healthcare costs coupled with our nation's demographic trends disproportionately cloud the fiscal outlook for the federal government. By promoting cures, this legislation also reflects a long term commitment to fiscal balance.

Oversight

In September and October, House committees will continue to hold an out-of-touch government in Washington accountable. Congressional oversight that exposes abuses, such as political targeting by the IRS, is the first step in restoring trust in government, controlling spending, and reforming Washington. Working middle class families deserve a government that is working for them, not against them.

As I detailed in a memo to you last month, House committees are actively pursuing over 150 inquiries. While the IRS and Benghazi investigations remain priorities, the committees continue to focus on wasteful spending, job-killing regulations including the implementation of Obamacare and the administration's energy policies, and national security.

Conclusion

This fall's legislative agenda is aimed at promoting our conservative solutions that produce results for all Americans. We will need to address additional issues this fall, including a review of our intelligence programs and cyber security. A variety of other items are likely to be considered and members will receive weekly schedule updates at our conference meetings. Upon return to Washington, if we stay focused on our solutions and how they can benefit all Americans dealing with their every day challenges, I am convinced we will achieve more significant policy victories in the months ahead.

Thank you for all the hard work you do on behalf of your constituents and all Americans.

Eric

From: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
Sent: Mon Sep 09 2013 19:23:20 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>
CC: Hornung, Daniel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=hornung, daniel065>; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
Subject: RE: CR Update and Mikulski
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Sylvia and Brian –

(b) (5)



From: Sarri, Kristen
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 7:01 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Timberlake, Courtney B.; Shlossman, Amy; Berman, Lindsey R.
Cc: Hornung, Daniel; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya
Subject: CR Update

(b) (5)



From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Mon Sep 09 2013 21:27:01 EDT
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
CC:
Subject: FW: RC: Cantor Insists on Budget 'Reforms' in Return for Debt Hike
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Congress

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Posner, Steven
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 09:18 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Sarri, Kristen; Timberlake, Courtney B.; Shlossman, Amy; Vorhaus, Dave; O'Connor, Devin
Cc: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Hornung, Daniel; FN-OMB-Communications Office
Subject: FW: RC: Cantor Insists on Budget 'Reforms' in Return for Debt Hike

Just want to be sure folks saw this ...

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Republicans

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Thank you for all the hard work you do on behalf of your constituents and all Americans.

Eric

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 5:28 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial
Subject: RC: Cantor Insists on Budget 'Reforms' in Return for Debt Hike

<http://blogs.rollcall.com/goppers/cantor-demands-path-to-balanced-budget-in-return-for-debt-hike/>

Cantor Insists on Budget 'Reforms' in Return for Debt Hike

Roll Call // Steven Dennis and Matt Fuller

5:26 PM

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., outlined a plan Friday to hold federal spending and the debt limit hostage — but not necessarily over Obamacare.

“House Republicans will demand fiscal reforms and pro-growth policies which put us on a path to balance in ten years in exchange for another increase in the debt limit,” Cantor wrote in a memo to GOP lawmakers.

With President Barack Obama vowing not to negotiate, the United States faces a default crisis a little over a month after lawmakers return.

Cantor’s threat has a somewhat different standard than the demand from Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, that any increase in the debt ceiling be accompanied by an equivalent amount of “cuts and reforms.” Boehner’s demand, known as the “Boehner rule,” was violated earlier this year when the House punted on the debt limit, but the speaker recently promised a “whale of a fight” this fall.

Cantor also said Republicans would demand Obama agree to keep the sequester in place past Sept. 30 — and slash \$64 billion from the levels Obama signed months ago.

“In signing a CR at sequester levels, the President would be endorsing a level of spending that wipes away all the increases he and Congressional Democrats made while they were in charge and returns us to a pre-2008 level of discretionary spending,” Cantor said.

Whether Obama will sign such a short-term spending bill is an open question. The White House has repeatedly declined to answer whether Obama would sign a bill that lets the sequester continue. If the Senate blocks the measure, or Obama vetoes it, a partial government shutdown will ensue.

That, of course, would require Cantor to be able to actually pass such a bill through the House. And Cantor’s

memo makes no mention of tying the CR to Obamacare — something scores of the GOP conference have sought.

Instead, Cantor alludes to Boehner's strategy to chip away at the law through "a series of strategic votes."

If that's not enough for the rank and file, GOP leadership will either have to include Obamacare defunding in the CR and endure headlines saying they are risking a government shutdown, or they will have to woo Democrats for votes.

From: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
Sent: Mon Sep 09 2013 21:30:53 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: Re: David Rogers stole my rant
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Painful to read. I hope he took something from pads/dads today.

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 09:16 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.
Subject: FW: David Rogers stole my rant

FYI

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 09:15 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Weatherly, Mark A.
Subject: RE: David Rogers stole my rant

Mark,

Thanks for sending this note.

I am sorry that I am just reading this evening.

I hope that today's conversation was helpful on this front in terms of (b) (5)

Mark if you didn't feel that today helped understand our thinking, let me know. I will give you a call.

The engagement of leaders like you is important to me, OMB and the work we do.

Sylvia

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Weatherly, Mark A.

Sent: Sunday, September 08, 2013 04:36 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: Burwell, Sylvia

Subject: David Rogers stole my rant

Hi Sylvia. You may recall when you first came on board and were gracious enough to go around meeting staff, when you stopped by my office (b) (5). So for what it's worth here's the gist of what I had in mind, much or all of which I'm sure you know.

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks for letting me rant, and I apologize if this is offensive in any way; it's just meant to give you another window in to the great institution you head up. I'd be happy to discuss anytime, and shall now return to my duty station.

Mark

From: Berman, Lindsey R.

Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 5:48 PM

To: Sarri, Kristen; DL-OMB-PADs and Policy Officials; DL-OMB-DADs; DL-OMB-PAD Row Assistants

Cc: Neill, Allie; Menter, Jessica; Berman, Lindsey R.; Brown, Calla

Subject: Approps Update: Latest on FY 2014 CR

At this time, the House is planning on taking up the CR on the floor on Thursday, with the Rules Committee meeting Wednesday, and the bill filed on Tuesday. We're hearing the House CR is through December 13, 2013, which David Rogers also reports below.

House GOP to advance stopgap spending bill

To appease conservatives, the leadership is also debating how to defund Obamacare.

By DAVID ROGERS and JOHN BRESNAHAN | 9/6/13 4:57 PM EDT

As a new stopgap spending bill takes shape in the House, President Barack Obama is paying a price for having dropped his guard in negotiations last spring over top domestic priorities.

The White House caved early to pressure then from Republicans, who cut hundreds of millions from Obama's appropriations requests to implement health care and Wall Street reforms. Those reductions were compounded by sequestration in March, and the draft CR or continuing resolution in the House extends this pattern into the first months of fiscal 2014 beginning Oct. 1.

Final details have not yet been released, but Republicans have stepped up their activity in anticipation of bringing a bill to the floor next week to keep the government funded into mid-December.

The GOP leadership is still debating how to handle the pressure from conservatives for a vote on the CR to cut off all funding for health care reform. But the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which plays a major role in implementing the president's initiative, is a prime example of the squeeze on Obama.

The president had requested \$4.82 billion last year for the CMS "program management" account but then settled for \$3.8 billion last spring. Through the summer, the Department of Health and Human Services was able to bridge the gap by tapping other resources, including \$453 million from a preventive care fund. But the CR now would put Obama back at square one and at least \$1.4 billion below his request for 2014.

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission, charged with a major role in regulating the derivatives market, would go into its fourth year of being effectively frozen at more than a third below the president's request. And the Internal Revenue Service, with an important support role in financial and health reforms, will have been left with less funding than it had in 2010 before these responsibilities were added.

The situation captures a larger crisis facing Obama, who seems locked in a holding pattern with three years left still in his presidency.

House Republicans are a big part of his frustration. But the president has also hurt himself by failing to put more muscle into the annual appropriations process.

In the summer of 2012, for example, Obama undercut old allies by signing onto a deal that put the entire government under a CR for the first six months of fiscal 2013. As if exhausted by the New Year's "fiscal cliff" showdown over taxes, the White House never put much energy into the grittier appropriations talks that followed in March and allowed itself to be boxed in by the GOP.

There are signs now that the administration is prepared to take a tougher line this fall, but it wants to navigate first past the debt ceiling deadline in October. At the same time, the CR draft in the House Appropriations Committee — which runs to Dec. 13 — is a month longer than some in the Senate want and could pose problems too for the agencies most impacted.

The Syria debate hugely complicates the political landscape as well. And while the president is focused on that, House leaders are willing to let the Senate take the lead on Syria next week and use the time to try to move other legislation.

The CR is the chief example since both sides want to avoid the threat of an Oct. 1 government shutdown. With a major five year farm bill pending, Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.) also wants a floor vote soon on his package of \$40 billion in 10-year savings from food stamps.

GOP aides said they could not rule out taking up the Cantor bill next week. But the leader's own staff signaled that with so much invested — and the political situation in flux — that he is more likely to wait until the following week.

From: Sarri, Kristen

Sent: Thursday, September 05, 2013 06:41 PM

To: DL-OMB-PADs and Policy Officials; DL-OMB-DADs; DL-OMB-PAD Row Assistants

Cc: Berman, Lindsey R.; Neill, Allie; Menter, Jessica

Subject: Update on CR

The House may take up the CR as early as next week. (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

On emails concerning the CR, please cc: both Lindsey and me. Thanks, Kris

House May Take Up Stopgap Funding Bill Next Week

By Kerry Young, CQ Roll Call

The House is likely to take up a short-term, stopgap funding measure next week that would avert a government shutdown at the end of this month and put off fights over fiscal issues until Congress decides whether to grant President Barack Obama authority to launch a military strike against Syria, congressional aides said.

The measure is expected to contain few, if any, controversial riders and is not expected to last more than two to three months. It's likely to continue discretionary spending into fiscal 2014, which begins on Oct. 1, at the current rate of roughly \$988 billion, aides said.

House leaders are likely to announce next week's floor schedule on Friday.

Many conservative Republicans oppose funding the government at the fiscal 2013 level, and would prefer to immediately drop to the \$967 billion level, so GOP House leaders may need to whip their caucus to move a CR at the higher level. Some conservatives also have continued to press for a bid to block funding for the 2010 health law (PL 111-148, PL 111-152) through the CR.

Still lawmakers in both parties and chambers this week indicated that they are expecting Congress to back a short-term measure to allow members to focus on Syria.

Congress had been expected to spend much of this month waging a partisan fight over a range of spending issues leading up to the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30. Both parties were eyeing the need for a CR as a way to perhaps also force action on the sequester and to raise the nation's borrowing limit by mid-October.

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From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Mon Sep 09 2013 22:13:08 EDT
To: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
CC:
Subject: FW: David Rogers stole my rant
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Weatherly, Mark A.
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 10:05 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: Re: David Rogers stole my rant

Thanks Sylvia. (b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 09:15 PM
To: Weatherly, Mark A.
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(b) (5)

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Cc: Berman, Lindsey R.; Neill, Allie; Menter, Jessica

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From: Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy.1.058>
Sent: Tue Sep 10 2013 07:22:37 EDT
To: Berman, Lindsey R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bermanl64651664>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Timberlake, Courtney B. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=courtneyb.timberlake45577210>
CC: Hornung, Daniel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=hornung, daniel065>; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
Subject: Re: CR Update
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

Thanks.

From: Berman, Lindsey R.
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 07:55 PM
To: Sarri, Kristen; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Timberlake, Courtney B.; Shlossman, Amy
Cc: Hornung, Daniel; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya
Subject: Re: CR Update

Here's what I was able to get:

Access to DC local funds is in (for the duration of the CR and not full year)

(b) (5)

Definition of Highly Qualified Teachers - (b) (5)

That's all I was able to get at this time.

From: Sarri, Kristen
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 07:01 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Timberlake, Courtney B.; Shlossman, Amy; Berman, Lindsey R.
Cc: Hornung, Daniel; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya

Subject: CR Update

(b) (5)



From: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
Sent: Tue Sep 10 2013 07:23:17 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Brown, Calla </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=calla_r_brown1>; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>; Menter, Jessica </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jessican.menter27256674>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>
CC:
Subject: SAPs for 8AM Meeting
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Sylvia,

(b) (5)



(b) (5)



From: Harris, Julian </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=harris, julian j.88f>
Sent: Tue Sep 10 2013 12:58:37 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>
CC: Rzeczkowski, Kristin </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=rzeczkowski, kristin c.def>
Subject: FW: House Obamacare strategy
Attachments: CR one pager Canter.pdf

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Harris, Julian
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 12:58 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Sarri, Kristen; Reilly, Thomas M.; Martin, Kathryn; Posner, Steven; Timberlake, Courtney B.; Washington, Geovette; Berger, Sam
Cc: Rzeczkowski, Kristin
Subject: House Obamacare strategy

(b) (5)

From: Bjorklund, Cybele [(b) (6)]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 11:51 AM
To: Lambrew, Jeanne; [(b) (6)]; Friedman, Jennifer;
'Kate_Leone' [(b) (6)]; 'David_Schwartz' [(b) (6)]; Primus, Wendell; Murray, Elizabeth (Thomas); Nelson, Karen; Varnhagen, Michele; 'Carolyn_Gluck' [(b) (6)]; O'Reilly, Megan;
'Nick_Bath' [(b) (6)]; Crouch, Christopher; Paula_Burg [(b) (6)]; Meredith, Diana;
jennifer_hanson [(b) (6)]; Melanie_Rainer [(b) (6)]; Zuckerman, Mark; Egorin, Melanie; Miller, Erin
Cc: Perez, Alejandro; [(b) (6)]; 'Jim.Esquea' [(b) (6)]; Elhassani, Layth;
'Bridgett.Taylor' [(b) (6)]; Aronson, Lauren (CMS/OL); Dawe, Chris; Harris, Julian
Subject: RE: Bi-cam today: 1pm

For what it is worth, if you haven't seen this yet....Cantor's one pager on defunding efforts (as circulating downtown).

FIGHT TO

DEFUND OBAMACARE

Many House Republicans have stated that they want to pass a CR that affirmatively de-funds the implementation and enforcement of Obamacare. In addition to firmly putting the House on record, such an effort would force the Democrat Senate to confront the issue of defunding, providing Senate Republicans the opportunity to challenge Senate Democrats to join Republicans in blocking the further implementation of this awful and unpopular law.

Tactically, we want to engage this battle in a manner that unites House Republicans, provides as few opportunities as possible for Senate Democrats to duck the issue, and ensures that if defunding does not occur that Senate Democrats are held to account.

THE PLAN

1. The House simultaneously considers a CR at sequester levels AND a H.Con.Res. that would amend the CR to include full defunding language.
2. The vote on passage of the CR is also on passage of the H.Con.Res. (defunding language).
3. Upon passage, the Clerk of the House sends the defunding language to the Senate.
4. The rule for the CR/Defund package provides that the CR cannot be transmitted to the Senate until the Senate has considered the defunding language.
5. If the Senate passes defunding then it gets added to the CR as it

goes to the President. If they defeat it, then the Senate can consider whether they want to pass the CR. If they do, without amendment it goes to the President.

From: Lambrew, Jeanne [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 8:35 AM
To: Bjorklund, Cybele; (b) (6); Friedman, Jennifer;
'Kate_Leone(b) (6)'; 'David_Schwartz@'(b) (6)'; Primus, Wendell; Murray, Elizabeth (Thomas); Nelson, Karen; Varnhagen, Michele; 'Carolyn_Gluck(b) (6)'; O'Reilly, Megan; 'Nick_Bath(b) (6)'; Crouch, Christopher; Paula_Burg(b) (6); Meredith, Diana; jennifer_hanson(b) (6); Melanie_Rainer(b) (6); Zuckerman, Mark; Miller, Erin
Cc: Perez, Alejandro; 'Michael.Hash(b) (6)'; 'Jim.Esquea(b) (6)'; Elhassani, Layth; 'Bridgett.Taylor(b) (6)'; Aronson, Lauren (CMS/OL); Dawe, Chris; Harris, Julian
Subject: Bi-cam today: 1pm

Good morning, Happy September. We are back to our weekly meetings, starting today in (b) (6). Below is the draft agenda. Thanks.

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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*Courtesy of the Office of
Majority Leader Eric Cantor*

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CC: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
Subject: RE: Homebase on CR for House Dem Caucus
Attachments:

Importance: Normal

Priority: Normal

Sensitivity: None

The Ryan Budget would drop NDD to \$420B and the NDD/DoD split for \$967B is \$469B. (b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 2:14 PM
To: Sarri, Kristen; Deese, Brian C.; Shlossman, Amy
Cc: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya
Subject: RE: Homebase on CR for House Dem Caucus

(b) (5)

What did they think it meant?

Kris do I need to just call Rosa?

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Sarri, Kristen
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 02:11 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Deese, Brian C.; Burwell, Sylvia; Shlossman, Amy
Subject: Re: Homebase on CR for House Dem Caucus

Allie and I just came from a meeting with Pelosi and Hoyer staff. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 12:47 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Shlossman, Amy
Subject: RE: Homebase on CR for House Dem Caucus

(b) (5)

. I just got a reporter inquiry.

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 8:50 AM
To: Sarri, Kristen; Deese, Brian C.; Shlossman, Amy
Subject: FW: Homebase on CR for House Dem Caucus

Fyi...

From: Nabors, Robert L.
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 8:46 AM
To: Burwell, Sylvia

Subject: RE: Homebase on CR for House Dem Caucus

ok

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 8:45 AM
To: Nabors, Robert L.
Subject: Homebase on CR for House Dem Caucus

Rob,

(b) (5)

-

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>
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To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy l.058>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
CC: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>; Hornung, Daniel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=hornung, daniel065>
Subject: FW: NYT and WSJ on CR
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Beirne Fallon, Katie
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 2:32 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Burwell, Sylvia; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
Subject: Re: NYT and WSJ on CR

(b) (5), Amy.

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 02:30 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
Subject: NYT and WSJ on CR

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

- (b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Tue Sep 10 2013 15:41:57 EDT
To: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>
CC: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
Subject: Re: Homebase on CR for House Dem Caucus
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Whatever timing she needs. I am in no rush but happy to do today if that is what she wants.

From: Sarri, Kristen
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 02:18 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Shlossman, Amy
Cc: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya
Subject: Re: Homebase on CR for House Dem Caucus

We will schedule with her but have it happen quickly.

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 02:13 PM
To: Sarri, Kristen; Deese, Brian C.; Shlossman, Amy
Cc: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya
Subject: RE: Homebase on CR for House Dem Caucus

(b) (5)

What did they think it meant?

Kris do I need to just call Rosa?

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Sarri, Kristen
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 02:11 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Deese, Brian C.; Burwell, Sylvia; Shlossman, Amy

Subject: Re: Homebase on CR for House Dem Caucus

Allie and I just came from a meeting with Pelosi and Hoyer staff. (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(6)

From: Deese, Brian C.

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 12:47 PM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Shlossman, Amy

Subject: RE: Homebase on CR for House Dem Caucus

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

I just got a reporter inquiry.

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Burwell, Sylvia

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 8:50 AM

To: Sarri, Kristen; Deese, Brian C.; Shlossman, Amy

Subject: FW: Homebase on CR for House Dem Caucus

Fyi...

From: Nabors, Robert L.
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 8:46 AM
To: Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: RE: Homebase on CR for House Dem Caucus

ok

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 8:45 AM
To: Nabors, Robert L.
Subject: Homebase on CR for House Dem Caucus

Rob,

(b) (5)

-

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Tue Sep 10 2013 15:49:14 EDT
To: Brundage, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>
CC:
Subject: RE: NYT and WSJ on CR
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Just tried to call, but didn't get you. If Rob doesn't respond, give me a holler. S

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 2:31 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
Subject: NYT and WSJ on CR

We have heard today from Damian Paletta at the Journal and Jackie at the Times, writing for tomorrow on the potential CR House will put forward this week

Have spoken to a few folks about this, but wanted to put everyone on one email and see if you all agree with this strategy

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely redacted with black ink, covering approximately the top third of the page. It consists of three stacked horizontal bars of varying lengths.

OK?

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Tue Sep 10 2013 15:57:34 EDT
To: DMCOS </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dmcoss791>; Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_1_nabors>
CC: Quillian, Natalie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=quillian, natalie h.bc8>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
Subject: FW: Key Vote Alert - "NO" on the Rule for the FY14 Continuing Resolution
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Club for Growth came out against the Cantor approach....

From: Sarri, Kristen
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 3:19 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Shlossman, Amy
Subject: FW: Key Vote Alert - "NO" on the Rule for the FY14 Continuing Resolution

Club for Growth email against it. The House had first set of votes and started whipping. They don't have enough votes yet. The next set of votes is in 45 minutes and whip count will continue. Unlikely to post until they are closer on votes.

From: Andy Roth [mailto:aroth=clubforgrowth.org@mail5.atl31.mcdlv.net] On Behalf Of Andy Roth
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 2:56 PM

Subject: Key Vote Alert - "NO" on the Rule for the FY14 Continuing Resolution

Everyone,

The Club for Growth urges all House members to vote "NO" on the rule for the FY14 Continuing Resolution (H.J.Res. ____). Consideration of the bill is scheduled for later this week. The vote on the rule will be included in the Club's 2013 Congressional Scorecard.

For several weeks now, the Club has urged lawmakers to defund ObamaCare in the FY14 continuing resolution. Rather than fight to defund ObamaCare, or to even have an honest debate about it, House leaders have decided to go with a "smoke and mirrors" strategy that avoids the issue. Therefore, we urge lawmakers to oppose the rule.

Our Congressional Scorecard for the 113th Congress provides a comprehensive rating of how well or how

poorly each member of Congress supports pro-growth, free-market policies and will be distributed to our members and to the public.

Here are the HTML and PDF versions of this alert.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Andy

From: Brundage, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>
Sent: Tue Sep 10 2013 16:37:39 EDT
Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_1_nabors>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>; Palmieri, Jennifer </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=palmieri, jennifer m.cd6>; Earnest, Joshua R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=joshuar.earnest67836121>; Carney, Jay </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=james_f_carney>; Beirne Fallon, Katie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=fallon, katherine b.311>; Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; McGuinness, Tara </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=mcguinness, tara d.237>; Simas, David M. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=simas, david m.688>; Santillo, Jessica </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=santillo, jessica r.263>
To:
CC:
Subject: RE: NYT and WSJ on CR
Attachments:
Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

thanks all

From: Nabors, Robert L.
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 4:25 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Brundage, Amy; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
Subject: RE: NYT and WSJ on CR

(b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 3:39 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
Subject: Re: NYT and WSJ on CR

Thanks Amy

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 02:30 PM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
Subject: NYT and WSJ on CR

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Have spoken to a few folks about this, but wanted to put everyone on one email and see if you all agree with this strategy

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

OK?

From: Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>
Sent: Tue Sep 10 2013 17:26:09 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
CC: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>; Hornung, Daniel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=hornung, daniel065>
Subject: FW: NYT and WSJ on CR
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 5:03 PM
To: Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.
Subject: RE: NYT and WSJ on CR

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Nabors, Robert L.
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 4:25 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Brundage, Amy; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
Subject: RE: NYT and WSJ on CR

(b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 3:39 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
Subject: Re: NYT and WSJ on CR

Thanks Amy

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 02:30 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
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(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely redacted with black ink. It starts at the top left, below the (b) (5) label, and extends horizontally across most of the page width. A smaller rectangular area is also redacted directly below the start of the first redacted block.A single line of text is redacted with black ink.A single line of text is redacted with black ink.Two lines of text are redacted with black ink.Three lines of text are redacted with black ink.Three lines of text are redacted with black ink.A single line of text is redacted with black ink.

OK?

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Tue Sep 10 2013 17:57:33 EDT
To: Sperling, Gene </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eugene_b_sperling>
CC:
Subject: Fw: NYT and WSJ on CR
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 05:36 PM
To: Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.
Subject: RE: NYT and WSJ on CR

(b) (5)

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From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 5:03 PM
To: Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.
Subject: RE: NYT and WSJ on CR

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(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Nabors, Robert L.
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 4:25 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Brundage, Amy; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay;
Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
Subject: RE: NYT and WSJ on CR

(b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 3:39 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay;
Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
Subject: Re: NYT and WSJ on CR

Thanks Amy

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 02:30 PM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
Subject: NYT and WSJ on CR

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Have spoken to a few folks about this, but wanted to put everyone on one email and see if you all agree with this strategy

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

OK?

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Tue Sep 10 2013 19:10:26 EDT
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
CC:
Subject: FW: Closing the loop
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Cr

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 06:38 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica; Sperling, Gene; Nelson, Greg; Furman, Jason L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; DMCOS
Subject: Closing the loop

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(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)



Apologies for not sending around sooner.

Amy

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Tue Sep 10 2013 22:14:21 EDT
To: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
CC:
Subject: RE: Key Points on CR
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Thanks Brian. (b) (5)

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 07:18 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: Key Points on CR

How about something like this for our core points

(b) (5)

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o (b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 5:36 PM
To: Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
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Subject: RE: NYT and WSJ on CR

(b) (5)

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(b) (5)

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(b) (5)

From: Nabors, Robert L.

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 4:25 PM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Brundage, Amy; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
Subject: RE: NYT and WSJ on CR

(b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 3:39 PM

To: Brundage, Amy; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
Subject: Re: NYT and WSJ on CR

Thanks Amy

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 02:30 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Posner, Steven; Deese, Brian C.; McGuinness, Tara; Simas, David M.; Santillo, Jessica
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(b) (5)


A large rectangular area of the document is completely blacked out, indicating redacted content. The redaction code (b) (5) is visible in red text at the top left of this block.

OK?

From: Vorhaus, Dave </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=davida.vorhaus13178357>
Sent: Wed Sep 11 2013 12:33:29 EDT
To: Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>;Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>;Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>;Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>;O'Connor, Devin </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=devin_1_oconnor>;Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>
CC:
Subject: RE: NEED APPROVAL - Topline CR TPs
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

A couple of suggested edits. (b) (5)



Thanks!

//////////

CR/Budget Toplines

(b) (5)





(b) (5) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (5) [REDACTED]

o (b) (5) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

o (b) (5) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(b) (5) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(b) (5) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(b) (5) [REDACTED]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5)



###

From: Posner, Steven

Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 12:26 PM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Sarri, Kristen; Vorhaus, Dave; O'Connor, Devin; Shlossman, Amy

Subject: FW: NEED APPROVAL - Topline CR TPs

For Jay's briefing ...

(b) (5)



From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 12:02 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Sperling, Gene; Furman, Jason L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Lee, Jesse C.; Posner, Steven; McGuinness, Tara; Schumer, Jessica E.; Quillian, Natalie
Subject: NEED APPROVAL - Topline CR TPs

Please send edits - many thanks.

CR/Budget Toplines

(b) (5)



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[REDACTED]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

###

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Wed Sep 11 2013 12:55:58 EDT
Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Vorhaus, Dave </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=davida.vorhaus13178357>; O'Connor, Devin </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=devin_1_oconnor>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy l.058>
To:
CC:
Subject: Re: NEED APPROVAL - Topline CR TPs
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Fine

From: Posner, Steven
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 12:25 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Sarri, Kristen; Vorhaus, Dave; O'Connor, Devin; Shlossman, Amy
Subject: FW: NEED APPROVAL - Topline CR TPs

For Jay's briefing ...

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 12:02 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Sperling, Gene; Furman, Jason L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Lee, Jesse C.; Posner, Steven; McGuinness, Tara; Schumer, Jessica E.; Quillian, Natalie
Subject: NEED APPROVAL - Topline CR TPs

Please send edits - many thanks.

CR/Budget Toplines

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(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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###

From: Brundage, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>
Sent: Wed Sep 11 2013 13:08:39 EDT
To: Furman, Jason L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=furman, jason 1.277>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian.c.ad5>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_l_nabors>; Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>; Palmieri, Jennifer </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=palmieri, jennifer m.cd6>; Beirne Fallon, Katie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=fallon, katherine b.311>; Earnest, Joshua R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=joshuar.earnest67836121>; Carney, Jay </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=james_f_carney>; Sperling, Gene </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eugene_b_sperling>; Rodriguez, Miguel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=miguel_e_rodriguez>; Lee, Jesse C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jessec.lee74301331>; Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>; McGuinness, Tara </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=mcguinness, tara d.237>; Schumer, Jessica E. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=schumer, jessica e.588>; Quillian, Natalie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=quillian, natalie h.bc8>
CC: Allen, Jessica </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=allen, jessica 1.d4e>; Holzer, Benjamin </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=benjamin_s_holzer>
Subject: Re: NEED APPROVAL - Topline CR TPs
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Apparently following headlines posting fyi - jessica can you find?

- *House GOP Leaders Delay Vote On Proposed Funding Measure Until Next Week – Aide
- *House GOP Leaders Not Abandoning Strategy Yet, Talks Continue With Lawmakers – Aide
- *House GOP Bill Would Extend Current Govt. Funding Until Mid-December, Cut Funds For Health Care Law

From: Furman, Jason L.
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 12:59 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Deese, Brian C.; Burwell, Sylvia; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Sperling, Gene; Rodriguez, Miguel; Lee, Jesse C.; Posner, Steven; McGuinness, Tara; Schumer, Jessica E.; Quillian, Natalie
Subject: RE: NEED APPROVAL - Topline CR TPs

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 12:58 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Burwell, Sylvia; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Sperling, Gene; Furman, Jason L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Lee, Jesse C.; Posner, Steven; McGuinness, Tara; Schumer, Jessica E.; Quillian, Natalie
Subject: Re: NEED APPROVAL - Topline CR TPs

(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 12:56 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Burwell, Sylvia; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Sperling, Gene; Furman, Jason L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Lee, Jesse C.; Posner, Steven; McGuinness, Tara; Schumer, Jessica E.; Quillian, Natalie
Subject: Re: NEED APPROVAL - Topline CR TPs

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 12:01 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Sperling, Gene; Furman, Jason L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Lee, Jesse C.; Posner, Steven; McGuinness, Tara; Schumer, Jessica E.; Quillian, Natalie
Subject: NEED APPROVAL - Topline CR TPs

Please send edits - many thanks.

CR/Budget Toplines

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(b) (5) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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(b) (5) [REDACTED]

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###

From: Brundage, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>
Sent: Wed Sep 11 2013 13:21:54 EDT
To: Sperling, Gene </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eugene_b_sperling>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_l_nabors>; Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>; Palmieri, Jennifer </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=palmieri, jennifer m.cd6>; Beirne Fallon, Katie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=fallon, katherine b.311>; Earnest, Joshua R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=joshuar.earnest67836121>; Carney, Jay </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=james_f_carney>; Furman, Jason L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=furman, jason l.277>; Rodriguez, Miguel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=miguel_e_rodriguez>; Lee, Jesse C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jessec.lee74301331>; Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>; McGuinness, Tara </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=mcguinness, tara d.237>; Schumer, Jessica E. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=schumer, jessica e.588>; Quillian, Natalie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=quillian, natalie h.bc8>
CC:
Subject: Re: NEED APPROVAL - Topline CR TPs
Attachments:
Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Jay just got asked

Said shutdown would be bad for the economy. Obviously we wouldn't accept anything that delays or defunds obamacare. Shouldn't threaten shutdown over ideological issues. We'd oppose that.

From: Sperling, Gene
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 01:13 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Deese, Brian C.; Burwell, Sylvia; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Furman, Jason L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Lee, Jesse C.; Posner, Steven; McGuinness, Tara; Schumer, Jessica E.; Quillian, Natalie
Subject: Re: NEED APPROVAL - Topline CR TPs

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 12:57 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Burwell, Sylvia; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Sperling, Gene; Furman, Jason L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Lee, Jesse C.;

Posner, Steven; McGuinness, Tara; Schumer, Jessica E.; Quillian, Natalie
Subject: Re: NEED APPROVAL - Topline CR TPs

(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 12:56 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Burwell, Sylvia; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Sperling, Gene; Furman, Jason L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Lee, Jesse C.; Posner, Steven; McGuinness, Tara; Schumer, Jessica E.; Quillian, Natalie
Subject: Re: NEED APPROVAL - Topline CR TPs

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 12:01 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Sperling, Gene; Furman, Jason L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Lee, Jesse C.; Posner, Steven; McGuinness, Tara; Schumer, Jessica E.; Quillian, Natalie
Subject: NEED APPROVAL - Topline CR TPs

Please send edits - many thanks.

CR/Budget Toplines

(b) (5)

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(b) (5) [REDACTED]

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(b) (5) [Redacted]

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(b) (5) [Redacted]

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(b) (5) [Redacted]

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(b) (5)



###

From: Burwell, Sylvia (b) (6)
Sent: Wed Sep 11 2013 18:35:39 EDT
To: Neera Tanden (b) (6)
CC:
Subject: RE: House CR update
Attachments: image001.jpg

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Thanks. Had not seen this piece. Sylvia

From: Neera Tanden (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 5:15 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: FW: House CR update

See below.

It's debt or CR.

From: Anna Chu
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 5:13 PM
To: Tamara Fucile; Joshua Dorner; Harry Stein
Cc: Michael Linden; Neera Tanden; Carmel Martin; Lori Lodes; Kitty Richards; Nathan Fenstermacher; Winnie Stachelberg; Katie Peters; Andrea Purse; John Podesta; Tom Perriello
Subject: RE: House CR update

I don't think this went around yet.

The Washington Examiner - Conservatives float new plan to delay Obamacare by one year

David M. Drucker

September 11, 2013

House conservatives are coalescing around an alternative plan that would delay implementation of

Obamacare by one year and use the money saved to restore the sequester-mandated spending cuts, in exchange for approving either a must-pass budget bill or legislation to raise the debt ceiling.

The concept was hatched by conservative House Republicans disappointed with a GOP leadership proposal that would send to the Senate a budget bill that funds the government beyond Sept. 30 but allows the Democratic chamber to approve that spending while simultaneously voting down an attached amendment stripping all funding for the Affordable Care Act. Conservative activists are pushing House Republicans to leverage a government shutdown as a means to defund Obamacare.

House conservatives are sympathetic to this strategy, which involves passing a budget that defunds Obamacare and attempts to pin the blame for the inevitable government shutdown on President Obama. But even these Republicans recognize the political risk of a government shutdown, and they are now trying to devise an alternative to the leadership proposal that would still cut Obamacare.

“My take is, a consensus is all beginning to build,” Rep. John Fleming, R-La., said Wednesday as he exited a closed-door meeting of the Republican Study Committee, a group of conservative House Republicans. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., attended the meeting, but did not address RSC members, those present said.

Republican leaders cancelled a vote on their Obamacare proposal this week, acknowledging that they didn't have the votes needed to clear the House.

RSC meetings can be raucous and emotive, with caucus members occasionally venting their unhappiness with leadership and its various plans. But members exiting Wednesday's conclave described the discussion as constructive, an attempt to “thread the needle” between GOP leaders' desire to avoid a politically risky government shutdown and conservative demands that the upcoming fiscal negotiations be used to block implementation of Obamacare, which will accelerate in October.

The conservative alternative to delay Obamacare by a year and restore the sequester-related spending cuts could be part of the government funding bill or the debt ceiling legislation. But House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., made a “compelling case” for using the debt ceiling legislation to negotiate the Obamacare delay, rather than the budget bill favored by Tea Party activists, according to one Republican who attended the RSC meeting.

“That is better ground for us to fight on,” said this GOP member.

Meanwhile, the GOP would likely jumpstart negotiations to raise the federal government's \$16 trillion borrowing limit, which the Obama administration said will be reached between Oct. 18 to Nov. 5. Republicans might also choose to immediately pass a bill that was based on the conservative alternative in attempt to put the pressure to avoid breaching the debt ceiling on Obama and Senate Democrats.

"We're trying to find the sweet spot and do what's right for America," Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-S.C., said. "Republicans want to keep the government open; we're not advocating for a shutdown."

<http://m.washingtonexaminer.com/conservatives-float-new-plan-to-delay-obamacare-by-one-year/article/2535609>

From: Tamara Fucile
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 2:22 PM
To: Anna Chu; Joshua Dorner; Harry Stein
Cc: Michael Linden; Neera Tanden; Carmel Martin; Lori Lodes; Kitty Richards; Nathan Fenstermacher; Winnie Stachelberg; Katie Peters; Andrea Purse; John Podesta; Tom Perriello
Subject: Re: House CR update

Apparently Boehner didn't even have sufficient votes to pass the rule, let alone the cr.

From: Anna Chu
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 1:51:05 PM
To: Tamara Fucile; Joshua Dorner; Harry Stein
Cc: Michael Linden; Neera Tanden; Carmel Martin; Lori Lodes; Kitty Richards; Nathan Fenstermacher; Winnie Stachelberg; Katie Peters; Andrea Purse; John Podesta; Tom Perriello
Subject: RE: House CR update

Ding dong the CR's dead! For now.

The House is currently in recess subject to the call of the Chair. At approximately 2:10 p.m., the House will

reconvene and take votes on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2775 – “No Subsidies Without Verification Act.”

Members are advised that following that series of votes, no more votes are expected in the House today. This is a change to the previously announced schedule.

Further consideration of H.R. 2775 is expected to be completed tomorrow.

Consideration of H.J.Res. 59 – Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014, has been postponed. H.J.Res. 59 is no longer expected to be considered this week.

Further scheduling information will be announced as soon as it becomes available.

If you have any questions please contact: Shuwanza Goff or Dan Shott at 5-3130.

To subscribe (Democratic staff only), email (b) (6) " with your name, office, and position.

To unsubscribe, respond with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Visit <http://DemocraticWhip.gov/> for more press, floor and member resources.

From: Tamara Fucile

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 9:47 PM

To: Joshua Dorner; Harry Stein

Cc: Michael Linden; Anna Chu; Neera Tanden; Carmel Martin; Lori Lodes; Kitty Richards; Nathan Fenstermacher; Winnie Stachelberg; Katie Peters; Andrea Purse; John Podesta; Tom Perriello

Subject: Re: House CR update

Right, but the House clerk holds the CR until the Senate votes on the H Con Res to defund Obamacare. Once that vote fails (presumably), the House can then send over the underlying CR for a Senate vote. IF the Senate passes that, it goes straight to the Pres for signature. My understanding is that Senate leadership is unlikely to accept the House CR primarily because of the date, not the level, which means the Senate would send the cr back to the House.

From: Joshua Dorner

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 9:23:12 PM

To: Harry Stein

Cc: Michael Linden; Anna Chu; Tamara Fucile; Neera Tanden; Carmel Martin; Lori Lodes; Harry Stein; Kitty Richards; Nathan Fenstermacher; Winnie Stachelberg; Katie Peters; Andrea Purse; John Podesta; Tom Perriello

Subject: Re: House CR update

I think GOP leadership has been arguing that all House has to do is pass the rule and then vote once and then if Senate passes CR alone, that goes to POTUS. No second vote for House unless Senate amends CR.

On Sep 10, 2013, at 8:46 PM, "Harry Stein" <hstein@americanprogress.org> wrote:

The CR goes until December 15, and it is funded at FY2013 sequester levels of \$988 billion, as expected. It never says "\$988 billion," but it specifies that level by including the sequestration order in calculating the rate at which funds are spent. It exempts wildfire money and disaster relief from the sequestration reductions.

That is the opposite of how the FY2013 full year CR worked, when sequester was also in effect. In that CR, H.R. 933, the level of funding was not calculated based on sequestration, which is why CBO scored it at the pre-sequester level of \$1.043 trillion. Since the law didn't repeal sequester, the spending was automatically cut to \$988 billion.

The CR has a few anomalies, including some extra money for wildfires. That's a reasonable response to recent events, but it also highlights the problem that sequestration has caused for wildfire management. Also, Frank Lautenberg's widow gets \$174,000.

The House also posted a concurrent resolution "Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.J. Res. 59 [the CR]." That resolution defunds Obamacare, so it's a big "correction." If I'm understanding this right, the House can vote on these together, so their members are voting on a CR that defunds Obamacare. Then they can direct the clerk to not send over the CR until the Senate acts on their concurrent resolution. The expectation is that the Senate would reject the resolution defunding Obamacare, and then pass the "clean" CR, which would go straight to President Obama to sign into law.

I think the reason for the two separate vehicles is that if they included the defund Obamacare language in the CR, the Senate might just strip it out and send it back to the House. Then House members might have to vote on just a CR that funds Obamacare. The House leadership's plan has the potential to avoid that vote for their members.

On Sep 10, 2013, at 7:22 PM, "Michael Linden" <mlinden@americanprogress.org> wrote:

Harry, can you take a look?

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 10, 2013, at 7:08 PM, "Anna Chu" <achu@americanprogress.org> wrote:

GOP just posted the CR text on the rules committee website – so clearly preparing for Thursday.

<http://docs.house.gov/floor/>

toward the bottom

From: Joshua Dorner

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 3:08 PM

To: Tamara Fucile; Neera Tanden; Michael Linden; Carmel Martin; Lori Lodes; Harry Stein; Kitty Richards; Nathan Fenstermacher; Winnie Stachelberg; Katie Peters; Andrea Purse; John Podesta; Tom Perriello; Anna Chu

Subject: RE: House CR update

Couple things:

-CPC shared Neera and Linden's piece with Members today.

-Club for Growth is whipping NO on even the rule for the CR and continues to give all sorts of choice quotes to press that should help drive away Tea Party votes.

From: Tamara Fucile

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 12:45 PM

To: Joshua Dorner; Neera Tanden; Michael Linden; Carmel Martin; Lori Lodes; Harry Stein; Kitty Richards; Nathan Fenstermacher; Winnie Stachelberg; Katie Peters; Andrea Purse; John Podesta; Tom Perriello; Anna Chu

Subject: RE: House CR update

Here is what Eric Cantor's office is sending to his caucus – attached and below:

FIGHT TO

DEFUND OBAMACARE

Many House Republicans have stated that they want to pass a CR that affirmatively de-funds the implementation and enforcement of Obamacare. In addition to firmly putting the House on record, such an effort would force the Democrat Senate to confront the issue of defunding, providing Senate Republicans the opportunity to challenge Senate Democrats to join Republicans in blocking the further implementation of this awful and unpopular law.

Tactically, we want to engage this battle in a manner that unites House Republicans, provides as few opportunities as possible for Senate Democrats to duck the issue, and ensures that if defunding does not occur that Senate Democrats are held to account.

THE PLAN

1. The House simultaneously considers a CR at sequester levels AND a H.Con.Res. that would amend the CR to include full defunding language.
2. The vote on passage of the CR is also on passage of the H.Con.Res. (defunding language).
3. Upon passage, the Clerk of the House sends the defunding language to the Senate.
4. The rule for the CR/Defund package provides that the CR cannot be transmitted to the Senate until the Senate has considered the defunding language.
5. If the Senate passes defunding then it gets added to the CR as it goes to the President. If they defeat it, then the Senate can consider whether they want to pass the CR. If they do, without amendment it

goes to the President.

From: Joshua Dorner

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 11:53 AM

To: Neera Tanden; Michael Linden; Tamara Fucile; Carmel Martin; Lori Lodes; Harry Stein; Kitty Richards; Nathan Fenstermacher; Winnie Stachelberg; Katie Peters; Andrea Purse; John Podesta; Tom Perriello; Anna Chu

Subject: RE: House CR update

Conservatives skeptical of GOP ObamaCare move

By Russell Berman, Erik Wasson and Bernie Becker - 09/10/13 11:15 AM ET

House Republican leaders will have to overcome a skeptical conservative bloc to pass a plan that would force the Senate to vote on defunding ObamaCare before enacting a critical spending measure.

Lawmakers on Tuesday offered a mixed response to a proposal outlined by Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.) that would use a procedural maneuver to give conservatives a vote on President Obama's healthcare law while diminishing the chances of a government shutdown after Sept. 30.

The House could vote by the end of the week on the plan, but with Democrats unlikely to help, it remains unclear whether the leadership could cobble together enough votes among conservatives. Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) told reporters the leadership would be talking to members about the plan "as the day goes on and the rest of the week."

"Listen, our goal here is not to shut down the government," he said after the closed-door meeting. "Our goal is to cut spending and to stop ObamaCare. I believe the strategy that was outlined to the members this morning accomplishes that."

Under the plan, the House would vote on a continuing resolution that maintains federal spending at sequester levels. The measure would include a separate concurrent resolution defunding the healthcare law, and under the rule governing debate, the Senate would have to vote up-or-down on the healthcare resolution before it could vote on the spending bill. Assuming the Senate vote to defund ObamaCare failed, the continuing resolution could then be sent to the president without returning to the House.

Cantor argued in the meeting that the plan would put the House in stronger position both on the budget fight

and the upcoming debate over raising the debt ceiling.

“We need to give the Senate the opportunity to join us in the fight against ObamaCare,” Cantor told his colleagues, according to a person in the room. “This strategy forces the Senate to take a vote and give our Republican colleagues there the chance to fight.”

“We need to preserve the sequester and ensure we aren’t sent back a CR with higher spending levels leaving us with little leverage in the debt limit debate,” Cantor said.

Conservatives had demanded that the leadership defund the healthcare law in the continuing resolution, and opinion in the GOP conference on the leadership plan was “kind of split,” Rep. Tom Price said.

“But these plans most often are at the beginning,” the Georgia Republican added. “What we need is the Senate to actually fight. They’ve got to get in this process.”

Rep. Steve Scalise (R-La.), the chairman of the conservative Republican Study Committee, said the situation remained fluid.

“I don’t think we’re at a final place yet. Our goal is to continue to fund the government while delaying the president’s healthcare law,” Scalise said. “Obviously, we’ve got to work on the best way to do it that actually gets it done.”

“We’re going to look at other options,” the Louisiana Republican added. “But I don’t think we’re there yet.”

Reps. Tim Huelskamp (R-Kan.), Michael Burgess (R-Texas), Louie Gohmert (R-Texas) and Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) were among those who told reporters after the meeting they were either opposed or not yet persuaded on the proposal.

“I’m listening but I’m skeptical. Because people back home want us to stop ObamaCare,” Rep. Marlin Stutzman (R-Ind.) said. “We’ve got to make sure that anything moving forward, we have to be committed to stopping it by Oct. 1. This to me doesn’t look like it’s going to get that job done.”

“We can’t give our tools away procedurally,” he said.

Stutzman said the caucus seemed “really split” on the plan.

“It did seem like there is a pretty good number that is skeptical of the plan,” he said.

“I’m not for it,” Massie (R-Ky.) said.

Other conservatives praised the idea, however.

Rep. John Campbell (R-Calif.) said leadership will gauge support for the leadership plan at votes on Tuesday and if the results come back favorable, the bill could be introduced by midnight. Under the

House GOP rules, a bill must be made public at least three calendar days before a vote, so for the measure to come to the floor on Thursday, the deadline is Tuesday.

Campbell said he really likes the plan because it gets the Senate on record on an unpopular issue.

“I wish I had come up with it,” he said.

He said the “usual suspects” in the party are opposed to it, but they mostly kept quiet in the meeting.

“No-one came out and said this is terrible, which is why it’s still uncertain,” Campbell said. He said that the members skeptical of it appear to forget that Congress is bicameral and the Senate will have a say on defunding ObamaCare no matter what.

“I’m studying it,” Rep. Tom Reed (R-N.Y.) said.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.) said that the leadership idea was well received, and an aide said a bill could be filed as soon as Tuesday.

“The members need an up-or-down vote on defunding Obamacare. They also need a vote to continue the government and to avoid a shutdown,” Rogers told reporters. “So this strategy, I think, satisfies both needs.”

“I don’t want to see a shutdown of the government,” the Appropriations chairman added. “And I don’t think anyone believes that the president would sign a bill that defunds Obamacare.”

Still, Rogers declined to predict whether the gambit had enough support in the GOP conference.

“Well, we’ll see,” Rogers said.

Read more: <http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/health-reform-implementation/321311-conservatives-skeptical-of-gop-obamacare-move#ixzz2eVP8Rl32>

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From: Neera Tanden

Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 9:15 PM

To: Michael Linden; Joshua Dorner; Tamara Fucile; Carmel Martin; Lori Lodes; Harry Stein; Kitty Richards; Nathan Fenstermacher; Winnie Stachelberg; Katie Peters; Andrea Purse; John Podesta; Tom Perriello; Anna Chu

Subject: RE: House CR update

Totally depressing.

From: Michael Linden

Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 7:55 PM

To: Joshua Dorner; Neera Tanden; Tamara Fucile; Carmel Martin; Lori Lodes; Harry Stein; Kitty Richards; Nathan Fenstermacher; Winnie Stachelberg; Katie Peters; Andrea Purse; John Podesta; Tom Perriello; Anna Chu

Subject: RE: House CR update

Note Cantor's quote:

...in a memo sent to House Republicans on Friday, Cantor suggested that an extension of the sequester, which Obama has railed against, would represent a victory for the GOP.

“In signing a CR at sequester levels,” Cantor wrote, “the president would be endorsing a level of spending that wipes away all the increases he and congressional Democrats made while they were in charge and returns us to a pre-2008 level of discretionary spending.”

From: Joshua Dorner

Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 7:45 PM

To: Neera Tanden; Tamara Fucile; Michael Linden; Carmel Martin; Lori Lodes; Harry Stein; Kitty Richards; Nathan Fenstermacher; Winnie Stachelberg; Katie Peters; Andrea Purse; John Podesta; Tom Perriello; Anna Chu

Subject: RE: House CR update

Here's more on how this would work procedurally.

Note also that the crazies already saying this isn't crazy enough.

House GOP leaders seek to defuse fight over ObamaCare funds

By Russell Berman, Molly K. Hooper and Erik Wasson - 09/09/13 05:49 PM ET

House Republican leaders on Tuesday will propose to their members that the House use a complex procedural tactic to defund ObamaCare that would press the fight but likely avoid a government shutdown.

The plan for the stopgap spending bill is aimed at forcing the Senate into a politically difficult vote on ObamaCare and satisfying conservatives who have demanded that the GOP target the law in the fall budget fight.

But it might not be enough.

Conservative Republicans who caught wind of the plan on Monday told The Hill it was unacceptable, and GOP leadership is anticipating pushback when it presents the proposal to the rank-and-file on Tuesday morning in the conference's first full meeting since returning from a five-week recess.

The House is expected to vote by Thursday on the continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government open into December, and party leaders must release the bill text by the end of Tuesday to conform with House rules mandating that legislation be public on three calendar days before a vote.

Under the plan, the House would vote on a "clean" continuing resolution that included a separate House concurrent resolution defunding ObamaCare, according to a Republican leadership aide. The rule governing debate on the bill would state that the House clerk could not send the spending bill over to the Senate until the Senate voted up or down on the resolution withholding funds from the healthcare law.

If the Senate voted down the healthcare resolution, as expected, the continuing resolution would move to the upper chamber and could be passed and signed by President Obama without returning to the House.

"It forces the Senate to vote on defund before they are allowed to vote on a CR," a Republican leadership aide said. "It puts the onus back on Senate Democrats — that they are responsible for funding ObamaCare."

"The only way you oppose this is if you want the government to shutdown," the aide said.

A second Republican leadership aide confirmed the details of the plan.

The conservative Club for Growth, which has led the charge on defunding ObamaCare, quickly came out against the plan.

"Trying to fool Republicans into voting to fund Obamacare is even worse than offering a bill that deliberately funds it," said Club for Growth President Chris Chocola.

"I hope this proposal is nothing more than a bad joke and is quickly discarded. Republicans should simply do what they say they are for by passing a continuing resolution that doesn't fund Obamacare."

A Senate Democratic leadership reacted skeptically to the plan on Monday evening. "I'll believe they can pass that when I see it," the aide said.

Congress must pass a spending bill by Oct. 1 to avoid a government shutdown.

The stopgap bill from GOP leaders would keep the government running through mid-December at the current spending level of \$987 billion, Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.) said.

That spending level keeps the 2013 sequestration cuts in place but does not reflect an additional \$20 billion in cuts called for in 2014 under the law and under the House-passed budget.

Conservatives have demanded that the House GOP use the budget fight to withhold funding for the implementation of Obama's signature law. But many senior leaders in the party have warned that risking a government shutdown over healthcare could backfire on the GOP.

In another possible nod to conservatives, GOP leaders had already scheduled a vote this week on a separate measure that would require a verification system for some ObamaCare subsidies.

Two conservatives in the House told The Hill they opposed any plan to attach a provision defunding ObamaCare that the Senate could easily ignore or strip out.

“It’s got to be a real proposal,” Rep. Lynn Westmoreland (R-Ga.) said. “I’m going to vote no on the CR unless it has some definite defunding in there for ObamaCare.”

Conservative Rep. Tim Huelskamp (R-Kan.) said he had heard from colleagues that leadership was considering using a parliamentary trick to allow the GOP to vote for defunding ObamaCare without making it a core part of the continuing resolution.

Such a move would not pass muster, he said.

“Why don’t you just have the vote?” he said. “It doesn’t seem like it would ... you can’t get the Senate to vote for something if you don’t actually vote for it yourself.”

The resolution on force in Syria, which Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.) support but which most House Republicans oppose, adds another complication to the leadership’s agenda.

Conservative groups have already warned that they won’t accept the Syria crisis as an excuse to avoid a fight on ObamaCare, and Tea Party groups are planning a rally in Washington Tuesday to press their case.

Freshman Rep. Mark Meadows (R-N.C.) organized a letter signed by 80 House Republicans urging the leadership to defund ObamaCare in any future appropriations bill.

A conservative House GOP aide said that the 80 signatories of the Meadows letter are still expected to vote against any continuing resolution that does not defund ObamaCare.

A Meadows spokeswoman, Emily Miller, said the congressman “remained committed” to defunding the healthcare law but would look at the text of the continuing resolution before deciding his vote.

Boehner and Cantor have promised that the stopgap spending bill would maintain federal spending at sequester levels, and in a memo sent to House Republicans on Friday, Cantor suggested that an extension of the sequester, which Obama has railed against, would represent a victory for the GOP.

“In signing a CR at sequester levels,” Cantor wrote, “the president would be endorsing a level of spending that wipes away all the increases he and congressional Democrats made while they were in charge and returns us to a pre-2008 level of discretionary spending.”

Another concern for leadership could be Republican members of the Appropriations Committee, who left Washington frustrated that the leadership had abandoned bringing more of their full-year bills to the floor, making a continuing resolution inevitable.

A member of the committee, Rep. Tom Rooney (R-Fla.), said Monday it was “very possible” he would vote against the spending bill this week because of that position.

“As an appropriator, we said we weren’t doing any more CRs, and here we are doing one,” Rooney said. “We went on an August break rather than finish the appropriations work, and that’s what bothers me more than whether or not we can actually defund Obamacare in the CR.”

— This story was updated at 6:14 p.m.

Read more: <http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/budget/321149-house-gop-leaders-craft-escape-plan-for-obamacare-dilemma#ixzz2eRTgVqDi>

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From: Neera Tanden

Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 5:33 PM

To: Tamara Fucile; Joshua Dorner; Michael Linden; Carmel Martin; Lori Lodes; Harry Stein; Kitty Richards; Nathan Fenstermacher; Winnie Stachelberg; Katie Peters; Andrea Purse; John Podesta; Tom Perriello; Anna Chu

Subject: RE: House CR update

They required a vote on the BBA right

From: Tamara Fucile

Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 5:32 PM

To: Joshua Dorner; Neera Tanden; Michael Linden; Carmel Martin; Lori Lodes; Harry Stein; Kitty Richards; Nathan Fenstermacher; Winnie Stachelberg; Katie Peters; Andrea Purse; John Podesta; Tom Perriello; Anna Chu

Subject: RE: House CR update

At this point, that's unclear. Senate Dem floor staff have dismissed this rumor – which is why I didn't report it earlier.

But I'll check in with parliamentarians tomorrow and report back if there's any clarity.

From: Joshua Dorner

Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 5:28 PM

To: Tamara Fucile; Neera Tanden; Michael Linden; Carmel Martin; Lori Lodes; Harry Stein; Kitty Richards; Nathan Fenstermacher; Winnie Stachelberg; Katie Peters; Andrea Purse; John Podesta; Tom Perriello; Anna Chu

Subject: RE: House CR update

Procedurally speaking, how can the House force the Senate to have two votes?

From: Tamara Fucile
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 5:26 PM
To: Joshua Dorner; Neera Tanden; Michael Linden; Carmel Martin; Lori Lodes; Harry Stein; Kitty Richards; Nathan Fenstermacher; Winnie Stachelberg; Katie Peters; Andrea Purse; John Podesta; Tom Perriello; Anna Chu
Subject: RE: House CR update

I heard a slight variation of this.. that House republicans might condition their short term spending bill on the Senate voting on a delay of the individual mandate. Senate floor staff indicated they wouldn't allow such a vote to move forward, but I think that was just speculation.

From: Joshua Dorner
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 5:22 PM
To: Neera Tanden; Tamara Fucile; Michael Linden; Carmel Martin; Lori Lodes; Harry Stein; Kitty Richards; Nathan Fenstermacher; Winnie Stachelberg; Katie Peters; Andrea Purse; John Podesta; Tom Perriello; Anna Chu
Subject: RE: House CR update

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans plan to condition a short-term spending bill for averting a government shutdown next month on making Senate Democrats vote on — but not necessarily pass — a tea party-backed plan to dismantle President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

The move would be a partial victory for conservatives demanding a House vote to "defund 'Obamacare'" as part of any must-pass stopgap funding bill. But GOP leaders are employing an unusual procedural trick to make sure that the tea party measure doesn't get in the way of smooth passage of a straightforward stopgap funding bill before the Oct. 1 start of the new budget year.

The unusual strategy would start with a House vote this week on a stopgap funding bill that includes the provision demanded by conservatives to block the controversial health care law. The two issues, however, would automatically be decoupled when they're sent to the Senate. The maneuver would force Democrats controlling the Senate to vote first on defunding Obamacare before the House sends over a "clean" stopgap funding bill as a separate measure.

GOP leaders are set to unveil the idea to the rank and file at a closed-door meeting Tuesday morning and have slated a vote for later this week if enough Republicans buy into it.

"This plan keeps Republicans united against the implementation of Obamacare while forcing the Democrat-controlled Senate to choose whether to defund or defend this unpopular and ill-conceived law," said Rep. Michael Conaway, R-Texas.

The idea may not sit well with some conservatives who may see it as a tactical retreat that in the end won't touch Obama's health care law as its implementation marches ahead. It also would mean that House Republicans would need to pass the measure without any help from Democrats unlikely to vote for it over its attack on Obamacare.

GOP aides requested anonymity to discuss the strategy because lawmakers have yet to be briefed on it. They

cautioned that a final decision won't be made until after Republican leaders get feedback.

The stopgap spending bill is required because of the enduring Washington gridlock over the budget and would fund the government through mid-December. The additional 11 weeks of government funding would buy time for negotiations in October and November on whether to replace automatic spending cuts known as sequestration with alternative cuts elsewhere in the budget.

The GOP measure would maintain government spending at current rates, which include \$64 billion in cuts to agency budgets mandated by sequestration. The across-the-board cuts have brought the so-called discretionary budget for core agency operations below \$1 trillion and Democrats — and some GOP defense hawks — are eager to reverse them.

Passing the stopgap spending measure is the first major must-pass item on a packed fall agenda. Passing such a measure, known as a continuing resolution in Washington-speak, is typically routine.

But action this year has been complicated by a campaign among grassroots conservative activists to try to use the measure to mount a last-ditch campaign against Obama's health care measure. Conservative groups like the Heritage foundation have been stoking the issue and conservative senators like Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and Mike Lee, R-Utah, are strongly backing the idea.

Eighty House Republicans have signed a letter by Rep. Mark Meadows of North Carolina urging GOP leaders to "defund the implementation and enforcement of ObamaCare" in the continuing resolution. Some of them may be reluctant to sign onto a strategy that's designed to get a clean funding bill to Obama's desk.

GOP leaders' calculations are rooted in political reality. Any effort to derail the health care law is a dead letter in the Senate and would surely be vetoed by Obama anyway in the unlikely event it made it to his desk. If the House passed the Obamacare measure paired with stopgap funding bill, the Senate could simply act to strip it out, which would likely force the House to knuckle under to their Senate rivals and increases the chances of a shutdown if it sparked a revolt among unhappy conservatives.

GOP leaders are also likely to make the case that the parliamentary sleight-of-hand would eliminate the chance that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, R-Nev., would try to use the stopgap funding bill to reverse some of the sequestration cuts, which are the result of the 2011 deficit "supercommittee" failure to reach a deal on deficit cuts to replace them.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/house-preps-debate-stopgap-spending-bill>

From: Neera Tanden

Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 4:36 PM

To: Tamara Fucile; Michael Linden; Carmel Martin; Lori Lodes; Harry Stein; Kitty Richards; Nathan Fenstermacher; Winnie Stachelberg; Katie Peters; Andrea Purse; Joshua Dornier; John Podesta; Tom Perriello; Anna Chu

Subject: RE: House CR update

Ok, let's get ready to release tomorrow then.

From: Tamara Fucile

Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 4:33 PM

To: Michael Linden; Carmel Martin; Lori Lodes; Harry Stein; Kitty Richards; Nathan Fenstermacher; Winnie Stachelberg; Katie Peters; Andrea Purse; Joshua Dorner; Neera Tanden; John Podesta; Tom Perriello; Anna Chu

Subject: House CR update

Here's the latest...

The Republicans will introduce their bill by midnight tomorrow, and the House will vote on the CR on Thursday before 3 pm.

No one has seen the text yet, but the CR will be written to 988 with an expiration date of December 13th. Pelosi and Hoyer are whipping hard to keep Dems from supporting and are feeling more confident than they were on Friday that they will hold most, if not all, Democratic votes. (Interesting side note – House Dems are whipping on the CR, but not on Syria. Senate Dems will be whipping on both.)

Because of the changing dynamic, Pelosi and Hoyer now anticipate that Boehner will write the CR in a manner that assumes Republicans will have to pass it with only R votes. (that being said Linden's 988 column is still very much needed.) Pelosi's office does not believe that adding ACA defunding will be sufficient to get enough Republican votes to pass the CR, largely because there are a number of House Republicans who are opposed to linking a govt shutdown with defunding Obamacare. Pelosi and Hoyer's office expect the CR to have a number of other "bad things" attached to it to allow Boehner to get it passed, thus making it easier for Dems to vote against it. They would not speculate on what the other bad components of the bill would be. The House Republican Caucus meets tomorrow morning, and we will likely have a better sense of what they will introduce after that meeting.

Keiffer, staff director for the Senate appropriations committee, said that the Senate absolutely will not accept a CR that expires on Dec. 13th, as the Senate believes that such a late date will make it virtually impossible for Democrats to win on an omnibus funding bill. Keiffer reiterated that the Senate position is in support of \$1.058 trillion.

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Thu Sep 12 2013 09:47:01 EDT
To: Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_1_nabors>
CC:
Subject: FW: Bloomberg: Leaders Meet on Debt Limit as House Delays Spending Bill
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Kris has only heard about the leader's meeting...see below.

From: Sarri, Kristen
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2013 9:38 AM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.
Subject: FW: Bloomberg: Leaders Meet on Debt Limit as House Delays Spending Bill

I am told that (b) (5)

Despite (b) (5) I think both of their staffs when I spoke with them on Tuesday (b) (5)

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2013 9:21 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial
Subject: Bloomberg: Leaders Meet on Debt Limit as House Delays Spending Bill

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-09-11/house-republicans-said-to-delay-spending-vote.html>

Leaders Meet on Debt Limit as House Delays Spending Bill

Bloomberg // Roxana Tiron

Sep 12, 2013

House Republican leaders are struggling to avoid a U.S. government shutdown at month's end after delaying a vote on a spending plan opposed by dozens of their caucus members.

House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio and Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Virginia couldn't win enough support this week for a 2014 spending plan that also would force the Democratic-led Senate to vote on defunding President Barack Obama's health-care law. At least two dozen Tea Party-backed House Republicans balked because the budget proposal would still allow financing for the health-care measure.

The top four congressional leaders will meet today to discuss financing the government after funding runs out Sept. 30 and raising the U.S. debt ceiling, which could be reached by mid-October. House Republican leaders are trying to avert a government shutdown while satisfying caucus members who are willing to risk a financial crisis to sidetrack the health-care measure passed during Obama's first term.

The spending bill "is going to have to change," Representative Thomas Massie, a Kentucky Republican, told reporters yesterday. He said he is among 50 to 80 Republicans who want to stop funding for the Affordable Care Act and oppose their leaders' plan.

Neither chamber has acted on legislation to finance the government for the 2014 fiscal year that starts Oct. 1.

Boehner and Cantor proposed a plan that would require the Senate to vote on defunding the health-care law before the House would send over a \$986.3 billion short-term spending measure.

Republican Objections

House Republican opponents of the plan objected because the strategy would allow a spending bill to be enacted even if the Senate voted to keep funds for Obama's health law.

Boehner is scheduled to meet today on the fiscal issues with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Nevada Democrat, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican.

Some House Republicans are pushing their leaders to guarantee a fight over raising the debt limit as a condition of their support for the spending measure, according to Representative Dennis Ross of Florida.

The Republican Study Committee, a group of lawmakers that promotes small government, yesterday discussed demanding a one-year delay in the health-care law in exchange for an increase in the debt limit. Ross said the postponement would produce savings that could be used to cancel some of the automatic budget cuts that started in March.

Democratic Opposition

Boehner and Cantor need the bulk of their fellow Republicans to support their spending plan because Democrats oppose their spending plan. Second-ranking House Democrat Steny Hoyer of Maryland said this week he was urging colleagues not to vote for it.

“The American people are witnessing yet another sign that Republicans can’t get their own act together, even when a government shutdown hangs in the balance,” Pelosi said in a statement yesterday.

Republican leaders don’t intend to submit a different spending plan, according to a Republican leadership aide who wasn’t authorized to speak publicly.

“We’ve got some time left here and conversations are taking place,” Representative Hal Rogers of Kentucky, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, told reporters yesterday. “It’s not time to panic.”

The House and Senate are scheduled to be in session at the same time just six days during the rest of September.

A Senate Democratic aide said leaders in the chamber’s majority party plan to tell Republicans today that they won’t accept added conditions to either the spending bill or the measure increasing the U.S. debt limit. The aide requested anonymity in discussing the negotiations.

Boehner’s Goal

Boehner said earlier this week his goal was to “cut spending and to stop Obamacare,” not to shut down the government.

The House has voted 40 times to repeal, delay or defund all or part of the health-care law. The Senate has refused to take up almost all of those measures. The 2010 health-care law, upheld last year by the U.S. Supreme Court, is designed to expand coverage to at least 30 million people.

From: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
Sent: Fri Sep 13 2013 13:45:31 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>;Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>;Homung, Daniel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=homung, daniel065>;Berman, Lindsey R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bermanl64651664>;Neill, Allie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=allie_r_neill>
CC:
Subject: A little read-out and detail on RSC CR alternative
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

There is not too much to report out from the Leadership meeting. Boehner was not in a place to talk because of the problems with his Conference. Pelosi communicated that he is going to need Democratic votes eventually and that she is willing to have a serious talk when Republicans can talk seriously. Reid was clear that there is no negotiation on the debt limit.

In general – Democratic Leadership remains a firm “no” on Republican CR plan as spelled out by Cantor. On \$988, Dem Leadership wants to oppose; however, not sure how this is enforced with the Caucus if this is a fight over level because they don’t want a shutdown. They will cross the bridge on “level” when they come to it. Boehner believes that he will never get enough D votes to pass a CR, and therefore, does not want a CR coming back from the Senate. He believes that there are not enough Dem votes for \$988 to pass it clean through the House.

Hoyer’s staff thinks that the Graves bill should be taken seriously, and may become the R alternative; however as of right now, Boehner and Cantor are not changing posture that they just need more time to meet with the Conference and that the place for ACA fight is the debt limit. There are 43 Members cosponsoring the Graves CR that was introduced yesterday (HJRes 62). It would include

- 3 House-passed approps bills (Defense, MilCon-VA, Homeland)
- Full year CR for everything else
 - o rate that would create topline of \$967B
 - o basically Ryan budget strategy of fully funding defense and doubling sequester cuts to domestic
- Delay Obamacare until Jan 1, 2015

- All in one bill
- No debt limit mention

From: DMCOS </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dmcos791>
Sent: Mon Sep 16 2013 12:50:23 EDT
Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>;Froman, Michael B. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=froman, michael b.d1c>;Furman, Jason L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=furman, jason l.277>;Gray, Danielle </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=danielle_c_gray>;Jarrett, Valerie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=valeriejarrett21782038>;Lew, Jack (Contact) </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jjl76434>;psp38@doc.gov <psp38@doc.gov>;Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_l_nabors>;Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>
CC:
Subject: As discussd
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Q But it still may lead to something even more disastrous. It's déjà vu all over again here in Washington. You're a couple weeks away from a government shutdown, few weeks away from a possible default one more time. Speaker Boehner says, listen, you just have to sit down and negotiate with me. Are you still absolutely refusing to talk in any way, shape, or form?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. Keep in mind my position here, George -- because I have been through this a couple of times with Speaker Boehner. What I've said is, with respect to the budget, we've presented our budget, and now it's the job of Congress to come up with a budget that keeps our long-term trends down -- or our current trends of reducing the deficit moving forward, but also allows us to invest in the things that we need to grow.

And I've told him and I've told the country what I think we need to do. I am happy to have a conversation with him about how we can deal with the so-called sequester -- which is making across-the-board cuts on stuff that we shouldn't be cutting, while continuing tax breaks, for example, for companies that are not helping to grow the economy. There are ways of doing this. It's just that they haven't been willing to negotiate in a serious way on that. What I haven't been willing to negotiate, and I will not negotiate, is on the debt ceiling.

Q But presidents have done that in the past, and you've done it in the past.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, no, no. George, if you take a look, what has never happened in the past was the notion that in exchange for fulfilling the full faith and credit of the United States that we are wiping away, let's say, major legislation like the health care bill.

Q So you're not open to any changes in Obamacare?

THE PRESIDENT: That's never happened before. And when it comes to budgets, we've never had a situation in which a party said that unless we get our way 100 percent, then we're going to let the United States default. That's never happened, George. That didn't happen when you were working here in the White House.

Q But there were reforms added to the debt limit legislation.

THE PRESIDENT: George, I think it's fair to say that never in history have we used just making sure that the U.S. government is paying its bills as a lever to radically cut government at the kind of scale that they're talking about. It's never happened before. There have been negotiations around the corners because nobody had ever presumed that you'd actually threaten the United States to default.

Q So how does this end, then? They say they need changes in Obamacare. You say you're not going to negotiate. Are you just betting they're going to cave?

THE PRESIDENT: George, here's the problem. If we set -- if we continue to set a precedent in which a president -- any president, a Republican president, Democratic president, where the opposing party controls the House of Representatives -- if that president is in a situation in which each time the United States is called upon to pay its bills, the other party can simply sit there and say, well, we're not going to pay the bills unless you give us what we want, that changes the constitutional structure of this government entirely.

Q So you're not going to negotiate, or --

THE PRESIDENT: So we can't negotiate around the debt ceiling. If Mr. Boehner has ideas about how we can grow this economy, strengthen the middle class, put people back to work in a serious way, of course, we're happy to support the negotiations that are taking place between the House and the Senate.

But my orientation here is real simple. I want to make sure that we've got an economy in which Main Street is winning. And what that requires is that we're investing in education, early-childhood -- that we're investing in transportation, that we're investing in the things that we need to grow. If we're going to continue to reduce the deficit -- and I think a lot of people aren't aware of the fact that the deficit has been cut in half since I came into office; it's continuing on a trend line of further reductions. If we want to do more deficit reduction, I've

already put out a budget that says let's do it.

I'm willing to reform entitlements. I'm willing to cut out additional waste that may be there. And I'm spending time, even without pressure from Congress, trying to figure out how we can cut out waste in the system. But what I also think we should be doing is eliminating corporate tax breaks that nobody can defend but keep on reappearing each year in the budget.

If we are serious about it, there's no reason that we can't do it and do right by the country.

From: DMCOS </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dmcos791>
Sent: Tue Sep 17 2013 04:35:56 EDT
psp38@doc.gov <psp38@doc.gov>;Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>;Froman, Michael B. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=froman, michael b.d1c>;Furman, Jason L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=furman, jason l.277>;Gray, Danielle </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=danielle_c_gray>;Jarrett, Valerie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=valeriejarrett21782038>;Lew, Jack (Contact) </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jjl76434>;Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_l_nabors>;Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>
To:
CC:
Subject: Re: Meeting w Tech CEOs
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Thanks, Madame Secretary.

Denis.

From: Pritzker, Penny [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 12:28 AM
To: DMCOS; Burwell, Sylvia; Froman, Michael B.; Furman, Jason L.; Gray, Danielle; Jarrett, Valerie; Lew, Jack (Contact); Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan
Subject: Meeting w Tech CEOs

Denis, I wanted to report on the meeting that Mike Froman and I did today with the Technology CEO Council, which includes Ursula Burns of Xerox, Ginny Rometty of IBM, Michael Dell, Greg Brown of Motorola, Joe Tucci of EMC, Mark Durcan of Micron, and Paul Jacobs of Qualcomm.

In addition to discussing a number of issues impacting the technology industry, we discussed the importance of the CR, the Debt Limit and the President's Budget offer. Ursula raised the topic of certainty and the need for the USG to get its fiscal house in order because of the impact on businesses decisions for hiring and new investments.

I responded and impressed the need for responsible action by Congressional Republicans on the debt limit.

Mike made the point that we are not complacent and that a default would be a major crisis both domestically and internationally. He noted that the Hill is playing with fire here.

Ursula responded and said they will make this point going forward, including their meetings today. Greg Brown said they are meeting with Eric Cantor tomorrow and they will raise this.

I also met with Jim Rabo and Lew Hay from NextEra.

Penny

From: DMCOS <DMCOS(b) (6)>
To: Burwell, Sylvia (b) (6); Froman, Michael B.
(b) (6); Furman, Jason L. (b) (6); Gray, Danielle
(b) (5); Jarrett, Valerie (b) (6); Lew, Jack (Contact)
(b) (6); Pritzker, Penny; Nabors, Robert L. (b) (6); Pfeiffer, Dan
(b) (6)
Sent: Mon Sep 16 12:50:23 2013
Subject: As discussed

Q But it still may lead to something even more disastrous. It's déjà vu all over again here in Washington. You're a couple weeks away from a government shutdown, few weeks away from a possible default one more time. Speaker Boehner says, listen, you just have to sit down and negotiate with me. Are you still absolutely refusing to talk in any way, shape, or form?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. Keep in mind my position here, George -- because I have been through this a couple of times with Speaker Boehner. What I've said is, with respect to the budget, we've presented our budget, and now it's the job of Congress to come up with a budget that keeps our long-term trends down -- or our current trends of reducing the deficit moving forward, but also allows us to invest in the things that we need to grow.

And I've told him and I've told the country what I think we need to do. I am happy to have a conversation with him about how we can deal with the so-called sequester -- which is making across-the-board cuts on stuff that we shouldn't be cutting, while continuing tax breaks, for example, for companies that are not helping to grow the economy. There are ways of doing this. It's just that they haven't been willing to negotiate in a serious way on that. What I haven't been willing to negotiate, and I will not negotiate, is on the debt ceiling.

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what I also think we should be doing is eliminating corporate tax breaks that nobody can defend but keep on reappearing each year in the budget.

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From: Berman, Lindsey R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bermanl64651664>
Sent: Tue Sep 17 2013 17:57:19 EDT
To: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Menter, Jessica </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jessican.menter27256674>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC: Neill, Allie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=allie_r_neill>
Subject: RE: NRO: House to Vote on Defunding Obamacare
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

HAC majority says they have made no alteration to what they introduced last week. Through the Rules Committee, there would likely be a self-executing rule that adds new section(s) or something along those lines.

Leadership will propose it to the caucus tomorrow morning. It will be one package so only one vote. It will include either a full repeal or delay of Obamacare. It will also include “something the House has passed this year on the topic of debt limit.” As of now, the date is still December 15.

They aren’t doing the Graves CR.

Leadership will do whip checks throughout the day and as soon as it thinks the votes are there, they’ll go to Rules Committee and then the floor.

From: Sarri, Kristen
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 5:27 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Menter, Jessica; Berman, Lindsey R.; Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: RE: NRO: House to Vote on Defunding Obamacare

I think there is speculation still.

Cantor proposal with two-week CR and Graves proposal as amendment is one approach being discussed. I think Lindsey is reaching out to appropriators to see what happens.

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 5:16 PM
To: Sarri, Kristen; Menter, Jessica; Berman, Lindsey R.; Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: FW: NRO: House to Vote on Defunding Obamacare

Do we know anything about the substance of what they're bringing?

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 5:09 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: NRO: House to Vote on Defunding Obamacare

Robert Costa @robertcostaNRO4m

Leadership mtg tonight at Cap, Boehner-Cantor will tell members tmw they'll bring a defund CR to the floor
<http://nationalreview.com/corner/358757/house-vote-defunding-obamacare-robert-costa> ...

<http://nationalreview.com/corner/358757/house-vote-defunding-obamacare-robert-costa>

House to Vote on Defunding Obamacare

National Review Online // Robert Costa

4:51 PM

Leadership sources tell me the House GOP will soon vote on a continuing resolution that simultatenously funds the federal government and defunds Obamacare. Speaker John Boehner and Majority Leader Eric Cantor are expected to announce this decision at Wednesday's closed-door conference meeting.

This means the conservatives who have been urging Boehner to back a defunding effort as part of the CR have won a victory, at least in terms of getting the leadership to go along with their strategy. But getting such a CR through the Senate and signed into law will be very difficult — and many House insiders say the vote may be just the first vote in a long series of legislative ping pong.

From: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
Sent: Tue Sep 17 2013 19:48:29 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC: Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>
Subject: FW: Daily Briefing by the Press Secretary Jay Carney , 09/17/13
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Sylvia, is it helpful if I send you key clips on budget from the daily press briefing?

=====

Q On the budget quickly, a number of Democrats are now endorsing the idea of a so-called clean CR, even though there are concerns about enshrining the post-sequester levels of funding. You had said the other day that the President would be supportive of that as long as it's a clean bill. Is that still his position?

MR. CARNEY: Well, a short-term, clean CR that would allow Congress the time to reach a broader agreement is something that we could accept. Unfortunately, what we've seen from some Republicans is a desire to refight and re-litigate old battles, and to be willing to shut down the government, doing harm to the middle class, and to be willing even to allow the United States to default -- something we've never done in our history -- if they don't get what they want, which is to achieve through this kind of procedure what they could not achieve when it was passed by the House -- this is Obamacare -- passed by the House, passed by the Senate, signed into law by the President, upheld as constitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States, and a law that we are going about the business of implementing, and a law that has already produced tangible benefits to millions of Americans -- tangible in many ways, including in financial ways that we've elaborated on in recent days.

So that is an obstacle that we currently face and which, as the President mentioned yesterday, needs to be addressed. Because it is simply unacceptable at a time, five years after the financial collapse, five years after this country stared into the economic abyss, five years of slow, steady recovery later that we cannot allow Washington to reverse that progress and to do it for the ideological agenda of a faction of the Republican Party.

Q What would the President hope to accomplish in that period of a short-term CR -- the broader issues? And does he intend to remain passive in this process with so little time left?

MR. CARNEY: The idea that he is passive is, of course, disproven by the facts. But the President has put forward a compromise budget proposal that anybody who looks at will say -- if he or she is serious -- represents hard choices by a Democratic President when it comes to entitlement savings, and asks for in return hard choices by Republicans when it comes to a balanced approach to reducing our deficit. That's the way that we should go about the business of continuing to deal with our deficit.

But Republicans aren't even talking about that anymore. It's hard to when the deficit has come down by half since the President took office. Instead, they're talking about basically hitching the fate of the economy -- the American economy and the global economy -- to their ideological agenda, which is to continue to fight the battle over the Affordable Care Act, a law that, as I said today, is producing enormous benefits for the American people and will produce even more for millions and millions of uninsured Americans who until this law passed and until this law gets implemented have not had access to affordable care but will because of this.

They want to overturn that, and they have no alternative. Their answer to those millions of Americans is, tough luck. Tough luck. And, by the way, if I don't get what I want, they say, we're going to set all that progress aside and reverse course. That's a terrible approach.

From: Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>
Sent: Wed Sep 18 2013 11:30:17 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Vorhaus, Dave </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=davida.vorhaus13178357>; O'Connor, Devin </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=devin_1_oconnor>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>
CC: FN-OMB-Communications Office </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=media>
Subject: FW: Excerpts from Murray speech on Obamacare/government shutdown
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

From: Zupnick, Eli (Budget) [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 11:27 AM
To: Zupnick, Eli (Budget)
Subject: Excerpts from Murray speech on Obamacare/government shutdown

Good morning. If you are covering the latest GOP announcement on CR/debt limit, here are some excerpts that you can use from Senator Murray's speech on the Senate floor that she plans to deliver this afternoon, if they would be helpful. Let me know if you have any questions or need anything else.

-Eli

"While we wait for Republicans to join us at the table, the Tea Party is pushing our country closer and closer to a government shutdown—and closer and closer to what would be a catastrophic default on our loans."

"So let's be very clear about what's happening here and the political calculation that some of our colleagues have made. They've decided they're willing to play politics with Americans' health care. They've decided it's better for them to sabotage this law than improve it. And they've decided that beyond all that, they're also willing to devastate our nation's economy to kill this law. We will not let that happen."

"I want to be very clear: Democrats are not going to agree to defund or delay health care reform. It's just not going to happen. We should all be working together right now to make sure it is implemented in the best

possible way for our families, businesses, and communities. And we are certainly very interested in hearing from anyone—Democrat or Republican—who has good ideas about ways the law can be improved.”

“We should be doing everything possible to support the economic recovery and help our workers get back on the job. We should be spending our time finding common ground to tackle our long-term fiscal challenges responsibly. And we should be working together to build on the Affordable Care Act to continue improving our health care system for our families and small business owners. But instead, we are mired in the muck of perpetual partisanship and constant crises.”

“Democrats are not going to negotiate over whether or not Congress should allow the federal government to pay its bills. As Speaker Boehner has said in the past, default would be ‘a financial disaster, not just for us, but for the worldwide economy.’ Republicans need to take those words to heart, and stop threatening the economic recovery with their saber-rattling and brinkmanship.”

“We went through this earlier this year. And back then, after spending months saying they wouldn’t raise the debt limit unless they got dollar-for-dollar spending cuts, Republicans dropped their demands, dropped the so-called ‘Boehner rule’, and allowed the debt ceiling to be increased. Going back to the reckless approach of 2011, and drumming up all that uncertainty again is nothing but a huge, and harmful, waste of time”

--

Eli Zupnick

Communications Director

Senate Budget Committee - Majority Staff

Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Chairman

624 Dirksen Senate Office Building

(b) (6)

@elizupnick

From: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
Sent: Wed Sep 18 2013 11:36:52 EDT
To: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>;Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: FW: McCarthy: WHIP LD ALERT - CR FYI
Attachments: image001.png

Importance: High
Priority: Urgent
Sensitivity: None

I spoke to Ryan's folks and as Sylvia was hearing yesterday – this is all about securing the 218 votes necessary to get the CR over to the Senate. The procedurally issues are not worked out yet. But the goal is enough votes to get the CR out of the House and to the Senate to avoid a shutdown.

This notice starts the Whip Count and right now they are not saying there are 218 Republican votes.

From: Dixon, Kelly
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 10:54 AM
Subject: McCarthy: WHIP LD ALERT - CR FYI
Importance: High

As discussed at Conference this morning, the House will proceed later this week on a Continuing Resolution (outlined below). The Whip Team will be speaking to your boss during today's first vote series so please be sure they are up to speed on the proposal.

* Funds the Government through December 15th: In order to give appropriators the opportunity to continue their work on the FY2014 bills and guarantee that House Republican priorities are reflected in the bills we send to the Senate, the House proposal will be a short term CR.

* Funds the Government at current levels (\$986.3 billion): The CR will be a straight extension of current spending levels - nothing in current law changes and the sequester remains in place.

· Full Faith and Credit: Adds H.R. 807, the Full Faith and Credit Act, to the CR, requiring Treasury to make good on public debt payments should America reach the debt ceiling. This guarantees that the White House will not be able to play politics by ensuring that beneficiaries receive their social security and disability payments by prioritizing obligations to the Social Security Trust Fund. This demonstrates the seriousness with which we are approaching the essential task of delaying Obamacare before it afflicts all Americans.

* Fully Defunds Obamacare: The CR will add language (previously included as a separate enrollment correction) to permanently and fully defund Obamacare spending through prohibiting discretionary and mandatory spending and rescinding all unobligated balances.

The end goal, shared by all Republicans, is to protect every American from the harmful effects of Obamacare and to set the stage for conservative patient-centered health care reforms.

Kelly A. Dixon

Deputy Floor Director

Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy

From: Vorhaus, Dave </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=davida.vorhaus13178357>
Sent: Wed Sep 18 2013 11:43:31 EDT
To: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Neill, Allie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=allie_r_neill>; Berman, Lindsey R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bermanl64651664>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>; O'Connor, Devin </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=devin_1_oconnor>; Timberlake, Courtney B. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=courtneyb.timberlake45577210>; Aron-Dine, Aviva </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=aron-dine, aviva r.92e>; Washington, Geovette </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=washington, geovette e.6dd>; Berger, Sam </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=samuel_k_berger>
CC:
Subject: RE: McCarthy: WHIP LD ALERT - CR FYI
Attachments: image001.png

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

Also including below the full bill summary from LRD.

//////////

(b) (5)

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

////////////////

Bill Summary

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 11:25 AM
To: Sarri, Kristen; Burwell, Sylvia
Cc: Neill, Allie; Berman, Lindsey R.; Shlossman, Amy; Vorhaus, Dave; O'Connor, Devin; Timberlake, Courtney B.; Aron-Dine, Aviva
Subject: RE: McCarthy: WHIP LD ALERT - CR FYI

+ Others.

(b) (5)

Thanks

From: Sarri, Kristen
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 11:22 AM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Neill, Allie; Berman, Lindsey R.; Shlossman, Amy
Subject: Fw: McCarthy: WHIP LD ALERT - CR FYI
Importance: High

FYI re: debt limit. (b) (5)

From: Berman, Lindsey R.
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 11:17 AM
To: Sarri, Kristen
Subject: FW: McCarthy: WHIP LD ALERT - CR FYI

(b) (5)

Thank goodness!

From: Menter, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 11:16 AM
To: Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: FW: McCarthy: WHIP LD ALERT - CR FYI
Importance: High

From: Asen, Jonathan
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 11:13 AM
To: Sarri, Kristen; Menter, Jessica; Brown, Calla
Subject: FW: McCarthy: WHIP LD ALERT - CR FYI
Importance: High

From: Dixon, Kelly
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 10:54 AM
Subject: McCarthy: WHIP LD ALERT - CR FYI
Importance: High

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Kelly A. Dixon

Deputy Floor Director

Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy

From: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
Sent: Wed Sep 18 2013 12:07:35 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: Re: Tweets - Boehner, GOP leaders avail
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 11:48 AM
To: Brundage, Amy; Posner, Steven; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Carney, Jay; Whithorne, Bobby; Nabors, Robert L.; Schultz, Eric; Deese, Brian C.; Earnest, Joshua R.; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: RE: Tweets - Boehner, GOP leaders avail

(b) (5)

Dan/Jen can you confirm on the (b) (5)

Thanks Amy.

S

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 11:43 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Posner, Steven; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Carney, Jay; Whithorne, Bobby; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Schultz, Eric; Deese, Brian C.; Earnest, Joshua R.; Sarri, Kristen
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Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Schultz, Eric; Deese, Brian C.; Earnest, Joshua R.; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: RE: Tweets - Boehner, GOP leaders avail

+KS

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Subject: Fw: Tweets - Boehner, GOP leaders avail

(b) (5)

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 10:28 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial
Subject: RE: Tweets - Boehner, GOP leaders avail

Mike O'Brien @mpoindc5s

Boehner on the CR vote: "We listened to our colleagues over the past week. We have a plan they're happy with; we're going forward."

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"I'm not going to predict what the Senate's going to do or not do!" exclaims Boehner, who knows full well the Senate will kill the House CR.

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GOP will use Keystone pipeline for leverage over CR/debt ceiling

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After mtg w/House GOP Boehner says House will pass CR this week that locks in sequester cuts and defunds Obamacare

From: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
Sent: Wed Sep 18 2013 12:30:41 EDT
Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Brundage, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>; Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>; Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>; Palmieri, Jennifer </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=palmieri, jennifer m.cd6>; Beirne Fallon, Katie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=fallon, katherine b.311>; Carney, Jay </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=james_f_carney>; Whithorne, Bobby </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_d_whithorne>; Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_l_nabors>; Schultz, Eric </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eric_h_schultz>; Earnest, Joshua R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=joshuar.earnest67836121>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
To:
CC:
Subject: RE: Tweets - Boehner, GOP leaders avail
Attachments:
Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Here is the draft SAP that we're sending over (b) (5)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

(b) (5)

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From: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
Sent: Wed Sep 18 2013 17:22:41 EDT
Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Brundage, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>; Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>; Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>; Palmieri, Jennifer </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=palmieri, jennifer m.cd6>; Beirne Fallon, Katie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=fallon, katherine b.311>; Carney, Jay </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=james_f_carney>; Whithorne, Bobby </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_d_whithorne>; Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_l_nabors>; Schultz, Eric </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eric_h_schultz>; Earnest, Joshua R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=joshuar.earnest67836121>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
To:
CC:
Subject: RE: Tweets - Boehner, GOP leaders avail
Attachments:
Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

Pls send any edits. Thanks

September XX, 2013

(House)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

(b) (5)

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From: Deese, Brian C.

Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 12:31 PM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Brundage, Amy; Posner, Steven; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Carney, Jay; Whithorne, Bobby; Nabors, Robert L.; Schultz, Eric; Earnest, Joshua R.; Sarri, Kristen

Subject: RE: Tweets - Boehner, GOP leaders avail

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After mtg w/House GOP Boehner says House will pass CR this week that locks in sequester cuts and defunds Obamacare

Sorry for slow reply, Madame Secretary.

(b) (5)



Again, sorry for slow response.

Best,
DM

-----Original Message-----

From: Pritzker, Penny [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 12:50 PM
To: DMCOS
Subject:

Any news?

From: Brundage, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>
Sent: Thu Sep 19 2013 18:24:53 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>; Palmieri, Jennifer </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=palmieri, jennifer m.cd6>; Earnest, Joshua R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=joshuar.earnest67836121>; Carney, Jay </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=james_f_carney>; Schultz, Eric </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eric_h_schultz>; Beirne Fallon, Katie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=fallon, katherine b.311>; Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_l_nabors>; Rodriguez, Miguel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=miguel_e_rodriguez>; Quillian, Natalie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=quillian, natalie h.bc8>; Canegallo, Kristie A. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=canegallo, kristie a.068>; Sperling, Gene </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eugene_b_sperling>; Furman, Jason L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=furman, jason l.277>; Asen, Jonathan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jonathanasen37271556>
CC:
Subject: Recirculating - CR Toplines
Attachments:
Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

Josh gaggles tomorrow morning.

Thanks,

Amy

CR/Budget Toplines

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely redacted with black ink, covering approximately two lines of text.

###

From: Furman, Jason L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=furman, jason 1.277>
Sent: Thu Sep 19 2013 22:20:49 EDT
To: Sperling, Gene </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eugene_b_sperling>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: RE: WP: Lawmakers scale back ambitions as government shutdown looms
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Sperling, Gene
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2013 10:16 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: Re: WP: Lawmakers scale back ambitions as government shutdown looms

(b) (5)

From: Sperling, Gene
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2013 10:13 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.
Subject: Fw: WP: Lawmakers scale back ambitions as government shutdown looms

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2013 09:56 PM
To: Allen, Jessica; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial
Cc: 'Natalie.Earnest' (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: WP: Lawmakers scale back ambitions as government shutdown looms

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2013 09:50 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial
Subject: WP: Lawmakers scale back ambitions as government shutdown looms

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/lawmakers-scale-back-ambitions-as-shutdown-looms/2013/09/19/de019b56-2132-11e3-966c-9c4293c47ebe_print.html

Lawmakers scale back ambitions as government shutdown looms

Washington Post // Lori Montgomery

Thursday, September 19, 9:16 PM

When House Majority Leader Eric Cantor rolled out a list of Republican demands this week for raising the federal debt limit, there was a surprising omission: any real plan to tackle the debt.

Republicans have long vowed to use the threat of default to force Democrats to confront the soaring cost of caring for an aging population, the nation's central budget problem. Instead, Cantor (R-Va.) revealed more limited ambitions: Delay the implementation of President Obama's health-care law for a year. Promote tax reform. Build the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

Democrats, for their part, have largely stopped talking about imposing new taxes on the rich and are focused on reversing sharp spending cuts known as the sequester. As Washington slouches toward the next battle in its three-year budget war, both parties have abandoned the quest for a "grand bargain." Instead, with a shutdown set to occur in 11 days unless a deal is reached, lawmakers are aiming mainly just to keep the lights on and not miss a payment on the bills.

"It's total atrophy. We're earning our 11 percent popularity" rating, said Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.), the leader of the latest group of lawmakers to try to forge a big debt deal. "It's easier to talk about Obamacare than the major sources of our problems."

Meeting even the modest goals of routine governance could prove to be a tall order this time around. On Thursday, Obama made plans to talk with congressional leaders next week, the White House said. Meanwhile, House Republicans were preparing for a Friday vote on a plan to fund federal agencies through Dec. 15 but defund the health-care law — a proposal even many senior Republicans were calling doomed.

Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) vowed to strip out the anti-Affordable Care Act provisions and send a plain government funding bill back to the House, saying that “any bill that defunds Obamacare is dead. Dead. It’s a waste of time.”

Senate Republicans, including Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.), the health-care law’s chief antagonist, acknowledged that they have few procedural tools to block Reid’s maneuver. Even if the GOP filibusters the bill, Democrats say they have the votes to return it to the House by the end of next week.

Cruz’s concession infuriated House Republicans, including Speaker John A. Boehner (Ohio), who called on Cruz and his Senate allies Thursday “to pick up the mantle and get the job done.” Meanwhile, Boehner and his team were hatching a plan to rework whatever comes back from the Senate, push a new bill through the House and demand that the Senate vote again — a strategy that would increase the odds of a shutdown on Oct. 1.

Among the ideas under consideration: Tack on an amendment amendment that would take away benefits for members of Congress who participate in the health-care law’s insurance exchanges. The hope is that lawmakers in both parties would rather lose those individual subsidies — worth about \$5,000 to \$11,000 annually — than let the government shut down. But it’s unclear how that largely symbolic gesture would further the cause of undermining the Affordable Care Act.

Regardless of whether they manage to keep the government open, lawmakers will face their next major deadline in late October. That’s when analysts say the Treasury Department is likely to run short of cash to pay its bills unless Congress raises the \$16.7 trillion federal debt limit.

House Republicans expect to vote as soon as next week to give Treasury enough borrowing authority to get through the 2014 midterm elections. In return, Cantor said, they will shoot for a grab bag of modest trophies, including approval of the Keystone pipeline, a timetable for tax reform, and “a variety of other measures designed to lower energy prices, simplify our tax system and get our economy going.”

Republicans could provide no details about any of those proposals.

“It’s to be determined, really,” Rep. Patrick J. Tiberi (Ohio) said as he emerged from a meeting to flesh out the evolving measure.

Although Cantor didn’t mention it, senior Republicans said they also are considering small cuts to federal entitlement programs, such as a provision to require wealthy seniors to pay more for Medicare.

But they have ruled out larger reforms, such as Obama’s proposal to use a less-generous measure of inflation to calculate Social Security cost-of-living adjustments, an unpopular idea that until recently ranked at the top of their list of demands. And even the Medicare change may not make it into the final bill.

“The speaker has said and others have said we would really like to do entitlement reform,” Tiberi said. But the debt-limit bill “may not be the vehicle.”

Republicans blamed the White House for their lack of ambition. The last time there was any talk of a broad deficit deal, Obama proposed a package worth \$1.6 trillion over the next decade. It included the Social Security inflation adjustment and \$400 billion in cuts to Medicare and other health programs — serious proposals, in Republicans’ eyes.

But in return, Obama wanted about \$600 billion in new taxes, on top of tax increases enacted during the year-end fight over the “fiscal cliff.” Worse, Republicans said, he wanted most of the money to replace the sequester cuts, leaving barely enough new savings to cover this year’s deficit of about \$650 billion.

Isakson and seven other Senate Republicans met with the White House during the spring and summer to try to bridge the divide between the GOP desire for more significant Medicare reforms and Obama’s desire for higher taxes. Last month, they called it quits.

Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), a member of the group, said there are no plans to start again.

“It’s over,” he said Thursday. “We gave some very specific proposals to the White House, but . . . I don’t really think there’s desire over there right now to really tackle this issue. They see deficits coming down, they see the House in disarray, and I don’t think they feel [a big debt-reduction deal] is necessary right now.”

Democrats, meanwhile, blamed Republicans for refusing to consider higher taxes at a time when the aging baby-boom generation is straining federal resources.

“The president has tried. He spent more money on private dinner parties with members of the House and Senate over the last 10 months, saying, ‘If you want to engage in this conversation, let’s sit down and do it.’ No takers,” said Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.), a member of the Bowles-Simpson debt-reduction commission, which first sparked broad interest in a grand bargain nearly three years ago.

Does that mean efforts to cut a far-reaching deal are done? “Sounds like it,” Durbin said. “At least for now.”

This week, a Congressional Budget Office report showed that the problem is far from over. The debt is larger, as a percentage of the economy, than at any time in U.S. history except World War II. Although annual deficits are shrinking fast, they are expected to start rising again in 2016 and to keep growing as the baby-boom generation retires.

Over the next 25 years, projections show the debt approaching WWII levels, with no chance of an armistice to bring relief. The CBO said policymakers would need to find about \$350 billion a year in fresh savings to bring the debt back down to pre-recession levels.

Pockets of hope for a long-term deal linger on Capitol Hill, mainly around the push for an overhaul of the tax code. “Maybe tax reform is going to give us the opportunity to reestablish these conversations,” said Sen. Michael F. Bennet (D-

Colo.), a member of the tax-writing Senate Finance Committee.

But tax reform won’t happen fast. In the meantime, “this somehow has shifted away from a debt-and-deficit conversation into a defunding-Obamacare conversation,” Bennet said. “Which doesn’t really suggest there’s going to be a way to get to any larger deal.”

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Fri Sep 20 2013 12:03:59 EDT
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
CC:
Subject: Fw: H.J. Res. 59 | Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014 | Passed 230-189
Attachments: image001;image002.png

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

D

From: Valeriano, Ofelia M.
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2013 11:33 AM
To: DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Subject: H.J. Res. 59 | Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014 | Passed 230-189

H.J. Res 59 – Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014

passed (230 – 189)

PASSED: 230-189

RY: 228

RN: 1

DY: 2

DN: 188

Motion to Recommit:

Rep. William Enyart (D-IL) moved to recommit the bill with instructions for the Appropriations Committee to fully fund Social Security, Medicare & Medicaid, the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, and Military Personnel for the entire FY 2014 in the event of a Government shutdown. The motion failed (190 – 228).

FAILED: 190-228

RY: 1

RN: 228

DY: 189

DN: 0

General Debate:

Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY), Appropriations Committee Chairman, noted that the C.R. keeps the Government operating on a short-term basis. He said it is “clean” and continues reductions in discretionary spending. He said it prevents a Government shutdown; defunds Obamacare and includes the Full Faith and Credit Act. He explained that it funds the Government for the first 76 days of FY 2014 through December 15th. It funds programs at the post-sequester level with adjustments. He noted that limited provisions have been added in order to “keep the lights on”. He said that a Government shutdown is a political game that everyone loses.

Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY), Appropriations Committee Ranking Member, spoke about her opposition to the C.R. She said that Chairman Rogers said on September 10th that the C.R. would be free of controversial riders and would not include any policy changes. She noted that it includes 2 politically motivated and ill-conceived provisions. She explained that many of the improvements made to Medicare would be suspended and by undermining the Affordable Care Act, insurance costs would be kept high. She said that the Congress

needed to focus on jobs and putting people back to work.

Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) noted his support for the C.R. but with some frustrations since the Energy and Water bill has been held up. He said that the Congress needed to get back to regular order and that they needed to get rid of sequester.

Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI) noted that the C.R. undermines Medicare and increases the costs for Medicare Advantage; hurts children with CHIP and the disabled. He said that the provision to defund ACA will be stripped by the Senate and asked whether Speaker Boehner would respond to the Nation or his leadership.

Rep. John Carter (R-TX) said that the appropriations process matters. He said it is a basic duty of the Congress. He mentioned that a base C.R. prevents a disastrous Government shutdown and urged the President to sign it.

Rep. John Culberson (R-TX) said that Constitutional conservatives are keeping their word to the Nation by fully funding the core functions of the Government while also defunding Obamacare.

Rep. Peter Visclosky (D-IN) noted that a C.R. is considered a success if the members can only pass this measure; however, they needed to get back to regular order. He spoke about Congress' responsibility to make decisions on the appropriations bills. He expressed his concerns about having a C.R. for the rest of the year which would take away their ability to make important decisions.

Rep. Ander Crenshaw (R-FL) said that the appropriations process is one of the most important functions of Government. He urged members to pass the C.R.

Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID) said that he agreed with Rep. Visclosky's statement that they needed to get back to regular order and that the last thing that Republicans want is to shutdown the Government. He spoke about the fires that have occurred this summer in the West. He also explained that the C.R. adds \$636M for this purpose and that with a long-term C.R. the money would be lost. He said that bills needed to be passed to keep the funding.

Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX) noted that ACA is affecting families as employers are limiting work hours for employees. He said that it is time to defund Obamacare.

Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX) expressed support for the C.R. She said that it gives the Congress and the White House time to come together. She noted several programs that are funded including national security; military assistance to allies; diplomats, etc.

Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA) expressed strong support for the C.R. He said that it is a bill that keeps vital services operating and that additional time was needed to complete the FY 2014 bills. He said that everything needed to be put on the table to solve the Nation's problems and that a devastating shutdown needed to be avoided.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Minority Leader, said that she spoke as a mother concerned for the children of America. She said that "this place is a mess." She said that the House needed to get in order. She noted that they are not here to expand Government nor to eliminate it. She said that the Republican's purpose is to shutdown the Government, and if not, have no idea of the gravity of the situation that will lead to a shutdown. She said that the C.R. damages science, health and the competitiveness of the Nation. She noted that Republican's intent to defund the healthcare law was to put the insurance companies back in charge of decision making. She said that the Democrats have a responsible proposal to reduce the deficit.

Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA), Majority Leader, said that millions of Americans are struggling and are counting on their elected officials. He explained that the C.R. keeps the Government open while working to complete the appropriations bills. He said that there will be 2 consecutive years of discretionary spending cuts. He noted that a full-time economy is becoming a part-time economy and that the Republicans are fighting for the American families. He said that the House has led in restoring faith in Government and urged members to support the C.R.

Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Minority Whip, said that the Republicans will only fund the Government if the healthcare law is defunded. He said that this was a blatant act of hostage taking. He said that the majority has a destructive obsession with defunding the healthcare law. He quoted Chairman Rogers by stating that the sequester policy must be brought to an end. He said that he would not support the C.R. and that a fiscally responsible path was needed not to continue a lurching path from fiscal crisis to fiscal crisis.

Lowey Statement:

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY), Ranking Member

Lowey Statement on 2014 Continuing Resolution

Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY), Ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee, today delivered the following statement regarding H.J.Res.59, the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014:

“I will oppose this continuing resolution. On September 10th, Chairman Rogers introduced the CR and his statement noted, “This bill is free of controversial riders...and does not seek to change existing federal policies.” How things have changed!

“Unfortunately, this new package will attach not one but two politically-motivated, ill-conceived, and doomed provisions: one directs the President to pay certain debts but not others in case House Republicans are determined to default on America’s obligations. The other would defund the Affordable Care Act.

“Defunding the ACA has far-reaching consequences for all Americans. If the House CR is enacted, no funds could be used to administer payments calculated on the basis of ACA provisions. Patients, doctors, hospitals, medical suppliers and other health providers would all experience significant disruptions. Many of the improvements to Medicare made by the ACA would also have to be suspended, such as better coverage for preventive services, lower costs for drug benefits, and stronger tools to combat health care fraud.

“Most importantly, undermining the implementation of the ACA only gives our medical choices back to the insurance companies and keeps health insurance costs too high for too many families.

“The House Republican default plan is flawed as well. The majority proposes that, if they force default on federal debt, the U.S. should prioritize payments to Treasury bondholders, of which 47 percent are foreign-owned. So while we pay back China, the following Americans would be pushed to the back of the line:

- 1.4 million active duty troops and 780,000 troops in reserves
- 3.4 million disabled veterans who served their country with honor
- 1.1 million doctors and others who provided health care to seniors with Medicare
- 32 million children in schools that need payments to continue serving nutritious lunches
- 44,000 National Institutes of Health grantees conducting life-saving medical research and providing an estimated 500,000 jobs

“We should be focused on jobs. Instead, Republicans want to play games of brinksmanship on the budget and the debt limit even though the foreseeable consequence will be plummeting stock markets and businesses freezing their hiring. The Republican budget plan itself shortchanges American jobs in infrastructure, results in education and defense layoffs, closes Head Start and afterschool programs, and divests in health research. And the sequester, CBO tells us, will cost the U.S. economy up to 1.6 million jobs over the next year.

“I hope at some point we are able to agree on a bipartisan CR that can be enacted. The one before us is not it. Unfortunately, we’ll be back here again next week facing the same crisis.”

###

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Fri Sep 20 2013 18:57:20 EDT
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
CC:
Subject: RE: Daily Briefing by the Press Secretary Jay Carney , 09/17/13
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Yes. Ty

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 07:48 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia
Cc: Shlossman, Amy
Subject: FW: Daily Briefing by the Press Secretary Jay Carney , 09/17/13

Sylvia, is it helpful if I send you key clips on budget from the daily press briefing?

=====

Q On the budget quickly, a number of Democrats are now endorsing the idea of a so-called clean CR, even though there are concerns about enshrining the post-sequester levels of funding. You had said the other day that the President would be supportive of that as long as it's a clean bill. Is that still his position?

MR. CARNEY: Well, a short-term, clean CR that would allow Congress the time to reach a broader agreement is something that we could accept. Unfortunately, what we've seen from some Republicans is a desire to refight and re-litigate old battles, and to be willing to shut down the government, doing harm to the middle class, and to be willing even to allow the United States to default -- something we've never done in our history -- if they don't get what they want, which is to achieve through this kind of procedure what they could not achieve when it was passed by the House -- this is Obamacare -- passed by the House, passed by the Senate, signed into law by the President, upheld as constitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States, and a law that we are going about the business of implementing, and a law that has already produced tangible benefits to millions of Americans -- tangible in many ways, including in financial ways that we've elaborated on in recent days.

So that is an obstacle that we currently face and which, as the President mentioned yesterday, needs to be addressed. Because it is simply unacceptable at a time, five years after the financial collapse, five years after this country stared into the economic abyss, five years of slow, steady recovery later that we cannot allow Washington to reverse that progress and to do it for the ideological agenda of a faction of the Republican Party.

Q What would the President hope to accomplish in that period of a short-term CR -- the broader issues? And does he intend to remain passive in this process with so little time left?

MR. CARNEY: The idea that he is passive is, of course, disproven by the facts. But the President has put forward a compromise budget proposal that anybody who looks at will say -- if he or she is serious -- represents hard choices by a Democratic President when it comes to entitlement savings, and asks for in return hard choices by Republicans when it comes to a balanced approach to reducing our deficit. That's the way that we should go about the business of continuing to deal with our deficit.

But Republicans aren't even talking about that anymore. It's hard to when the deficit has come down by half since the President took office. Instead, they're talking about basically hitching the fate of the economy -- the American economy and the global economy -- to their ideological agenda, which is to continue to fight the battle over the Affordable Care Act, a law that, as I said today, is producing enormous benefits for the American people and will produce even more for millions and millions of uninsured Americans who until this law passed and until this law gets implemented have not had access to affordable care but will because of this.

They want to overturn that, and they have no alternative. Their answer to those millions of Americans is, tough luck. Tough luck. And, by the way, if I don't get what I want, they say, we're going to set all that progress aside and reverse course. That's a terrible approach.

From: Berman, Lindsey R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bermanl64651664>
Sent: Fri Sep 20 2013 13:10:09 EDT
To: Valeriano, Ofelia M. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=ofeliam.valeriano03427313>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dl-omb-permanentstaff>
CC: Neill, Allie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=allie_r_neill>; Berman, Lindsey R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bermanl64651664>; Brown, Calla </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=calla_r_brown1>; Menter, Jessica </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jessican.menter27256674>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
Subject: FY 2014 Approps Update: House Passes CR // Statements and Next Steps
Attachments: image002.png;image003.jpg;image004

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Thanks to Ofelia for tracking the floor! In addition to Lowey's floor statement at the bottom of Ofelia's email, below are the statements of Chairman Rogers and Senate Chairwoman Mikulski on House passage of the CR.

In terms of next steps, yesterday Senate Majority Leader Reid made a motion to put the CR on the Senate calendar immediately following House passage. On Monday, we will have a better idea of the procedural path in the Senate.

CQ Tracker laid out a couple of the procedural options Senate Democratic Leadership have:

SENATE AWAITS: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is keeping quiet on how he plans to handle a the stopgap spending measure, but with some help from Senate Republicans he could have a couple of options.

Reid, D-Nev., told reporters Thursday that the House continuing resolution with the defunding attached is a non-starter in the Senate and a "waste of time." "Let's see what they send us," Reid said when asked if he would strip out the provision, adding that he wasn't sure House Republican leaders could pass the proposal after having to delay a vote on a previous plan that would have forced the Senate to vote on a defunding resolution before getting a "clean" CR. Reid indicated he believes there may be some Senate Republicans who could vote with Democrats to avoid a government shutdown. Indeed, Sens. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., and Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., have come out publicly against the idea of including the health care law defunding provision in the CR. A Senate vote could come as soon as Sept. 27 if the Senate can file cloture on the motion to proceed on Friday and Republicans insist on all the debate time allowed after cloture is invoked. That date

slips to Sept. 29 if they have to wait until Monday to file cloture.

Democrats, who control 54 votes in the Senate, will need at least six Republicans to vote with them to invoke cloture and move to passing the bill. But getting cloture under one potential procedural scenario may not be as difficult as first thought, according to congressional staffers. Under this plan Reid would need Republicans to vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to the bill and then cloture for the bill itself. After getting cloture on the bill, under Senate rules regarding germane amendments, Reid could strike the provision from the CR with a simple majority. Democrats believe that at least some Republicans would vote with Democrats because if they do not, the GOP could be construed as filibustering the House CR. But the plan could open up Senate Democrats to tough votes if Republicans manage to offer germane amendments that would also be decided by a simple majority once cloture is invoked. A senior Senate Democratic aide stressed that no decision has been made on a path forward on the CR and that Democrats could instead simply seek to amend the House proposal using a 60-vote threshold if they think they have that level of support.

NEWS

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

Website address: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

For Immediate Release: September 20, 2013

Contact: Jennifer Hing, (b) (6)

House Approves Short-Term Continuing Resolution, Preventing Government Shutdown

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. House today approved H.J.Res. 59, the short-term continuing resolution that will keep the government open after the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2013. The bill passed the House on a vote of 230-189.

The legislation continues funding for government programs and services at the current, post sequestration annual rate until December 15, 2013. This rate of funding will remain in place for the length of the continuing resolution, or until Congress approves the annual Appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2014.

“This CR keeps this Congress moving in the right direction,” said House Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers. “It gives us time to solve the urgent fiscal issues facing our nation – finding a balanced and attainable plan that eliminates sequestration, implements careful reforms for both discretionary and mandatory spending, and keeps our economy growing.”

“The ball is now in the Senate’s court to act on this legislation. It is my hope they will pass this bill swiftly, to avoid a government shutdown, and to provide for critical government services and programs,” Chairman Rogers continued. “A government shutdown is a political game in which everyone loses. It shirks one of our most basic duties as Members of Congress, and it puts our national security at stake.”

The bill also includes the text of H.R. 2682, the Defund Obamacare Act of 2013, and H.R. 807, the Full Faith and Credit Act.

To view the text of the bill, please visit: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113hres352rh/pdf/BILLS-113hres352rh.pdf>

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For Immediate Release

September 20, 2013

Contact: Rob Blumenthal (b) (6) / Eve Goldsher (b) (6)

Chairwoman Mikulski Responds to House Passed Continuing Resolution

WASHINGTON – In response to House passage of H.J. Res. 59, a short-term Continuing Resolution to fund the federal government through December 15, Chairwoman Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) issued the

following statement:

“Today’s action by the House is a defeat for our economy, for jobs, and for our national security.

“It is the job of the United States Congress to maintain continuity of essential government services. A short-term Continuing Resolution should accomplish that goal so we can get to a long term solution.

“The House put political ideology ahead of country. Burdening a Continuing Resolution with politically motivated riders that defund Obamacare or direct the government to pay certain debts but not others is irresponsible policy that has severe consequences. The House bill puts political dysfunction ahead of good governance. The debt limit rider threatens the reputation and solvency of the United States of America. And defunding Obamacare is doomed. The Senate has already voted 28 times in support of Obamacare.

“Next week, I will work in the Senate to pass a clean short-term Continuing Resolution that does not include these politically motivated policies.

“The best way for our government to fulfill its mission – meeting national security needs, meeting compelling human needs and making smart public investments in education, research, and infrastructure – is to pass a clean short-term Continuing Resolution without ideological riders. That will give us enough time to reach a compromise agreement with the House on replacing sequestration and passing full-year spending bills at acceptable spending levels for fiscal year 2014. That’s how we’ll prepare America for the future with a stronger economy and a safer country.

“I want to get to a bottom line, but I can’t do it without a topline. Passing a clean Continuing Resolution in the Senate is a start, but clearly we have a long way to go.”

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From: Valeriano, Ofelia M.

Sent: Friday, September 20, 2013 11:34 AM

To: DL-OMB-Permanent Staff

Subject: H.J. Res. 59 | Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014 | Passed 230-189

H.J. Res 59 – Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014

passed (230 – 189)

PASSED: 230-189

RY: 228

RN: 1

DY: 2

DN: 188

Motion to Recommit:

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RY: 1

RN: 228

DY: 189

General Debate:

Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY), Appropriations Committee Chairman, noted that the C.R. keeps the Government operating on a short-term basis. He said it is “clean” and continues reductions in discretionary spending. He said it prevents a Government shutdown; defunds Obamacare and includes the Full Faith and Credit Act. He explained that it funds the Government for the first 76 days of FY 2014 through December 15th. It funds programs at the post-sequester level with adjustments. He noted that limited provisions have been added in order to “keep the lights on”. He said that a Government shutdown is a political game that everyone loses.

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Lowey Statement:

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY), Ranking Member

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###

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Mon Sep 23 2013 21:05:13 EDT
To: Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>
CC:
Subject: RE: Speaker Boehner has a choice to make
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Thanks.

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Posner, Steven
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 09:02 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Sarri, Kristen; Vorhaus, Dave; O'Connor, Devin; Shlossman, Amy
Cc: FN-OMB-Communications Office
Subject: FW: Speaker Boehner has a choice to make

From: Dan Pfeiffer, The White House [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 8:53 PM
To: Posner, Steven
Subject: Speaker Boehner has a choice to make

The White House, Washington

Hello --

Right now, Congress has two jobs: to pass a budget that invests in the middle class and to pay the bills it has already incurred.

But instead of doing their jobs, a few reckless Republicans in Congress are so obsessed with refighting old political battles over Obamacare that they're threatening to shut down the government and stop paying the country's bills.

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That's why it's time for GOP lawmakers to pass a simple budget resolution that doesn't defund Obamacare and move on.

We need your help to spread the word so that Americans know what's going on, so forward this message to your friends and family.

In the five years since the financial crisis began, the American people have pushed the economy forward. Over the past 42 months, businesses have added 7.5 million jobs. American manufacturing is growing again, and the auto industry is back. We've reformed Wall Street so that no company is ever again too big to fail and created the toughest consumer financial protections this nation has ever seen. We've cut our deficit by more than half, made the tax code more progressive, and reformed our health care system.

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We need to keep building momentum. So we're asking Congress to join the President in creating a better bargain for the middle class, and give up on manufacturing a new political crisis. For that to happen, reasonable Congressional Republicans have to stand up to a few extreme members of their party for the good of the country and our economy.

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Thanks,

Dan

Dan Pfeiffer
Senior Advisor
The White House
@Pfeiffer44

P.S. -- Want to learn more about where we are five years after the start of the financial crisis? Check this out.

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From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Mon Sep 23 2013 21:05:33 EDT
To: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
CC:
Subject: FW: Speaker Boehner has a choice to make
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Did you know about this one? Helpful...

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Posner, Steven
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 09:02 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Sarri, Kristen; Vorhaus, Dave; O'Connor, Devin; Shlossman, Amy
Cc: FN-OMB-Communications Office
Subject: FW: Speaker Boehner has a choice to make

From: Dan Pfeiffer, The White House [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 8:53 PM
To: Posner, Steven
Subject: Speaker Boehner has a choice to make

The White House, Washington

Hello --

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From: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
Sent: Mon Sep 23 2013 21:08:49 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: RE: Speaker Boehner has a choice to make
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Did not. But agree.

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 9:06 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.
Subject: FW: Speaker Boehner has a choice to make

Did you know about this one? Helpful...

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Posner, Steven
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 09:02 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Sarri, Kristen; Vorhaus, Dave; O'Connor, Devin; Shlossman, Amy
Cc: FN-OMB-Communications Office
Subject: FW: Speaker Boehner has a choice to make

From: Dan Pfeiffer, The White House [mailto:(b) (6)]
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To: Posner, Steven
Subject: Speaker Boehner has a choice to make

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From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Thu Sep 26 2013 07:04:31 EDT
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
CC:
Subject: FW: Jay asked about CR levels at briefing
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Cr

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Posner, Steven
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2013 05:50 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Shlossman, Amy; Vorhaus, Dave; O'Connor, Devin; Sarri, Kristen
Cc: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Hornung, Daniel; FN-OMB-Communications Office
Subject: RE: Jay asked about CR levels at briefing

Here is the transcript ...

Q On the budget, and I won't belabor the point because you addressed it a little bit yesterday, but the House leadership is still trying to find a way to get a continuing resolution that funds the government beyond October 1st through the House. They wanted to do it yesterday and pulled it. And the Obamacare question aside, I'm wondering does the White House support continuing spending levels at 2013 sequester levels? I think the number is something at the rate of \$986 billion over the year. Is that a number that the White House is satisfied with and would tell Democrats to accept if that's what the continuing resolution --

MR. CARNEY: Well, let me step back a little bit and explain our position on this. First of all -- and this pertains to legislation that we haven't seen, but is clearly under discussion -- we will not accept anything that delays or defunds Obamacare. Congress needs to pass a budget and not attach politically motivated riders to their funding bills -- part of a persistent effort to refight old battles to overcome the fact that this is a law that was passed by Congress, signed by the President and upheld by the Supreme Court; a law that has already provided enormous benefits and savings to millions and millions of Americans, and that will, when fully implemented, allow for millions of Americans who could not afford insurance in the past to be insured, for

millions of Americans who have preexisting conditions to have the security of health insurance that they did not have in the past. These are significant benefits that are provided by this law passed by Congress, signed by the President, upheld by the Supreme Court.

Secondly, we will not accept anything that further cuts the investments we need to grow our economy, create jobs and strengthen the middle class. We will not, absolutely, accept the Republican budget approach that further slashes these investments in our economy and the American families need.

The Republican leadership has said that -- at the very least, setting aside all the policy significance of these decisions, the Republican leadership itself has said that it would be politically damaging to them to allow the government to shut down. And we agree; they should not do it. And they should not do it for a host of reasons. So Congress needs to act on this. When it comes to how that plays itself out, we want Congress to responsibly fund government. We have drawn the lines that we've drawn, and we will see what they produce.

Q But are current spending levels something that you would accept?

MR. CARNEY: Again, when you're talking about short-term extensions, we would consider a clean CR that prevents a shutdown and allows time for Congress to find a long-term solution to its budget challenges when it comes to avoiding a shutdown, but there are bigger issues that need to be resolved here, as we all know.

From: Posner, Steven

Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2013 2:25 PM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Shlossman, Amy; Vorhaus, Dave; O'Connor, Devin; Sarri, Kristen

Cc: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Hornung, Daniel; FN-OMB-Communications Office

Subject: Jay asked about CR levels at briefing

FYI -

At today's briefing, Jay was asked if we would accept a CR at current levels.

Jay stuck to the talkers Brundage sent around yesterday, including this line:

- We'd consider a clean CR that prevents a shutdown and allows time for Congress to find a long-term solution to its budget challenges. Everyone knows a shutdown would be harmful and it's up to Congress to find a way to avoid that.

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Thu Sep 26 2013 07:08:20 EDT
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
CC:
Subject: RE: NRO: Revealed: The House GOP's Debt Ceiling Plan
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Thanks. Helpful...

Debt lint

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2013 07:03 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: FW: NRO: Revealed: The House GOP's Debt Ceiling Plan

From: Sperling, Gene
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2013 10:42 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Holzer, Benjamin; Allen, Jessica; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: Re: NRO: Revealed: The House GOP's Debt Ceiling Plan

(b) (5)



From: Palmieri, Jennifer
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2013 09:23 PM
To: Holzer, Benjamin; Allen, Jessica; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: Re: NRO: Revealed: The House GOP's Debt Ceiling Plan

(b) (5)

From: Holzer, Benjamin
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2013 09:15 PM
To: Allen, Jessica; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: Re: NRO: Revealed: The House GOP's Debt Ceiling Plan

Greg Sargent (@ThePlumLineGS)
9/25/13, 9:08 PM
GOP leadership to cons: If you promise not to be angry at us, we'll give you lots and lots of candy
[nationalreview.com/corner/359534/...](http://nationalreview.com/corner/359534/)

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2013 07:06 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: NRO: Revealed: The House GOP's Debt Ceiling Plan

<http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/359534/revealed-house-gops-debt-ceiling-plan-jonathan-strong>

Revealed: The House GOP's Debt Ceiling Plan

National Review Online // Jonathan Strong

6:54 PM

Below is an outline of the GOP's debt ceiling bill obtained by National Review Online. The document originated from the House Appropriations Committee staff and is dated yesterday. A GOP leadership aide says there are some differences between this and their latest summary, so take that for what it's worth. As always with the House Republicans, it is subject to discussion from Members, many of whom are quite vocal in providing their input on such plans.

House leadership is planning to pass the bill as early as Saturday. The bill itself is expected to be released imminently. The outline is not a huge surprise – most of the provisions have been floated or leaked, but it's interesting to see the breadth of the demands laid out on paper.

Voting to increase the debt ceiling is always a brutal vote for lawmakers because it's very unpopular with their constituents back home. One concern I've also heard voiced from House conservatives is they do not want to undermine the Senate process and Senator Ted Cruz's fight in that chamber. For example, there have been efforts to keep the House's plans under the radar until after the final cloture vote in order not to hinder Cruz's push for the GOP to filibuster.

- One Year Debt Limit Increase
- Not a dollar amount increase, but suspending the debt limit until the end of December 2014.
- Similar to what we did earlier this year.
- Want the year long to align with the year delay of Obamacare.
- One Year Obamacare delay
- Tax Reform Instructions
- Similar to a bill we passed last fall, laying out broad from Ryan Budget principles for what tax reform should look like.
- Gives fast track authority for tax reform legislation
- Energy and regulatory reforms to promote economic growth
- Includes pretty much every jobs bill we have passed this year and last Congress
- All of these policies have important positive economic effects.
- Energy provisions
- Keystone Pipeline
- Coal Ash regulations
- Offshore drilling
- Energy production on federal lands
- EPA Carbon regulations
- Regulatory reform
- REINS Act
- Regulatory process reform
- Consent decree reform
- Blocking Net Neutrality
- Mandatory Spending Reforms
- Mostly from the sequester replacement bills we passed last year

- Federal Employee retirement reform
- Ending the Dodd Frank bailout fund
- Transitioning CFPB funding to Appropriations
- Child Tax Credit Reform to prevent fraud
- Repealing the Social Services Block grant
- Health Spending Reforms
- Means testing Medicare
- Repealing a Medicaid Provider tax gimmick
- Tort reform
- Altering Disproportion Share Hospitals
- Repealing the Public Health trust Fund

From: Brundage, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>
Sent: Thu Sep 26 2013 12:33:08 EDT
To: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_1_nabors>; Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>; Palmieri, Jennifer </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=palmieri, jennifer m.cd6>; Earnest, Joshua R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=joshuar.earnest67836121>; Carney, Jay </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=james_f_carney>; Schultz, Eric </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eric_h_schultz>; Beirne Fallon, Katie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=fallon, katherine b.3111>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>; Quillian, Natalie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=quillian, natalie h.bc8>; Canegallo, Kristie A. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=canegallo, kristie a.068>; Ford, Harrison </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=harrisonford85705665>; Dumas, Clay </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dumas, clay a.bd3>; Selak, Dawn </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dawn_m_selak>
CC:
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL - 1 week CR TPS
Attachments:
Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2013 12:32 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Burwell, Sylvia; Posner, Steven; Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Ford, Harrison; Dumas, Clay; Selak, Dawn
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL - 1 week CR TPS

(b) (5)

--

(b) (5)

- (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2013 10:04 AM
To: Nabors, Robert L.; Pfeiffer, Dan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Posner, Steven; Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Ford, Harrison; Dumas, Clay; Selak, Dawn
Subject: FOR APPROVAL - 1 week CR TPS

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

Here is a suggested answer - do folks have thoughts on this?

TOPLINES - CR

- (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)



###

From: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
Sent: Thu Sep 26 2013 20:29:11 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC: Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>
Subject: FW: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney, 9/26/2013
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Clips below:

Q ... The Speaker today said he will not simply ask the House to pass the Senate bill with a clean stopgap spending measure. I'm wondering if the White House believes that that makes a government shutdown inevitable.

MR. CARNEY: Here's what we know. It would be bad for the economy, bad for the middle class to allow the government to shut down. There is a simple way to prevent that, and that is for the House to do what the Senate will do, which is pass a continuing resolution that keeps the government open for a period of time while we can continue to negotiate over a broader budget deal -- one that funds the essential functions of government; makes the key investments that allow us to grow and create jobs; and if the Republicans are serious about wanting to address this, reduces our deficits in the middle, medium, and long term in a responsible, balanced way.

So the power to do this resides, according to the Constitution, with the Congress. To threaten to shut down the government in order to achieve a partisan objective that could not be achieved through the normal process is irresponsible. So we hope it doesn't happen.

Q One of the things they want to add is repeal of a tax on medical devices. Is that something that the White House can support --

MR. CARNEY: No, absolutely not. The fact of the matter is we need to make sure that the government continues to function, that services continue to be provided. And the responsible, sober thing to do is to pass a continuing resolution that keeps the government open and allows for continued negotiations over a broader, balanced, longer-term budget deal that ensures we invest in the right areas of our economy, and that ensures that we educate our kids and allows us to invest in infrastructure and other things that help us grow, and that reduces the deficit in a responsible way.

All these attempts -- we're going to get to triple digits, eventually, with the number of ways that Republicans have tried to go after Obamacare, the Affordable Care Act. They have all come to naught, and they will all come to naught, because it was passed by Congress, signed into law by the President, upheld as constitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States, and validated in a presidential election.

We are implementing the Affordable Care Act. We are ensuring that millions of Americans will receive benefits that will allow for many of them, for many millions of them, to be able to afford health care, health insurance for the first time. And I think what Republicans who oppose Obamacare fear most is that the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the arrival of additional benefits -- the ability for Americans to purchase insurance for their families that they could never afford before or were blocked from getting entirely -- will be something they won't want ever to try to take away because the American people will say no.

So we're going to continue to make sure that the Affordable Care Act is implemented, that Americans receive the health insurance that they deserve, and that they can get it at affordable prices. We talked a lot about that yesterday. You heard the President talk, obviously, about it today in Maryland -- the efforts to derail the essential function of government in order to achieve a political objective are irresponsible.

Q Obamacare aside, you have -- if this stopgap measure passes, you'll get until maybe November 15th. That's not a heck of a lot of time to negotiate the kind of long-term budget deal that you're talking about. And I think the public is a little confused as to where the President is willing to negotiate, which is on a potential another government shutdown on November 15th, but not negotiate on a debt ceiling that comes in October 17th, perhaps, according to the Treasury. Why are you sending that kind of mixed message?

MR. CARNEY: I think we've been sending very clear signals and obviously hoping that those signals are transmitted by you in this room clearly and accurately. The fact of the matter is the President has been willing in a demonstrated way to offer compromise solutions to our economic challenges and our budget challenges. And he has put his money where his mouth is with concrete, moderate, balanced proposals to do that.

And he has met with Republicans all year long who -- Republican legislators who have said that they are interested in finding common ground. And he is absolutely willing to continue to have those kinds of negotiations. What he will not do is engage in an attempt by Republicans to extort from him what they could not get through the legislative process, what they could not get at the ballot box, what they could not get at the Supreme Court of the United States, and offer as an alternative to getting what they want through extortion, tanking the economy and crushing the middle class. He will not do that.

And as many, many Republicans have said, as many, many business leaders have said -- it is an irresponsible

approach to take.

... Q One of the ideas that Republicans are floating on the debt ceiling is negotiating taking away the sequester cuts in exchange for entitlement reform savings. Does that fall under the no-negotiation clause?

MR. CARNEY: Here's what's important to note. Everybody says -- every leader in Congress, as far as I can tell, based on the public record -- and it's hard to find even a rank-and-file member, although in the Republican Party there are a few, who doesn't agree with the general proposition that it would be bad -- devastating, in fact -- for the economy if we defaulted on the full faith and credit of the United States for the first time in history.

So there's an area of near consensus. The President says raise the debt ceiling. That's Congress's responsibility. Do it. It's been done without drama or delay time and again. The only party to this conversation or this discussion or this debate that is saying -- attaching any condition to raising the debt ceiling is the Republican Party.

President Obama, the Democrats, they're not saying, well, we'll only pass or sign a bill that raises the debt ceiling if we get these items on our wish list. Because it's not a concession. That's the myth and the farce about the approach that's being adopted up there on Capitol Hill by Republicans, is the idea that it's a concession to raise the debt ceiling. It's not a concession. It is your constitutional responsibility.

You were not elected to tank the economy. You were not elected to punish the middle class in order to achieve a political objective that you lost through the legislative process and you lost through the elective process, and you lost through the judicial process.

... Q So, Jay, if House Republicans stand their ground, if the President will still refuse to negotiate, then the debt ceiling will then be breached?

MR. CARNEY: House Republican leaders have said that they will not let the country default. They have it within their power to ensure that that does not happen. They are the only, again, party to this discussion here in Washington who are suggesting that raising the debt ceiling is conditional, and it is conditioned upon them achieving what, based on reports today, is an extraordinary laundry list of Republican perennials. The only thing I didn't see mentioned was, like, a birther bill to attach to it.

So I mean, it's -- this is too serious to be playing games with. We saw what this kind of brinksmanship can do to our economy in 2011; that was not nearly long enough ago for people to forget. And I think that the

American people would have no tolerance for their elected leaders being willing to punish them, and punish them harshly, in order to achieve these objectives. And one imagines, as many have written -- including Republican commentators -- that there would be a political price to pay for it.

Q So you're saying, though, if Republican don't drop all of their demands, we will default?

MR. CARNEY: I'm saying that the President will not negotiate over Congress's responsibility to raise the debt ceiling, and the debt ceiling has to be raised. It is not a concession to anybody for Congress to do that. It is not a concession for Republicans to do their constitutionally mandated job. We absolutely have differences, and we should debate and discuss and negotiate over those differences, but we should not hold the American people hostage while we do it. And it is the height of irresponsibility to even suggest it.

Q Are you willing to consider -- is the White House willing to consider approving the Keystone XL pipeline as a possible --

MR. CARNEY: Again, we are not negotiating over raising the debt ceiling. And that's a perfect example of another, like, item on the partisan agenda of the Republican Party; in that case, one that is being handled in the way that those issues have traditionally been handled in the administrations of both parties through a process that must be allowed to take place and be completed. And it would be another example of irresponsible handling of a very sensitive matter.

I don't think there's any doubt, if you talk to experts in the field about what would happen should the United States default, that the result would be calamitous. I mean, it would be devastating to hardworking American families everywhere. And it would have a lasting impact. Even the flirtation with default that some Republicans engaged in, in 2011, had a significant impact on our economy.

Q But isn't it -- you said -- isn't it irresponsible to negotiate if we otherwise default?

MR. CARNEY: It would be irresponsible to begin a process that the Republicans attempted for the first time in our history in 2011, where every time Congress's responsibility to ensure that the United States pays its bills arose, that this became part of a political extortion game. That would do enormous harm to our power and prestige economically around the world. And the result of that harm would be to inflict pain on the American middle class and the American people. The irresponsible thing would be to follow that path that the Republicans are proposing.

...Q If Republicans don't budge, when do you start talking about the day after default? Is there any

contingency planning going on here?

MR. CARNEY: Again, we're not going to engage in speculation about something that the Republicans assure us won't happen. We obviously are stewards of the executive branch and take all the necessary precautions in a variety of situations. But we're not going to -- Republican leaders say that we won't default. It is their responsibility to ensure that we don't. And unfortunately, we're seeing leaders apparently being guided by those forces and voices within their own party who seem to think that it's okay to flirt with default and to potentially default in order to achieve political goals.

...Q Jay, thanks. According to the latest Bloomberg poll, 61 percent of Americans want to see an increase of the debt limit linked to spending cuts. So this is not just Republicans. So what do you say to those Americans who say they want to see spending cuts?

MR. CARNEY: What I would say is that the President has proposed a comprehensive budget that reduces the deficit significantly over both the medium and long term. The President has presided, as President, over a reduction in the deficit by 50 percent -- again, after inheriting the largest deficits in history from his predecessor whose economic policies were broadly supported by those who are now critical of the President's policies.

What I think is absolutely the case -- and it's complicated and it's difficult -- is that the association that is created in the reporting on this between raising the debt ceiling and the deficits is actually not factual. The debt ceiling has nothing to do with the deficits. Raising the debt ceiling does not add a dime to our deficits.

Q So you're saying these Americans are confused --

MR. CARNEY: I'm saying that Americans are absolutely correct that the debt ceiling should be raised, and they absolutely do not want us to default for the first time in our history, and are absolutely correct that we need to continue the work of reducing our deficit in a responsible way.

But what we cannot do is agree to an extortion game where Republicans attach every item on their wish list, their partisan wish list, and if they don't get, they're going to blow up the economy and hurt the middle class.

Secondly, as I think anybody -- and this gets into serious wonkery -- anybody who looks at the Republican proposals that are emerging out of this, they don't even reduce the deficit. So they don't even fulfill the wishes of that poll item, that poll question, right?

Delaying the implementation of Obamacare increases the deficit. The Affordable Care Act reduces the deficit. Republicans who are now on the other side of the issue, who voted for the expansion of Medicare through Medicare Part D, and voted to do it without paying for it, are now singing a different tune and, in fact, they're for a proposal that would increase the deficit in the name of deficit reduction.

Q Jay, going back to 2011, I understand it was a part of a broader deal, so saying that off the top. But didn't this administration set a precedent for linking --

MR. CARNEY: We have made no -- we have made very clear that we think that the deliberations in the summer of 2011, in which the President entered into prolonged, sustained, sincere negotiations with the Speaker of the House and others in hopes of finding a broad compromise, a budget proposal that would reduce our deficit and allow us to continue to fund essential aspects of government and invest in the middle class, resulted in a process whereby Republicans, in the House in particular, were engaged in flirtation with default. And that that had never happened before. And the result of that was hugely consequential -- not least in the downgrading of the United States for the first time in its history.

So we can't -- what was true before that began is that nothing like that had ever happened before. And the President certainly hoped that he could achieve an agreement with a grand bargain, so to speak, with the Speaker of the House that would be good for the economy and would represent compromise by both sides. Compromise was not forthcoming, as we have seen many times now, out of the House Republicans. And there was a huge price to pay for that.

... Q Jay, earlier you said that Congress has a constitutional responsibility to raise the debt ceiling. Does Congress have a constitutional responsibility to raise the debt ceiling?

MR. CARNEY: Congress, in the delineation of powers, controls the money and Congress alone has the power to legislate a rise in the debt ceiling. Believe me, if Congress wanted to, tomorrow, to rid itself of this onerous responsibility and to give it to the chief executive, a position currently held by Barack Obama, he would accept it because he thinks it is egregiously irresponsible to flirt with default, because we are the United States of America; we do not default.

Q But it's not the position of the White House that anywhere in the Constitution, as currently written, there's an obligation for Congress to --

MR. CARNEY: It is not explicitly stated. Obviously, a raising of the debt ceiling is not explicitly the language of the Constitution, but there is no question that the Constitution gives to Congress the power to

appropriate, the power to spend money, and the power to ensure that, as part of that function, bills are paid. And that's what raising the debt ceiling is about. Again, that power -- if you're suggesting that we have that power, sadly, you're mistaken.

From: Brundage, Amy </o=cop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>
Sent: Sat Sep 28 2013 14:37:22 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=cop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

God bless you two!

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:30 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Deese and Burwell good.

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:20 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

Carney statement:

(b) (5)

From: Palmieri, Jennifer
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:16 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

+ Simas.

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 01:10 PM
To: Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Carney statement:

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 01:02 PM
To: Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

Ex 5 - (5 U.S.C. Sec 552 (b)(5))

From: Pfeiffer, Dan
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:58 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen

Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:57 PM

To: Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie

Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen

Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

Ex 5 - (5 U.S.C. Sec 552 (b)(5))

From: Deese, Brian C.

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:50 PM

To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Brundage, Amy; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel

Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen

Subject: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

--

(b) (5)

(b) (5)



From: Berman, Lindsey R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bermanl64651664>
Sent: Sat Sep 28 2013 14:22:28 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dl-omb-permanentstaff>
CC: Neill, Allie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=allie_r_neill>; Brown, Calla </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=calla_r_brown1>; Menter, Jessica </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jessican.menter27256674>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Valeriano, Ofelia M. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=ofeliam.valeriano03427313>; Berman, Lindsey R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bermanl64651664>
Subject: FY 2014 CR Update: Text of military pay bill
Attachments: CRTROOPS_xml.pdf; CWEmbed1.xml

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Attached is the text of the bill providing military pay in the event of a Government shutdown.

When I get the text of the two amendments cited below, I'll send around.

From: Berman, Lindsey R.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 1:49 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Valeriano, Ofelia M.; Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: FY 2014 CR Update: Latest on House CR Action
Importance: High

The House just passed a same-day rule allowing for consideration of the CR today by a vote of 226-191, with 4 Democrats voting for the rule and 4 Republicans voting against.

While text has not been released, according to the press release of House Leadership (found below) the House will vote on two amendments to the Senate-passed CR. The first delays ACA by a year and the second permanently repeals the medical device tax. Both change the date of the Senate CR back to December 15.

House Speaker John Boehner, Majority Leader Eric Cantor, Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy, and GOP Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers released the following joint statement:

“The American people don’t want a government shut down and they don’t want ObamaCare. That’s why later today, the House will vote on two amendments to the Senate-passed continuing resolution that will keep the government open and stop as much of the president’s health care law as possible.

“The first amendment delays the president’s health care law by one year. And the second permanently repeals ObamaCare’s medical device tax that is sending jobs overseas.

“Both of these amendments will change the date of the Senate CR to December 15th. We will also vote on a measure that ensures our troops get paid, no matter what.

“We will do our job and send this bill over, and then it’s up to the Senate to pass it and stop a government shutdown.”

From: Berman, Lindsey R.

Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 9:35 AM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff

Cc: Neill, Allie; Berman, Lindsey R.; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Valeriano, Ofelia M.

Subject: FY 2014 CR Update: Senate finishing up // House schedule

Building on Ofelia’s email last night...

Senate Action:

Today at approximately 12:30pm the Senate will vote in relation to:

1. The motion to invoke cloture on HJRes 59 (60-vote threshold).
2. A motion to waive all applicable Budget Act points of order (should any be raised). (60-vote threshold)
3. Adoption of the perfectitute amendment #1974 (Majority)
4. Passage of HJRes 59, as amended. (Majority)

Following passage of the CR, the amended bill will go back to the House.

House Action:

Last night, the House Rules Committee met and reported out a same-day rule for the CR (and any bill related to the debit limit). This will enable the Senate-passed CR to go to the floor the same day the Rules Committee meets on the bill. Without the resolution, the CR would have to wait until the next day to be considered.

On Saturday, September 28, 2013, the House Rules Committee is expected to meet on the CR, with floor consideration to follow.

Members have also been advised that the House is expected to meet on Sunday, September 29.

The options for how the House will modify the CR remain under discussion.

We'll update you as we learn more.

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

Making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a
Government shutdown.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

Making continuing appropriations for military pay in the
event of a Government shutdown.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Pay Our Military Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF**
6 **THE ARMED FORCES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are hereby appropriated for
8 fiscal year 2014, out of any money in the Treasury not
9 otherwise appropriated, for any period during which in-


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<action-desc>M_. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on
_____</action-desc>
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shutdown.</official-title>
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which interim or full-year appropriations for fiscal year 2014 are not in effectâ€”</text>
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including reserve components thereof, who perform active service during such period;</text>
</paragraph>
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inline="yes-display-inline">such sums as are necessary to provide pay and allowances to the
civilian personnel of the Department of Defense (and the Department of Homeland Security in the

```

case of the Coast Guard) whom the Secretary concerned determines are providing support to members of the Armed Forces described in paragraph (1); and

(3) such sums as are necessary to provide pay and allowances to contractors of the Department of Defense (and the Department of Homeland Security in the case of the Coast Guard) whom the Secretary concerned determines are providing support to members of the Armed Forces described in paragraph (1).

(b) Secretary concerned defined

In this section, the term "Secretary concerned" means

(1) the Secretary of Defense with respect to matters concerning the Department of Defense; and

(2) the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to matters concerning the Coast Guard.

3. Termination

Appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation (including a continuing appropriation) for any purpose for which amounts are made available in section 2; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable regular or continuing appropriations resolution or other Act without any appropriation for such purpose; or (3) January 1, 2015.

From: Beirne Fallon, Katie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=fallon, katherine b.311>
Sent: Sat Sep 28 2013 14:41:33 EDT
Simas, David M. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=simas, david m.688>;Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>;Brundage, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>;Palmieri, Jennifer </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=palmieri, jennifer m.cd6>;Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>;Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>;Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_l_nabors>;Rodriguez, Miguel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=miguel_e_rodriguez>
To: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>;Earnest, Joshua R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=joshuar.earnest67836121>;Carney, Jay </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=james_f_carney>;Schultz, Eric </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eric_h_schultz>
CC:
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Ex 5 - (5 U.S.C. Sec 552 (b)(5))

From: Simas, David M.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:37 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Brundage, Amy; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Ex 5 - (5 U.S.C. Sec 552 (b)(5))

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 2:31 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Deese and Burwell good.

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:20 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

Carney statement:

(b) (5)

From: Palmieri, Jennifer
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:16 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 01:10 PM
To: Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Carney statement:

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 01:02 PM
To: Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Pfeiffer, Dan
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:58 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:57 PM

To: Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:50 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Brundage, Amy; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

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(b) (5)

[Redacted]

(b) (5)

[Redacted]

From: Brundage, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>
Sent: Sat Sep 28 2013 14:54:13 EDT
To: Carney, Jay </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=james_f_carney>; Simas, David M. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=simas, david m.688>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Palmieri, Jennifer </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=palmieri, jennifer m.cd6>; Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_l_nabors>; Rodriguez, Miguel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=miguel_e_rodriguez>; Beirne Fallon, Katie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=fallon, katherine b.311>
CC: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Earnest, Joshua R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=joshuar.earnest67836121>; Schultz, Eric </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eric_h_schultz>
Subject: can we call final?
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Carney, Jay
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:52 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:51 PM

To: Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric

Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:48 PM

To: Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric

Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Simas, David M.

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:37 PM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Brundage, Amy; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric

Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)



From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 2:31 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Deese and Burwell good.

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:20 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)



Carney statement:

(b) (5)



From: Palmieri, Jennifer
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:16 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 01:10 PM
To: Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Carney statement:

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 01:02 PM
To: Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Pfeiffer, Dan
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:58 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:57 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beime Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:50 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Brundage, Amy; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

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(b) (5)

(b) (5)



From: Furman, Jason L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=furman, jason 1.277>
Sent: Sat Sep 28 2013 15:42:52 EDT
To: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Sperling, Gene </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eugene_b_sperling>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: Re: Latest statement - please ok this one
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 03:42 PM
To: Furman, Jason L.; Sperling, Gene; Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: RE: Latest statement - please ok this one

(b) (5)

From: Furman, Jason L.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:41 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Sperling, Gene; Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: Re: Latest statement - please ok this one

(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 03:38 PM
To: Burke, Jordan; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Brundage, Amy; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric; Sperling, Gene; Furman, Jason L.
Subject: RE: Latest statement - please ok this one

(b) (5)

(b) (5) [REDACTED]

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(b) (5) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

* * * * *

From: Burke, Jordan
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:12 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Brundage, Amy; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beime Fallon, Katie

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Latest statement - please ok this one

(b)

From: Palmieri, Jennifer
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:12 PM
To: Pfeiffer, Dan; Brundage, Amy; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Burke, Jordan
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Latest statement - please ok this one

(b) (5)

From: Pfeiffer, Dan
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:11 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Burke, Jordan
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Latest statement - please ok this one

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:10 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Burke, Jordan
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Latest statement - please ok this one

Slight edit. Please approve

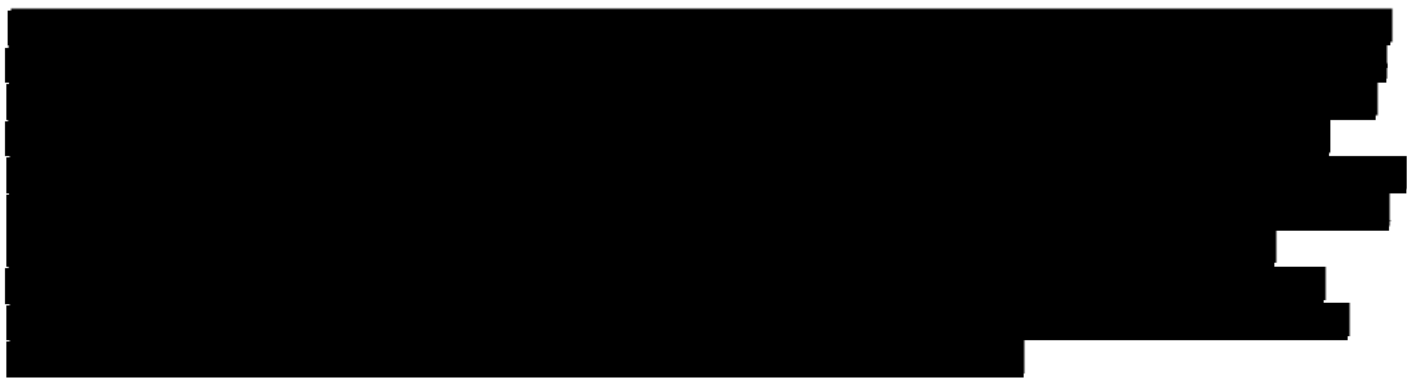
(b) (5)

(b) (5)



From: Palmieri, Jennifer
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 03:01 PM
To: Carney, Jay; Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Burke, Jordan
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Carney, Jay
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 2:53 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)



From: Brundage, Amy

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:51 PM

To: Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric

Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:48 PM

To: Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric

Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Simas, David M.

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:37 PM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Brundage, Amy; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric

Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)



From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 2:31 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Deese and Burwell good.

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:20 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)




Carney statement:

(b) (5)

From: Palmieri, Jennifer
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:16 PM

To: Brundage, Amy; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 01:10 PM
To: Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Carney statement:

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 01:02 PM
To: Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Pfeiffer, Dan
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:58 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:57 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:50 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Brundage, Amy; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

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(b) (5)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5)



From: Furman, Jason L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=furman, jason 1.277>
Sent: Sat Sep 28 2013 15:48:58 EDT
Beirne Fallon, Katie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=fallon, katherine b.311>; Palmieri, Jennifer </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=palmieri, jennifer m.cd6>; Burke, Jordan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jordan_m_burke>; Carney, Jay </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=james_f_carney>; Brundage, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>; Simas, David M. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=simas, david m.688>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_l_nabors>; Rodriguez, Miguel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=miguel_e_rodriguez>
To: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Earnest, Joshua R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=joshuar.earnest67836121>; Schultz, Eric </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eric_h_schultz>
CC:
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote
Attachments:
Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Beirne Fallon, Katie
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 03:47 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Burke, Jordan; Carney, Jay; Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Palmieri, Jennifer
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 03:46 PM
To: Burke, Jordan; Carney, Jay; Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Furman, Jason L.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Adding Furman to this chain.

(b) (5)

A small rectangular black redaction box.

(b) (5)

A large rectangular black redaction box covering the majority of the page content.

From: Burke, Jordan
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:40 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Changes below:

(b) (5)

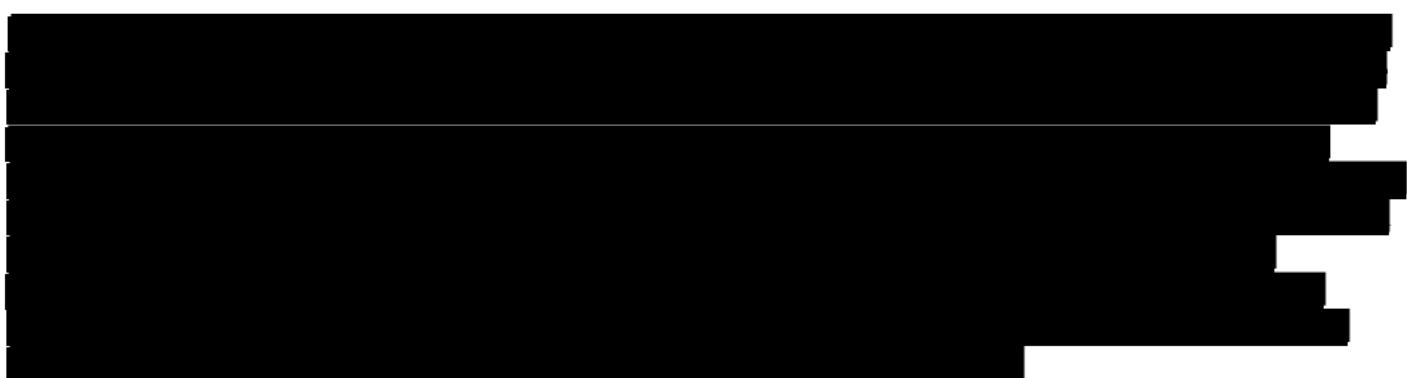
A large rectangular black redaction box covering the bottom portion of the page content.

(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely redacted with a solid black box. The redaction covers approximately the top third of the page.

From: Palmieri, Jennifer
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:01 PM
To: Carney, Jay; Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Burke, Jordan
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

A horizontal line of text is redacted with a solid black box.
A single line of text is redacted with a solid black box.A large rectangular area of the document is completely redacted with a solid black box. The redaction covers approximately the middle third of the page.

From: Carney, Jay
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 2:53 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric

Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:51 PM

To: Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric

Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:48 PM

To: Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric

Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Simas, David M.

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:37 PM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Brundage, Amy; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric

Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Some proposed edits in red.

(b) (5)



From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 2:31 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Deese and Burwell good.

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:20 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)



Carney statement:

(b) (5)



(b) (5)

From: Palmieri, Jennifer
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:16 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 01:10 PM
To: Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Carney statement:

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 01:02 PM
To: Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Pfeiffer, Dan
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:58 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:57 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:50 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Brundage, Amy; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

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(b) (5)

(b) (5) [REDACTED]

(b) (5) [REDACTED]

From: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
Sent: Sat Sep 28 2013 15:59:07 EDT
Burke, Jordan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jordan_m_burke>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Brundage, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>; Beirne Fallon, Katie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=fallon, katherine b.311>; Palmieri, Jennifer </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=palmieri, jennifer m.cd6>; Carney, Jay </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=james_f_carney>; Simas, David M. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=simas, david m.688>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>; Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_l_nabors>; Rodriguez, Miguel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=miguel_e_rodriguez>; Furman, Jason L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=furman, jason l.277>
To: Earnest, Joshua R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=joshuar.earnest67836121>; Schultz, Eric </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eric_h_schultz>
CC:
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Burke, Jordan
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:58 PM
To: Sarri, Kristen; Brundage, Amy; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.
Cc: Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Sarri, Kristen
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:56 PM
To: Burke, Jordan; Brundage, Amy; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.
Cc: Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric

Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)



From: Burke, Jordan

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:54 PM

To: Brundage, Amy; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric

Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)



(b) (5)



From: Brundage, Amy

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:52 PM

To: Burke, Jordan; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric

Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)



From: Burke, Jordan
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 03:50 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Here's the clean

(b) (5)



From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:49 PM
To: Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Burke, Jordan; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Great jordan can you please send a clean version so I can get it to cos office and out the door ASAP.

From: Beirne Fallon, Katie
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 03:47 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Burke, Jordan; Carney, Jay; Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Palmieri, Jennifer

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 03:46 PM

To: Burke, Jordan; Carney, Jay; Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Furman, Jason L.

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric

Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Adding Furman to this chain.

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Burke, Jordan

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:40 PM

To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric

Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Changes below:

(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely redacted with a solid black box. The redaction covers the majority of the upper half of the page.

From: Palmieri, Jennifer
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:01 PM
To: Carney, Jay; Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Burke, Jordan
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

A single line of text is redacted with a solid black box.

(b) (5)

A single line of text is redacted with a solid black box.

(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely redacted with a solid black box. The redaction covers the lower half of the page.

(b) (5)



From: Carney, Jay
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 2:53 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)



From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:51 PM
To: Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)




From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:48 PM
To: Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)



From: Simas, David M.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:37 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Brundage, Amy; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Some proposed edits in red.

(b) (5)



From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 2:31 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Deese and Burwell good.

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:20 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

Carney statement:

(b) (5)

From: Palmieri, Jennifer

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:16 PM

To: Brundage, Amy; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.

Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric

Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 01:10 PM

To: Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie

Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric

Subject: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Carney statement:

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 01:02 PM

To: Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie

Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric

Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Pfeiffer, Dan

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:58 PM

To: Brundage, Amy; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie

Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen

Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:57 PM

To: Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie

Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen

Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:50 PM

To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Brundage, Amy; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel

Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen

Subject: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

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(b) (5)

(b) (5)

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(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely redacted with black ink. The redaction covers approximately the middle third of the page content.

From: Sperling, Gene </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eugene_b_sperling>
Sent: Sat Sep 28 2013 16:01:21 EDT
To: Brundage, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>; Burke, Jordan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jordan_m_burke>; Beirne Fallon, Katie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=fallon, katherine b.311>; Palmieri, Jennifer </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=palmieri, jennifer m.cd6>; Carney, Jay </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=james_f_carney>; Simas, David M. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=simas, david m.688>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_l_nabors>; Rodriguez, Miguel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=miguel_e_rodriguez>; Furman, Jason L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=furman, jason l.277>
CC: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Earnest, Joshua R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=joshuar.earnest67836121>; Schultz, Eric </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eric_h_schultz>
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Good statement

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 03:56 PM
To: Burke, Jordan; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.; Sperling, Gene
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Fresh version. Getting this to cos office now

(b) (5)



From: Burke, Jordan
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 03:54 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:52 PM
To: Burke, Jordan; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Burke, Jordan
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 03:50 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Here's the clean

(b) (5)



From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:49 PM
To: Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Burke, Jordan; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Great jordan can you please send a clean version so I can get it to cos office and out the door ASAP.

From: Beirne Fallon, Katie
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 03:47 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Burke, Jordan; Carney, Jay; Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)



From: Palmieri, Jennifer
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 03:46 PM
To: Burke, Jordan; Carney, Jay; Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese,

Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Furman, Jason L.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Adding Furman to this chain.

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Burke, Jordan
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:40 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Changes below:

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely redacted with a solid black box. The redaction covers the majority of the upper half of the page.

From: Palmieri, Jennifer
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:01 PM
To: Carney, Jay; Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Burke, Jordan
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

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(b) (5)

A single line of text is redacted with a solid black box.

(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely redacted with a solid black box. The redaction covers the middle section of the page, below the email header.

From: Carney, Jay

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 2:53 PM

To: Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:51 PM

To: Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:48 PM

To: Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Simas, David M.

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:37 PM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Brundage, Amy; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Some proposed edits in red.

(b) (5)



From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 2:31 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Deese and Burwell good.

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:20 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)



Carney statement:

(b) (5)



(b) (5)



From: Palmieri, Jennifer
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:16 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)



+ Simas.

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 01:10 PM
To: Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Carney statement:

(b) (5)



From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 01:02 PM
To: Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Pfeiffer, Dan
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:58 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:57 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:50 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Brundage, Amy; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

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(b) (5)

(b) (5)



From: Berman, Lindsey R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bermanl64651664>
Sent: Sat Sep 28 2013 16:22:06 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dl-omb-permanentstaff>
CC: Neill, Allie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=allie_r_neill>; Brown, Calla </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=calla_r_brown1>; Menter, Jessica </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jessican.menter27256674>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Valeriano, Ofelia M. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=ofeliam.valeriano03427313>
Subject: FY 2014 CR Update: House CR Amendments ATTACHED
Attachments: XML_055_xml.pdf; XML_056_xml.pdf

Importance: High
Priority: Urgent
Sensitivity: None

Attached please find the two House amendments to the Senate CR.

From: Berman, Lindsey R.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 2:22 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Valeriano, Ofelia M.; Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: FY 2014 CR Update: Text of military pay bill

Attached is the text of the bill providing military pay in the event of a Government shutdown.

When I get the text of the two amendments cited below, I'll send around.

From: Berman, Lindsey R.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 1:49 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Valeriano, Ofelia M.; Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: FY 2014 CR Update: Latest on House CR Action
Importance: High

The House just passed a same-day rule allowing for consideration of the CR today by a vote of 226-191, with 4 Democrats voting for the rule and 4 Republicans voting against.

While text has not been released, according to the press release of House Leadership (found below) the House will vote on two amendments to the Senate-passed CR. The first delays ACA by a year and the second permanently repeals the medical device tax. Both change the date of the Senate CR back to December 15.

House Speaker John Boehner, Majority Leader Eric Cantor, Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy, and GOP Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers released the following joint statement:

“The American people don’t want a government shut down and they don’t want ObamaCare. That’s why later today, the House will vote on two amendments to the Senate-passed continuing resolution that will keep the government open and stop as much of the president’s health care law as possible.

“The first amendment delays the president’s health care law by one year. And the second permanently repeals ObamaCare’s medical device tax that is sending jobs overseas.

“Both of these amendments will change the date of the Senate CR to December 15th. We will also vote on a measure that ensures our troops get paid, no matter what.

“We will do our job and send this bill over, and then it’s up to the Senate to pass it and stop a government shutdown.”

From: Berman, Lindsey R.

Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 9:35 AM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff

Cc: Neill, Allie; Berman, Lindsey R.; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Valeriano, Ofelia M.

Subject: FY 2014 CR Update: Senate finishing up // House schedule

Building on Ofelia’s email last night...

Senate Action:

Today at approximately 12:30pm the Senate will vote in relation to:

1. The motion to invoke cloture on HJRes 59 (60-vote threshold).
2. A motion to waive all applicable Budget Act points of order (should any be raised). (60-vote threshold)
3. Adoption of the perfectitute amendment #1974 (Majority)
4. Passage of HJRes 59, as amended. (Majority)

Following passage of the CR, the amended bill will go back to the House.

House Action:

Last night, the House Rules Committee met and reported out a same-day rule for the CR (and any bill related to the debit limit). This will enable the Senate-passed CR to go to the floor the same day the Rules Committee meets on the bill. Without the resolution, the CR would have to wait until the next day to be considered.

On Saturday, September 28, 2013, the House Rules Committee is expected to meet on the CR, with floor consideration to follow.

Members have also been advised that the House is expected to meet on Sunday, September 29.

The options for how the House will modify the CR remain under discussion.

We'll update you as we learn more.

AMENDMENT TO H.J. RES. 59
OFFERED BY MR. PAULSEN OF MINNESOTA

In the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, strike section 105 and all that follows through section 129 and insert the following (renumbering succeeding sections accordingly):

1 SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority grant-
2 ed pursuant to this joint resolution shall cover all obliga-
3 tions or expenditures incurred for any project or activity
4 during the period for which funds or authority for such
5 project or activity are available under this joint resolution.

6 SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this joint
7 resolution or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal
8 year 2014, appropriations and funds made available and
9 authority granted pursuant to this joint resolution shall
10 be available until whichever of the following first occurs:
11 (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any
12 project or activity provided for in this joint resolution; (2)
13 the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations
14 Act for fiscal year 2014 without any provision for such
15 project or activity; or (3) December 15, 2013.

16 SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this joint
17 resolution shall be charged to the applicable appropriation,

1 fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such appli-
2 cable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is
3 enacted into law.

4 SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made
5 available by or authority granted pursuant to this joint
6 resolution may be used without regard to the time limita-
7 tions for submission and approval of apportionments set
8 forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but
9 nothing in this joint resolution may be construed to waive
10 any other provision of law governing the apportionment
11 of funds.

12 SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of
13 this joint resolution, except section 106, for those pro-
14 grams that would otherwise have high initial rates of oper-
15 ation or complete distribution of appropriations at the be-
16 ginning of fiscal year 2014 because of distributions of
17 funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others,
18 such high initial rates of operation or complete distribu-
19 tion shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded
20 for such programs funded by this joint resolution that
21 would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

22 SEC. 110. This joint resolution shall be implemented
23 so that only the most limited funding action of that per-
24 mitted in the joint resolution shall be taken in order to
25 provide for continuation of projects and activities.

1 SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory
2 payments whose budget authority was provided in appro-
3 priations Acts for fiscal year 2013, and for activities under
4 the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be
5 continued at the rate to maintain program levels under
6 current law, under the authority and conditions provided
7 in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2013,
8 to be continued through the date specified in section
9 106(3).

10 (b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for man-
11 datory payments due on or about the first day of any
12 month that begins after October 2013 but not later than
13 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may con-
14 tinue to be made, and funds shall be available for such
15 payments.

16 SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101
17 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each
18 department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate
19 for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such de-
20 partment or agency, consistent with the applicable appro-
21 priations Act for fiscal year 2013, except that such author-
22 ity provided under this section shall not be used until after
23 the department or agency has taken all necessary actions
24 to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative ex-
25 penses.

1 SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this joint resolution
2 may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10
3 of Public Law 91–672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of
4 the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22
5 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Au-
6 thorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C.
7 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act
8 of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

9 SEC. 114. (a) Each amount incorporated by reference
10 in this joint resolution that was previously designated by
11 the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global
12 War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the
13 Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of
14 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section
15 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act is designated by the Congress
16 for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Ter-
17 rorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of such Act or
18 as being for disaster relief pursuant to section
19 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act, respectively.

20 (b) Of the amounts made available by section 101
21 for “Social Security Administration, Limitation on Admin-
22 istrative Expenses” for the cost associated with continuing
23 disability reviews under titles II and XVI of the Social
24 Security Act and for the cost associated with conducting
25 redeterminations of eligibility under title XVI of the Social

1 Security Act, \$273,000,000 is provided to meet the terms
2 of section 251(b)(2)(B)(ii)(III) of the Balanced Budget
3 and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended,
4 and \$469,639,000 is additional new budget authority
5 specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(B) of such Act.

6 (c) Section 5 of Public Law 113–6 shall apply to
7 amounts designated in subsection (a) for Overseas Contin-
8 gency Operations/Global War on Terrorism.

9 SEC. 115. Section 3003 of division G of Public Law
10 113–6 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this joint
11 resolution by substituting “fiscal year 2014” for “fiscal
12 year 2013” each place it appears.

13 SEC. 116. Section 408 of the Food for Peace Act (7
14 U.S.C. 1736b) shall be applied by substituting the date
15 specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for “De-
16 cember 31, 2012”.

17 SEC. 117. Amounts made available under section 101
18 for “Department of Commerce—National Oceanic and At-
19 mospheric Administration—Procurement, Acquisition and
20 Construction” may be apportioned up to the rate for oper-
21 ations necessary to maintain the planned launch schedules
22 for the Joint Polar Satellite System and the Geostationary
23 Operational Environmental Satellite system.

24 SEC. 118. The authority provided by sections 1205
25 and 1206 of the National Defense Authorization Act for

1 Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81) shall continue in
2 effect, notwithstanding subsection (h) of section 1206,
3 through the earlier of the date specified in section 106(3)
4 of this joint resolution or the date of the enactment of
5 an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for
6 military activities of the Department of Defense.

7 SEC. 119. Section 14704 of title 40, United States
8 Code, shall be applied to amounts made available by this
9 joint resolution by substituting the date specified in sec-
10 tion 106(3) of this joint resolution for “October 1, 2012”.

11 SEC. 120. Notwithstanding any other provision of
12 this joint resolution, except section 106, the District of
13 Columbia may expend local funds under the heading “Dis-
14 trict of Columbia Funds” for such programs and activities
15 under title IV of H.R. 2786 (113th Congress), as reported
16 by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
17 resentatives, at the rate set forth under “District of Co-
18 lumbia Funds—Summary of Expenses” as included in the
19 Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request Act of 2013 (D.C. Act
20 20–127), as modified as of the date of the enactment of
21 this joint resolution.

22 SEC. 121. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are
23 provided for “The Judiciary—Courts of Appeals, District
24 Courts, and Other Judicial Services—Defender Services”
25 at a rate for operations of \$1,012,000,000.

1 SEC. 122. For the period covered by this joint resolu-
2 tion, section 550(b) of Public Law 109–295 (6 U.S.C. 121
3 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified
4 in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for “October 4,
5 2013”.

6 SEC. 123. The authority provided by section 532 of
7 Public Law 109–295 shall continue in effect through the
8 date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution.

9 SEC. 124. The authority provided by section 831 of
10 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) shall
11 continue in effect through the date specified in section
12 106(3) of this joint resolution.

13 SEC. 125. (a) Any amounts made available pursuant
14 to section 101 for “Department of Homeland Security—
15 U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Salaries and Ex-
16 penses”, “Department of Homeland Security—U.S. Cus-
17 toms and Border Protection—Border Security Fencing,
18 Infrastructure, and Technology”, and “Department of
19 Homeland Security—U.S. Immigration and Customs En-
20 forcement—Salaries and Expenses” shall be obligated at
21 a rate for operations as necessary to respectively—

22 (1) sustain the staffing levels of U.S. Customs
23 and Border Protection Officers, equivalent to the
24 staffing levels achieved on September 30, 2013, and
25 comply with the last proviso under the heading “De-

1 partment of Homeland Security—U.S. Customs and
2 Border Protection—Salaries and Expenses” in divi-
3 sion D of Public Law 113–6;

4 (2) sustain border security operations, including
5 sustaining the operation of Tethered Acrostat Radar
6 Systems; and

7 (3) sustain the staffing levels of U.S. Immigra-
8 tion and Customs Enforcement agents, equivalent to
9 the staffing levels achieved on September 30, 2013,
10 and comply with the sixth proviso under the heading
11 “Department of Homeland Security—U.S. Immigra-
12 tion and Customs Enforcement—Salaries and Ex-
13 penses” in division D of Public Law 113–6.

14 (b) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify
15 the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives and the Senate on each use of the authority
17 provided in this section.

18 SEC. 126. In addition to the amount otherwise pro-
19 vided by section 101 for “Department of the Interior—
20 Department-wide Programs—Wildland Fire Manage-
21 ment”, there is appropriated \$36,000,000 for an addi-
22 tional amount for fiscal year 2014, to remain available
23 until expended, for urgent wildland fire suppression activi-
24 ties: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, \$15,000,000
25 is for burned area rehabilitation: *Provided further*, That

1 such funds shall only become available if funds previously
2 provided for wildland fire suppression will be exhausted
3 imminently and the Secretary of the Interior notifies the
4 Committees on Appropriations of the House of Represent-
5 atives and the Senate in writing of the need for these addi-
6 tional funds: *Provided further*, That such funds are also
7 available for transfer to other appropriations accounts to
8 repay amounts previously transferred for wildfire suppres-
9 sion.

10 SEC. 127. In addition to the amount otherwise pro-
11 vided by section 101 for “Department of Agriculture—
12 Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management”, there is ap-
13 propriated \$600,000,000 for an additional amount for fis-
14 cal year 2014, to remain available until expended, for ur-
15 gent wildland fire suppression activities: *Provided*, That
16 such funds shall only become available if funds previously
17 provided for wildland fire suppression will be exhausted
18 imminently and the Secretary of Agriculture notifies the
19 Committees on Appropriations of the House of Represent-
20 atives and the Senate in writing of the need for these addi-
21 tional funds: *Provided further*, That such funds are also
22 available for transfer to other appropriations accounts to
23 repay amounts previously transferred for wildfire suppres-
24 sion.

1 SEC. 128. The authority provided by section 347 of
2 the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Ap-
3 propriations Act, 1999 (as contained in section 101(e) of
4 division A of Public Law 105–277; 16 U.S.C. 2104 note)
5 shall continue in effect through the date specified in sec-
6 tion 106(3) of this joint resolution.

7 SEC. 129. (a) The authority provided by subsection
8 (m)(3) of section 8162 of the Department of Defense Ap-
9 propriations Act, 2000 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note; Public Law
10 106–79), as amended, shall continue in effect through the
11 date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution.

12 (b) For the period covered by this joint resolution,
13 the authority provided by the provisos under the heading
14 “Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission—Capital
15 Construction” in division E of Public Law 112–74 shall
16 not be in effect.

17 SEC. 130. Section 1244(c)(3) of the National Defense
18 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1157
19 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

20 “(C) FISCAL YEAR 2014.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
22 vided in clauses (ii) and (iii), the total
23 number of principal aliens who may be
24 provided special immigrant status under
25 this section in fiscal year 2014 during the

1 period ending on December 15, 2013 shall
2 be the sum of—

3 “(I) the number of aliens de-
4 scribed in subsection (b) whose appli-
5 cation for special immigrant status
6 under this section is pending on Sep-
7 tember 30, 2013; and

8 “(II) 2,000.

9 “(ii) EMPLOYMENT PERIOD.—The 1-
10 year period during which the principal
11 alien is required to have been employed by
12 or on behalf of the United States Govern-
13 ment in Iraq under subsection (b)(1)(B)
14 shall begin on or after March 20, 2003,
15 and end on or before September 30, 2013.

16 “(iii) APPLICATION DEADLINE.—The
17 principal alien seeking special immigrant
18 status under this subparagraph shall apply
19 to the Chief of Mission in accordance with
20 subsection (b)(4) not later than December
21 15, 2013.”.

22 SEC. 131. (a) REPEAL OF MEDICAL DEVICE EXCISE
23 TAX.—Chapter 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
24 is amended by striking subchapter E.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Subsection (a)
2 of section 4221 of such Code is amended by striking the
3 last sentence.

4 (2) Paragraph (2) of section 6416(b) of such Code
5 is amended by striking the last sentence.

6 (3) The table of subchapters for chapter 32 of such
7 Code is amended by striking the item relating to sub-
8 chapter E.

9 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
10 this section shall apply to sales after the date of the enact-
11 ment of this joint resolution.



**AMENDMENT TO THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO
H.J. RES. 59
OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN OF TENNESSEE**

In the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, strike section 106 and all that follows through section 129 and insert the following (renumbering succeeding sections accordingly):

1 SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this joint
2 resolution or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal
3 year 2014, appropriations and funds made available and
4 authority granted pursuant to this joint resolution shall
5 be available until whichever of the following first occurs:
6 (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any
7 project or activity provided for in this joint resolution; (2)
8 the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations
9 Act for fiscal year 2014 without any provision for such
10 project or activity; or (3) December 15, 2013.

11 SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this joint
12 resolution shall be charged to the applicable appropriation,
13 fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such appli-
14 cable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is
15 enacted into law.

1 SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made
2 available by or authority granted pursuant to this joint
3 resolution may be used without regard to the time limita-
4 tions for submission and approval of apportionments set
5 forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but
6 nothing in this joint resolution may be construed to waive
7 any other provision of law governing the apportionment
8 of funds.

9 SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of
10 this joint resolution, except section 106, for those pro-
11 grams that would otherwise have high initial rates of oper-
12 ation or complete distribution of appropriations at the be-
13 ginning of fiscal year 2014 because of distributions of
14 funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others,
15 such high initial rates of operation or complete distribu-
16 tion shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded
17 for such programs funded by this joint resolution that
18 would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

19 SEC. 110. This joint resolution shall be implemented
20 so that only the most limited funding action of that per-
21 mitted in the joint resolution shall be taken in order to
22 provide for continuation of projects and activities.

23 SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory
24 payments whose budget authority was provided in appro-
25 priations Acts for fiscal year 2013, and for activities under

1 the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be
2 continued at the rate to maintain program levels under
3 current law, under the authority and conditions provided
4 in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2013,
5 to be continued through the date specified in section
6 106(3).

7 (b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for man-
8 datory payments due on or about the first day of any
9 month that begins after October 2013 but not later than
10 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may con-
11 tinue to be made, and funds shall be available for such
12 payments.

13 SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101
14 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each
15 department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate
16 for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such de-
17 partment or agency, consistent with the applicable appro-
18 priations Act for fiscal year 2013, except that such author-
19 ity provided under this section shall not be used until after
20 the department or agency has taken all necessary actions
21 to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative ex-
22 penses.

23 SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this joint resolution
24 may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10
25 of Public Law 91-672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of

1 the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22
2 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Au-
3 thorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C.
4 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act
5 of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

6 SEC. 114. (a) Each amount incorporated by reference
7 in this joint resolution that was previously designated by
8 the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global
9 War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the
10 Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of
11 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section
12 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act is designated by the Congress
13 for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Ter-
14 rorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of such Act or
15 as being for disaster relief pursuant to section
16 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act, respectively.

17 (b) Of the amounts made available by section 101
18 for “Social Security Administration, Limitation on Admin-
19 istrative Expenses” for the cost associated with continuing
20 disability reviews under titles II and XVI of the Social
21 Security Act and for the cost associated with conducting
22 redeterminations of eligibility under title XVI of the Social
23 Security Act, \$273,000,000 is provided to meet the terms
24 of section 251(b)(2)(B)(ii)(III) of the Balanced Budget
25 and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended,

1 and \$469,639,000 is additional new budget authority
2 specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(B) of such Act.

3 (c) Section 5 of Public Law 113–6 shall apply to
4 amounts designated in subsection (a) for Overseas Contin-
5 gency Operations/Global War on Terrorism.

6 SEC. 115. Section 3003 of division G of Public Law
7 113–6 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this joint
8 resolution by substituting “fiscal year 2014” for “fiscal
9 year 2013” each place it appears.

10 SEC. 116. Section 408 of the Food for Peace Act (7
11 U.S.C. 1736b) shall be applied by substituting the date
12 specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for “De-
13 cember 31, 2012”.

14 SEC. 117. Amounts made available under section 101
15 for “Department of Commerce—National Oceanic and At-
16 mospheric Administration—Procurement, Acquisition and
17 Construction” may be apportioned up to the rate for oper-
18 ations necessary to maintain the planned launch schedules
19 for the Joint Polar Satellite System and the Geostationary
20 Operational Environmental Satellite system.

21 SEC. 118. The authority provided by sections 1205
22 and 1206 of the National Defense Authorization Act for
23 Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81) shall continue in
24 effect, notwithstanding subsection (h) of section 1206,
25 through the earlier of the date specified in section 106(3)

1 of this joint resolution or the date of the enactment of
2 an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for
3 military activities of the Department of Defense.

4 SEC. 119. Section 14704 of title 40, United States
5 Code, shall be applied to amounts made available by this
6 joint resolution by substituting the date specified in sec-
7 tion 106(3) of this joint resolution for “October 1, 2012”.

8 SEC. 120. Notwithstanding any other provision of
9 this joint resolution, except section 106, the District of
10 Columbia may expend local funds under the heading “Dis-
11 trict of Columbia Funds” for such programs and activities
12 under title IV of H.R. 2786 (113th Congress), as reported
13 by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives, at the rate set forth under “District of Co-
15 lumbia Funds—Summary of Expenses” as included in the
16 Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request Act of 2013 (D.C. Act
17 20–127), as modified as of the date of the enactment of
18 this joint resolution.

19 SEC. 121. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are
20 provided for “The Judiciary—Courts of Appeals, District
21 Courts, and Other Judicial Services—Defender Services”
22 at a rate for operations of \$1,012,000,000.

23 SEC. 122. For the period covered by this joint resolu-
24 tion, section 550(b) of Public Law 109–295 (6 U.S.C. 121
25 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified

1 in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for “October 4,
2 2013”.

3 SEC. 123. The authority provided by section 532 of
4 Public Law 109–295 shall continue in effect through the
5 date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution.

6 SEC. 124. The authority provided by section 831 of
7 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) shall
8 continue in effect through the date specified in section
9 106(3) of this joint resolution.

10 SEC. 125. (a) Any amounts made available pursuant
11 to section 101 for “Department of Homeland Security—
12 U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Salaries and Ex-
13 penses”, “Department of Homeland Security—U.S. Cus-
14 toms and Border Protection—Border Security Fencing,
15 Infrastructure, and Technology”, and “Department of
16 Homeland Security—U.S. Immigration and Customs En-
17 forcement—Salaries and Expenses” shall be obligated at
18 a rate for operations as necessary to respectively—

19 (1) sustain the staffing levels of U.S. Customs
20 and Border Protection Officers, equivalent to the
21 staffing levels achieved on September 30, 2013, and
22 comply with the last proviso under the heading “De-
23 partment of Homeland Security—U.S. Customs and
24 Border Protection—Salaries and Expenses” in divi-
25 sion D of Public Law 113–6;

1 (2) sustain border security operations, including
2 sustaining the operation of Tethered Acrostat Radar
3 Systems; and

4 (3) sustain the staffing levels of U.S. Immigra-
5 tion and Customs Enforcement agents, equivalent to
6 the staffing levels achieved on September 30, 2013,
7 and comply with the sixth proviso under the heading
8 “Department of Homeland Security—U.S. Immigra-
9 tion and Customs Enforcement—Salaries and Ex-
10 penses” in division D of Public Law 113–6.

11 (b) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify
12 the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
13 resentatives and the Senate on each use of the authority
14 provided in this section.

15 SEC. 126. In addition to the amount otherwise pro-
16 vided by section 101 for “Department of the Interior—
17 Department-wide Programs—Wildland Fire Manage-
18 ment”, there is appropriated \$36,000,000 for an addi-
19 tional amount for fiscal year 2014, to remain available
20 until expended, for urgent wildland fire suppression activi-
21 ties: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, \$15,000,000
22 is for burned area rehabilitation: *Provided further*, That
23 such funds shall only become available if funds previously
24 provided for wildland fire suppression will be exhausted
25 imminently and the Secretary of the Interior notifies the

1 Committees on Appropriations of the House of Represent-
2 atives and the Senate in writing of the need for these addi-
3 tional funds: *Provided further*, That such funds are also
4 available for transfer to other appropriations accounts to
5 repay amounts previously transferred for wildfire suppres-
6 sion.

7 SEC. 127. In addition to the amount otherwise pro-
8 vided by section 101 for “Department of Agriculture—
9 Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management”, there is ap-
10 propriated \$600,000,000 for an additional amount for fis-
11 cal year 2014, to remain available until expended, for ur-
12 gent wildland fire suppression activities: *Provided*, That
13 such funds shall only become available if funds previously
14 provided for wildland fire suppression will be exhausted
15 imminently and the Secretary of Agriculture notifies the
16 Committees on Appropriations of the House of Represent-
17 atives and the Senate in writing of the need for these addi-
18 tional funds: *Provided further*, That such funds are also
19 available for transfer to other appropriations accounts to
20 repay amounts previously transferred for wildfire suppres-
21 sion.

22 SEC. 128. The authority provided by section 347 of
23 the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Ap-
24 propriations Act, 1999 (as contained in section 101(e) of
25 division A of Public Law 105–277; 16 U.S.C. 2104 note)

1 shall continue in effect through the date specified in sec-
2 tion 106(3) of this joint resolution.

3 SEC. 129. (a) The authority provided by subsection
4 (m)(3) of section 8162 of the Department of Defense Ap-
5 propriations Act, 2000 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note; Public Law
6 106–79), as amended, shall continue in effect through the
7 date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution.

8 (b) For the period covered by this joint resolution,
9 the authority provided by the provisos under the heading
10 “Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission—Capital
11 Construction” in division E of Public Law 112–74 shall
12 not be in effect.

13 SEC. 130. Section 1244(c)(3) of the National Defense
14 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1157
15 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

16 “(C) FISCAL YEAR 2014.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
18 vided in clauses (ii) and (iii), the total
19 number of principal aliens who may be
20 provided special immigrant status under
21 this section in fiscal year 2014 during the
22 period ending on December 15, 2013 shall
23 be the sum of—

24 “(I) the number of aliens de-
25 scribed in subsection (b) whose appli-

1 cation for special immigrant status
2 under this section is pending on Sep-
3 tember 30, 2013; and

4 “(II) 2,000.

5 “(ii) EMPLOYMENT PERIOD.—The 1-
6 year period during which the principal
7 alien is required to have been employed by
8 or on behalf of the United States Govern-
9 ment in Iraq under subsection (b)(1)(B)
10 shall begin on or after March 20, 2003,
11 and end on or before September 30, 2013.

12 “(iii) APPLICATION DEADLINE.—The
13 principal alien seeking special immigrant
14 status under this subparagraph shall apply
15 to the Chief of Mission in accordance with
16 subsection (b)(4) not later than December
17 15, 2013.”.

18 SEC. 131. (a) ONE-YEAR DELAY IN IMPLEMENTA-
19 TION OF ACA.—Notwithstanding any other provision of
20 law (including section 106 of this joint resolution), to the
21 extent that a provision of ACA (or a change in law attrib-
22 utable to such a provision) is scheduled to and would oth-
23 erwise take effect on a date during the period beginning
24 on October 1, 2013, and ending on December 31, 2014,
25 such provision (or change) shall not be effective during

1 the 1-year period beginning on such date. During such 1-
2 year period, the previous sentence shall be implemented
3 in a manner as to continue the law as in effect as of the
4 day before such date and shall take into account changes
5 that would otherwise be made without regard to any such
6 provision. Upon the expiration of such 1-year period, ex-
7 cept as may otherwise be provided, the provisions of ACA
8 (including the changes in law attributable to such provi-
9 sions) shall be implemented as if the previous provisions
10 of this subsection had not applied. Section 2713(a)(4) of
11 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-13(a)(4))
12 shall not be effective for any period before January 1,
13 2015, with respect to the requirement for specific coverage
14 for any sponsor of a group health plan (or, in the case
15 of student health plans, the institution of higher education
16 offering such plans), health insurance issuer, or individual
17 opposing such requirement for coverage based on religious
18 or moral objections.

19 (b)(1) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—In the
20 case of any amendment made by ACA to the Internal Rev-
21 enue Code of 1986, such amendment shall not apply to—

22 (A) except as otherwise provided in this para-
23 graph, taxable years or plan years, as the case may
24 be, beginning during 2014,

1 (B) in the case of sections 36B and 4980H of
2 such Code, months beginning during 2014,

3 (C) in the case of section 4191 of such Code,
4 sales during 2014,

5 (D) in the case of subchapter B of chapter 34
6 of such Code, policy and plan years beginning during
7 2014,

8 (E) in the case of section 5000B of such Code,
9 services performed during 2014,

10 (F) in the case of sections 6055 and 6056 of
11 such Code, calendar year 2014,

12 (G) in the case of any amendment made by
13 ACA to section 6103 of such Code, disclosures dur-
14 ing 2014,

15 (H) in the case of any amendment made by sec-
16 tion 9004 of the Patient Protection and Affordable
17 Care Act, distributions made during 2014, and

18 (I) in the case of any amendment made by sec-
19 tion 1409 of the Health Care and Education Rec-
20 onciliation Act of 2010, transactions entered into
21 during 2014.

22 (2)(A) ANNUAL FEES.—Sections 9008 and 9010 of
23 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall not
24 apply to annual payment dates (within the meaning of
25 such sections) during 2014.

1 (B) PATIENT-CENTERED OUTCOMES RESEARCH
2 TRUST FUND.—Notwithstanding any other provision of
3 law, during 2014, no amount may be—

4 (i) appropriated, credited, or otherwise trans-
5 ferred to the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research
6 Trust Fund, or

7 (ii) transferred from such Fund.

8 Subsections (a) and (b)(1) shall not apply to section 9511
9 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

10 (3)(A) COORDINATION WITH PROVISIONS SUS-
11 PENDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.—Subsection (a) shall
12 not apply with respect to any provision of ACA to which
13 this subsection applies.

14 (B) COORDINATION WITH PROVISIONS NOT SUS-
15 PENDED UNDER SUBSECTION (a).—Paragraph (1) shall
16 not apply to—

17 (i) section 9815 of the Internal Revenue Code
18 of 1986,

19 (ii) the amendments made by section 1322(h)
20 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,
21 and

22 (iii) the amendments made by section 1004(d)
23 of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act
24 of 2010.

1 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretaries of Health
2 and Human Services and the Treasury shall take such
3 steps as may be required to implement the provisions of
4 this section on a timely basis.

5 (d) ACA DEFINED.—In this section, the term “ACA”
6 means—

7 (1) the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
8 Act (Public Law 111–148), including any amend-
9 ment made by such Act; and

10 (2) title I and subtitle B of title II of the
11 Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of
12 2010 (Public Law 111–152), including any amend-
13 ment made by such title or subtitle.



From: Palmieri, Jennifer </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=palmieri, jennifer.m.cd6>
Sent: Sat Sep 28 2013 17:00:29 EDT
Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Brundage, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>; Burke, Jordan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jordan_m_burke>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Beirne Fallon, Katie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=fallon, katherine b.311>; Carney, Jay </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=james_f_carney>; Simas, David M. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=simas, david m.688>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>; Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_l_nabors>; Rodriguez, Miguel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=miguel_e_rodriguez>; Furman, Jason L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=furman, jason l.277>
To: Earnest, Joshua R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=joshuar.earnest67836121>; Schultz, Eric </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eric_h_schultz>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
CC:
Subject: RE: Final- sending now
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Good here

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 4:50 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Burke, Jordan; Sarri, Kristen; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.
Cc: Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: RE: Final- sending now

And here is the final SAP that is going to WHLA and COS for final sign off.

--

(b) (5)



(b) (5)






From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 4:45 PM
To: Burke, Jordan; Sarri, Kristen; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.
Cc: Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Final- sending now

(b) (5)



From: Burke, Jordan
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 03:58 PM
To: Sarri, Kristen; Brundage, Amy; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.
Cc: Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)



From: Sarri, Kristen
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:56 PM
To: Burke, Jordan; Brundage, Amy; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.
Cc: Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely blacked out, indicating redacted content.

From: Burke, Jordan
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:54 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

A single line of text in the document is blacked out, indicating redacted content.

(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely blacked out, indicating redacted content.

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:52 PM
To: Burke, Jordan; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric

Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Burke, Jordan

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 03:50 PM

To: Brundage, Amy; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric

Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:49 PM

To: Beirne Fallon, Katie; Palmieri, Jennifer; Burke, Jordan; Carney, Jay; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric

Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Beirne Fallon, Katie

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 03:47 PM

To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Burke, Jordan; Carney, Jay; Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Furman, Jason L.

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric

Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Palmieri, Jennifer

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 03:46 PM

To: Burke, Jordan; Carney, Jay; Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Furman, Jason L.

Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric

Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Adding Furman to this chain.

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Burke, Jordan

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:40 PM

To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Carney, Jay; Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Changes below:

(b) (5)



From: Palmieri, Jennifer
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 3:01 PM
To: Carney, Jay; Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Burke, Jordan
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)



(b) (5)



(b) (5)



(b) (5)



(b) (5)



From: Carney, Jay
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 2:53 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)



From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:51 PM
To: Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)



(b) (5)



From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:48 PM

To: Simas, David M.; Burwell, Sylvia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Simas, David M.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:37 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Brundage, Amy; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: RE: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Some proposed edits in red.

(b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 2:31 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Deese and Burwell good.

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:20 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

Carney statement:

(b) (5)

From: Palmieri, Jennifer
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 02:16 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Simas, David M.
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 01:10 PM
To: Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Stab at Carney statement on House vote

Carney statement:

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 01:02 PM
To: Pfeiffer, Dan; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen; Earnest, Joshua R.; Carney, Jay; Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Pfeiffer, Dan
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:58 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:57 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Re: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

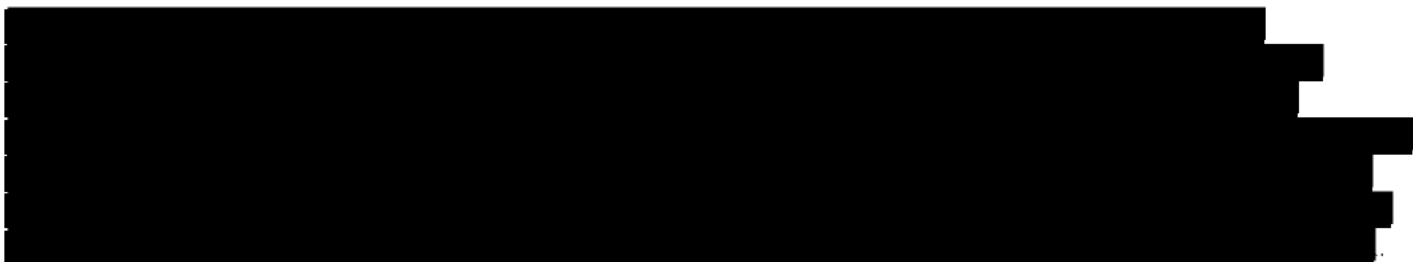
(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:50 PM
To: Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Brundage, Amy; Nabors, Robert L.; Rodriguez, Miguel
Cc: Burwell, Sylvia; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Quick first cut at SAP on HR

(b) (5)

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(b) (5)

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(b) (5)

A horizontal line of text is completely redacted with a solid black box.A large rectangular area of text is completely redacted with a solid black box.

From: Berman, Lindsey R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bermanl64651664>
Sent: Sat Sep 28 2013 23:11:30 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: RE: FY 2014 CR Update: House adopts rule for CR amendments
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Thanks.

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 10:08 PM
To: Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: RE: FY 2014 CR Update: House adopts rule for CR amendments

Lindsey thanks for hanging in there up there and the updates. S

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Berman, Lindsey R.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 09:41 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: RE: FY 2014 CR Update: House adopts rule for CR amendments

By a vote of 231-191, the House has adopted the rule providing for consideration of the two House amendments (Paulsen and Blackburn) to the Senate-amended CR. The rule also provides consideration of H.R. 3210 making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown.

- Paulsen (MN) #1: Repeals the Medical Device Excise Tax; amends the expiration date of the CR to be December 15, 2013; makes a technical change to the Eisenhower Memorial Commission provision; adds a new provision to extend the authority for the U.S. to issue Special Immigrant Visas.

- Blackburn (TN) #2: Provides a one-year delay in implementation of the Affordable Care Act; amends the expiration date of the CR to be December 15, 2013; makes a technical change to the Eisenhower Memorial Commission provision; adds a new provision to extend the authority for the U.S. to issue Special Immigrant Visas.

The House is now debating the two amendments to the CR.

From: Berman, Lindsey R.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 4:22 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Valeriano, Ofelia M.
Subject: FY 2014 CR Update: House CR Amendments ATTACHED
Importance: High

Attached please find the two House amendments to the Senate CR.

From: Berman, Lindsey R.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 2:22 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Valeriano, Ofelia M.; Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: FY 2014 CR Update: Text of military pay bill

Attached is the text of the bill providing military pay in the event of a Government shutdown.

When I get the text of the two amendments cited below, I'll send around.

From: Berman, Lindsey R.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 1:49 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Valeriano, Ofelia M.; Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: FY 2014 CR Update: Latest on House CR Action
Importance: High

The House just passed a same-day rule allowing for consideration of the CR today by a vote of 226-191, with

4 Democrats voting for the rule and 4 Republicans voting against.

While text has not been released, according to the press release of House Leadership (found below) the House will vote on two amendments to the Senate-passed CR. The first delays ACA by a year and the second permanently repeals the medical device tax. Both change the date of the Senate CR back to December 15.

House Speaker John Boehner, Majority Leader Eric Cantor, Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy, and GOP Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers released the following joint statement:

“The American people don’t want a government shut down and they don’t want ObamaCare. That’s why later today, the House will vote on two amendments to the Senate-passed continuing resolution that will keep the government open and stop as much of the president’s health care law as possible.

“The first amendment delays the president’s health care law by one year. And the second permanently repeals ObamaCare’s medical device tax that is sending jobs overseas.

“Both of these amendments will change the date of the Senate CR to December 15th. We will also vote on a measure that ensures our troops get paid, no matter what.

“We will do our job and send this bill over, and then it’s up to the Senate to pass it and stop a government shutdown.”

From: Berman, Lindsey R.

Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 9:35 AM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff

Cc: Neill, Allie; Berman, Lindsey R.; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Valeriano, Ofelia M.

Subject: FY 2014 CR Update: Senate finishing up // House schedule

Building on Ofelia’s email last night...

Senate Action:

Today at approximately 12:30pm the Senate will vote in relation to:

1. The motion to invoke cloture on HJRes 59 (60-vote threshold).
2. A motion to waive all applicable Budget Act points of order (should any be raised). (60-vote threshold)
3. Adoption of the perfectitute amendment #1974 (Majority)
4. Passage of HJRes 59, as amended. (Majority)

Following passage of the CR, the amended bill will go back to the House.

House Action:

Last night, the House Rules Committee met and reported out a same-day rule for the CR (and any bill related to the debit limit). This will enable the Senate-passed CR to go to the floor the same day the Rules Committee meets on the bill. Without the resolution, the CR would have to wait until the next day to be considered.

On Saturday, September 28, 2013, the House Rules Committee is expected to meet on the CR, with floor consideration to follow.

Members have also been advised that the House is expected to meet on Sunday, September 29.

The options for how the House will modify the CR remain under discussion.

We'll update you as we learn more.

From: Berman, Lindsey R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bermanl64651664>
Sent: Sun Sep 29 2013 00:47:26 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>;Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>;DL-OMB-Permanent Staff </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dl-omb-permanentstaff>
CC: Neill, Allie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=allie_r_neill>;Brown, Calla </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=calla_r_brown1>;Menter, Jessica </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jessican.menter27256674>;Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>;Berman, Lindsey R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bermanl64651664>
Subject: FY 2014 CR Update: House sends amended CR back to the Senate
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

The House just passed two amendments to the Senate-amended CR.

The Paulsen amendment (Repeals the Medical Device Tax) PASSED 248-174, with 17 Democrats voting in favor (Barber, Barrow, Bustos, Delaney, Duckworth, Enyart, Maffei, Sean Maloney, Matheson, McIntrye McNerney, Murphy (FL), Owens, Peters (CA), Rahall, Schneider, and Sinema).

The Blackburn amendment (Delays, for one year, any provision of the ACA that takes effect between October 1, 2013 and December 31, 2014) PASSED 231-192, with two Republicans voting against (Gibson and Hanna) and two Democrats voting in favor (Matheson and McIntyre).

In addition, the House passed H.R. 3210 (Military pay in the event of a Government shutdown) by a vote of 423-0.

The House amended CR now goes back to the Senate, which is scheduled to be back in session Monday at 2pm. Below is Senate Majority Leader Reid's statement from earlier today on the House amendments considered tonight as well as Appropriations Committee Chairman Roger's Press Statement on passage.

For Immediate Release

Date: Saturday, September 28, 2013

REID STATEMENT ON REPUBLICANS' LATEST ATTEMPT TO FORCE A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Washington, DC -- Nevada Senator Harry Reid released the following statement today:

"Today's vote by House Republicans is pointless. As I have said repeatedly, the Senate will reject any Republican attempt to force changes to the Affordable Care Act through a mandatory government funding bill or the debt ceiling. Furthermore, President Obama has stated that he would veto such measures if they ever reached his desk.

"To be absolutely clear, the Senate will reject both the one-year delay of the Affordable Care Act and the repeal of the medical device tax. After weeks of futile political games from Republicans, we are still at square one: Republicans must decide whether to pass the Senate's clean CR, or force a Republican government shutdown.

"Senate Democrats have shown that we are willing to debate and vote on a wide range of issues, including efforts to improve the Affordable Care Act. We continue to be willing to debate these issues in a calm and rational atmosphere. But the American people will not be extorted by Tea Party anarchists."

NEWS

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

Website address: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

For Immediate Release: September 29, 2013

Contact: Jennifer Hing, (b) (6)

House Approves Updated Short-Term Continuing Resolution, Preventing Government Shutdown

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. House today approved a short-term continuing resolution (CR) that will keep the government open after the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2013.

The legislation continues funding for government programs and services at the current, post-sequestration annual rate of \$986 billion until December 15, 2013. This rate of funding will remain in place for the length of the continuing resolution, or until Congress approves the annual Appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2014.

The legislation also includes several additional changes, added via amendments on the House floor. These include a one year delay in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the repeal of a tax on medical devices, and other provisions to ensure the continuation of essential federal programs and good governance of federal tax dollars

“I applaud the House for its swift, decisive action in passing this critical legislation today,” said House Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers. “As Members of Congress, we must act responsibly to keep our government open and our country on stable economic footing.”

“Once again, we send this bill to the Senate to do the right thing for this nation – and that is to pass this legislation, and prevent a government shutdown.”

#####

From: Berman, Lindsey R.
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 4:22 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Valeriano, Ofelia M.
Subject: FY 2014 CR Update: House CR Amendments ATTACHED
Importance: High

Attached please find the two House amendments to the Senate CR.

From: Berman, Lindsey R.

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 2:22 PM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff

Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Valeriano, Ofelia M.; Berman, Lindsey R.

Subject: FY 2014 CR Update: Text of military pay bill

Attached is the text of the bill providing military pay in the event of a Government shutdown.

When I get the text of the two amendments cited below, I'll send around.

From: Berman, Lindsey R.

Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 1:49 PM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff

Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Valeriano, Ofelia M.; Berman, Lindsey R.

Subject: FY 2014 CR Update: Latest on House CR Action

Importance: High

The House just passed a same-day rule allowing for consideration of the CR today by a vote of 226-191, with 4 Democrats voting for the rule and 4 Republicans voting against.

While text has not been released, according to the press release of House Leadership (found below) the House will vote on two amendments to the Senate-passed CR. The first delays ACA by a year and the second permanently repeals the medical device tax. Both change the date of the Senate CR back to December 15.

House Speaker John Boehner, Majority Leader Eric Cantor, Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy, and GOP Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers released the following joint statement:

"The American people don't want a government shut down and they don't want ObamaCare. That's why later today, the House will vote on two amendments to the Senate-passed continuing resolution that will keep the government open and stop as much of the president's health care law as possible.

"The first amendment delays the president's health care law by one year. And the second permanently repeals ObamaCare's medical device tax that is sending jobs overseas.

"Both of these amendments will change the date of the Senate CR to December 15th. We will also vote on a measure that ensures our troops get paid, no matter what.

“We will do our job and send this bill over, and then it’s up to the Senate to pass it and stop a government shutdown.”

From: Berman, Lindsey R.

Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 9:35 AM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff

Cc: Neill, Allie; Berman, Lindsey R.; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Valeriano, Ofelia M.

Subject: FY 2014 CR Update: Senate finishing up // House schedule

Building on Ofelia’s email last night...

Senate Action:

Today at approximately 12:30pm the Senate will vote in relation to:

1. The motion to invoke cloture on HJRes 59 (60-vote threshold).
2. A motion to waive all applicable Budget Act points of order (should any be raised). (60-vote threshold)
3. Adoption of the perfectitute amendment #1974 (Majority)
4. Passage of HJRes 59, as amended. (Majority)

Following passage of the CR, the amended bill will go back to the House.

House Action:

Last night, the House Rules Committee met and reported out a same-day rule for the CR (and any bill related to the debit limit). This will enable the Senate-passed CR to go to the floor the same day the Rules Committee meets on the bill. Without the resolution, the CR would have to wait until the next day to be considered.

On Saturday, September 28, 2013, the House Rules Committee is expected to meet on the CR, with floor consideration to follow.

Members have also been advised that the House is expected to meet on Sunday, September 29.

The options for how the House will modify the CR remain under discussion.

We'll update you as we learn more.

From: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
Sent: Tue Oct 01 2013 18:32:33 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC: Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>
Subject: FW: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney, 10/1/2013
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Clips below, including highlighted piece on tomorrow's meeting w/ the Financial Services Forum.

...Q As the debt ceiling closes in, I wonder whether the President will encourage or allow Congress to combine both a CR and debt ceiling measures, working in parallel tracks. And will he now negotiate some aspect of a budget deal on the CR that would give Republicans the ability to say that they've gotten something for this?

MR. CARNEY: Republicans have twisted themselves into pretzels in this effort to try to attach partisan demands to their simple responsibility to fund the government, keep it open, and their simple responsibility to make sure that the United States does not default, that the United States pays its bills.

The President has been abundantly clear that he will not negotiate over Congress's responsibility to pay its bills. He has been clear all year long that he is willing to negotiate with serious-minded Republicans in Congress about our budget priorities and how we should fund them, and what ways we should invest in our middle class and in our economy, and how we can continue to reduce the deficit -- continue the progress we've made reducing the deficit.

But he won't do that under threat of shutdown. And he won't do that under threat of default. This is irresponsible, reckless behavior. As the President just said, Congress ought to open the government, return people to work, and without drama and delay fulfill its responsibility to make sure the United States pays its bills.

We've never defaulted in our history, and the mere threat of default, as we saw in 2011, had terrible impacts on our economy and on our middle class. People didn't get jobs because of the threat of default that was put forth by Republicans in 2011. The economy slowed down. Markets went down. This was the low point of our recovery from the worst recession since the Great Depression. And that only happened with the threat of default.

And unfortunately, now you see Republicans embracing a strategy where they say, I couldn't get -- we couldn't get what we wanted through the congressional process -- so the Affordable Care Act passed the House, passed the Senate, was signed into law, was upheld by the Supreme Court, was validated in a national election -- so we couldn't get it that way, so we're going to attach it to our responsibility to make sure the United States pays its bills. It's wildly irresponsible, and it's dangerous.

Q Isn't a shutdown itself a pivot point where, as you say, the public might have been blaming Republicans going into it, that now the public might be looking at the President for leadership to get out of it and --

MR. CARNEY: Here is what the President is offering Republicans. He's offering them no conditions attached to reopening the government; no conditions attached to raising the debt ceiling. If he were to play the Republican game, he might say, you know what, I won't sign a bill that funds the government unless you pass legislation that 90 percent of the American people support, which is to expand background checks on gun purchases. But he won't do that. He believes that kind of thing should be done through the legislative process, the normal legislative process, and we had that fight. And he continues to press for Congress to pass an expansion of background checks, but he would not do that. He would not attach an unrelated priority to this and threaten a shutdown or threaten default.

Congress has the responsibility to keep the government open. Congress has the responsibility to pay the United States' bills. That's enshrined in law. It's enshrined in the Constitution. And the President is not making any demands associated with it. Only the Republicans are. And what they're trying to do, as the President said today, is deprive those folks that the President had with him today, and millions more like them, of the opportunity to get affordable health insurance for the first time in their lives, or for the first time in a long time, or else they'll continue to have the government shut down and maybe they'll default. And that's irresponsible.

...Q All right. Tomorrow, the President is meeting with members of the Financial Services Forum, which is top Wall Street CEOs. In the context of the shutdown and the looming default, what does the President want these CEOs to do on behalf of that effort? And does the White House, does the President believe that they still have influence with Republicans like they once may have?

MR. CARNEY: Well, you're correct that he will meet with members of the Financial Services Forum here at the White House tomorrow while they are in town for their annual meeting. And the meeting will be on a broad array of economic issues, but among them will be the disastrous impact that Congress's failure to raise the debt ceiling, without drama or delay, would have on their businesses and on the nation's and world's economy.

I think these business leaders know very well what the consequences were of the mere flirtation with default that Republicans engaged in, in 2011. That was a setback to our recovery. It was a setback to all kinds of businesses, and it was a setback to middle-class families.

Doing it over again, and going even further and actually defaulting if that's what the Republicans decide to do would have even more catastrophic consequences. And I'm sure that would be of great concern to business leaders around the country as it is, and would to average folks around the country, who would see interest rates rise dramatically, would see credit dry up potentially for their small businesses. And in many ways, the consequences of default are unknowable with any specificity because we've never defaulted before. What we do know is they would be catastrophic for the economy, and it would cast into question the bedrock foundation of the global economic system, which is the United States economy and the United States currency and the faith and credit of this nation.

Q Does the President think the views of these CEOs matter?

MR. CARNEY: I think lawmakers of both parties understand that -- at least should understand that when business leaders like these say that default would be terrible for business, would be terrible for the economy, would be terrible for the American people, they know what they're talking about. And we certainly hope that members of Congress, especially Republicans, would heed that warning.

... Q Jay, there's a proposal being floated right now on the Hill to pass a series of small funding bills that would reopen certain agencies or programs. Would the President sign that?

MR. CARNEY: Daily now, hourly, we're asked to respond to floated proposals, some of which never come to fruition because of opposition either within the Republican Party or rejection by the Senate. So I'm not going to do that.

What I can say is even that proposal shows the utter lack of seriousness that we're seeing from Republicans. If they want to open the government, they should open the government, and then we can negotiate about how we fund our budget priorities in the future. A piecemeal approach to funding the government is not a serious approach any more than it would be a serious way to try to deal with the consequences of default and the absolute necessity to maintain the full faith and credit of the United States.

Again, Republican lawmakers, because they are responding to one faction of one party of one house of one branch of government and being driven by them, are twisting themselves into pretzels. They're contortionists now in terms of all the ways, the different ways that they have tried to avoid their fundamental responsibility which is to keep the government functioning and to negotiate in a serious way.

Remember, the President put forward a compromise budget early this year and had many discussions with Republican lawmakers about the need to find common ground, and urged them to make similar proposals that replicated his demonstrated willingness to make tough choices. And we have not seen that all year. But hopefully we will.

...Q How long is the President willing to wait for House Republicans to pass a clean CR?

MR. CARNEY: I'm not sure what that means, because that suggests that the President could take over the House and pass one himself, and he can't. He cannot order or force, call out the National Guard to get the Speaker of the House to put a clean CR on the floor. He's hoping that the Speaker and the other leaders in the House will do the right thing sooner rather than later.

...MR. CARNEY: When it comes to shutdown, the impacts are serious and they're consequential, and they're not good. Default is a whole other proposition. And what is disturbing about what we are seeing unfold on Capitol Hill with those Republicans who are most fervent and seem to be leading all the other Republicans in the House, is their willingness to engage with the proposition of default in order to achieve their partisan aims.

A lot of them ran, promising to repeal Obamacare. And keeping with their promises, they have voted many times to repeal or defund or undermine Obamacare. And you may argue whether that was a sensible use of their time -- because it wasn't successful -- but that's certainly fine in terms of what their responsibilities are fulfilling the promises they made on the campaign trail. But I doubt that any of them seriously said, I am going to repeal Obamacare or else I'll send the world economy into global recession and middle-class families around the country will suffer because of it. I don't think I heard that on the campaign trail.

...Q Senator Durbin said that he thought that negotiations separate from a shutdown and a default, but negotiations on the budget that had the repeal of the medical device tax might be a way to solve this, provide some kind of fig leaf for Republicans. Are you pursuing that in any way? I'm not talking about negotiating on the shutdown. I'm talking about a separate track.

MR. CARNEY: We're not negotiating with anybody to reopen the government. We're not negotiating with anybody for the Congress to pass the bill that would reopen the government on any partisan condition.

What the President has said, as he said yesterday to Steve Inskeep, is that he's always been willing to have conversations with lawmakers of both parties who have ideas about how to make the Affordable Care Act better, more efficient and more effective for millions of American families.

I mean, one of the ironies of this -- again, of the spaghetti that's been thrown on the wall here by Republicans -- one of the ironies of this proposal is that it would increase the deficit significantly if it were passed.

Q You would have to offset it somewhere else, but --

MR. CARNEY: Well, have you heard Republicans --

Q Are those negotiations underway?

MR. CARNEY: No.

...Q On the debt ceiling, we're a couple of weeks away. The President in the past and Jack Lew in the past have talked about the possibility of Social Security payments being delayed. Should folks out there who rely on those Social Security payments be worried that given the inability of Congress to just keep the government open, that they're also not going to be able to hit that debt ceiling, and that those checks might not be in the mail at the end of the month?

MR. CARNEY: I won't make any specific predictions about the consequences of default -- others are better able to do that -- except to say that the consequences of default would, I think, as universally recognized by credible economists and men and women in the business community, be devastating. But I don't want to say this will happen or that will happen.

Q Some Republicans have talked about passing legislation to make sure that Social Security is walled off in the same way that troop pay was. I'm wondering if that's something the President would sign.

MR. CARNEY: I think, relying on my memory from past experience, is that what we're talking about here is the full faith and credit of the United States. "Faith" is an important word there. Faith is the assurance that investors around the world have that the United States will always pay its bills. And that's why our economy is so strong. That's why it is relied upon. That's why our currency is so important to the functioning of the global economic and financial system.

And so I think the idea that you pay some of your bills but not others would not reward that faith particularly well. The issue here is there should be no diversion from what has been true throughout our history, which is that the United States, in many ways unique among nations, is always good to its word, that it pays its bills. It is the safest investment in the world. And that is an important place to occupy.

From: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
Sent: Wed Oct 02 2013 07:23:04 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>
CC:
Subject: FW: US Daily: Updated Thoughts on the Federal Shutdown and Its Implications (Phillips)
Attachments: Image1.jpg; Image2.jpg; Image3.jpg; Image4.jpg

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Aviva flagged this as a particularly good summary of the economic implications of lapse.

From: GS Global ECS US Research
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 5:59:35 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: McCarthy, Brayden T.
Subject: US Daily: Updated Thoughts on the Federal Shutdown and Its Implications (Phillips)

Header

Goldman Sachs Global Economics, Commodities and Strategy Research

Header

US Daily: Updated Thoughts on the Federal Shutdown and Its Implications (Phillips)

Published October 2, 2013

* The Federal government has partially shut down as a result of a lapse in spending authority, with no clear resolution in sight. It is impossible to say how long the situation will last but our best guess is that it will be resolved no sooner than the end of the week and that there is an increasing likelihood that efforts to end the shutdown will converge with the debt limit debate. This would prolong the shutdown until around the time of

the debt limit deadline in mid-October. We estimate the current shutdown would reduce growth by 0.2pp in Q4 on an annualized basis if it lasted a week, and 0.4pp if it lasted two weeks. Overall, the current situation implies downside risk of 0.25pp to 0.5pp to our GDP forecast of 2.5pp in Q4, with a positive effect of the same magnitude in Q1 as federal spending returns to its non-shutdown level.

* We don't see a clear reaction in financial markets to the shutdown per se, but there has been a fairly clear reaction in the Treasury Bill yield curve, with a sharp rise in yields among securities maturing between the Treasury's stated debt limit deadline of October 17 and the time we expect the Treasury to deplete its cash balance around month-end.

* The delay of the employment report continues to be a focus for market participants. Our best guess at this point is that the report is unlikely to be released this week, because 1) unless the government reopens soon, the analysts who compile the report are unlikely to have enough time to finish their work, and 2) it is not at all clear that the government will even be open on October 4, which would make a release on schedule very unlikely.

Q: What happened to the government's ability to operate?

A: The fiscal year ended at midnight on September 30, and the federal government's authority to spend expired with it. Congress often fails to enact long-term spending legislation by the deadline, and instead typically passes a short-term "continuing resolution" (CR) that extends spending authority for anywhere from a few days to a few months. The difference between a CR and real appropriations (spending) legislation is that the former simply extends current policy, while the latter creates new policy. At this point the government has been operating mostly under CRs for the last few years.

Now that federal spending authority has expired, some federal activity has ceased. However, the share of total federal spending actually affected by the shutdown is fairly limited, because 1) only activities funded by congressional appropriations (so-called "discretionary spending") are affected; this represents about one-third of total federal spending, b) around 60% of activities within that category of spending are likely to be deemed critical and thus exempt; and c) in the areas that are not exempt, employee salaries would be cancelled during the shutdown, but most other procurement of goods and services would be less affected.

Q: What is the impact on growth from a shutdown?

A: We estimate the current shutdown would reduce growth by 0.2pp in Q4 on an annualized basis if it lasted a week, and 0.4pp if it lasted two weeks. This is slightly lower than the "generic" estimate of the effect of a shutdown that we last published, due to the fact that this shutdown started on the first day of the quarter and thus the share of non-compensation spending that will be delayed into the next quarter is likely to be lower. Overall, the current situation implies downside risk of 0.25pp to 0.5pp to our GDP forecast of 2.5pp in Q4. Growth would bounce back in Q1 2014 by roughly the same amount as the negative effect in Q4, once the level of federal spending returned to its non-shutdown level. However, beyond the restoration of compensation spending to its non-shutdown level, since most of the effect of the shutdown is a cancellation of spending and only a small portion would be a delay into the next quarter, we would not expect the level of overall federal spending in Q1 to be boosted by the delayed spending from Q4 by more than a small amount.

In our view the effect of the shutdown depends mainly on three variables:

* How long it lasts. Compensation of federal employees is counted as federal consumption in the national accounts, so each day that federal employees do not go to work and are not paid results in a reduction in federal consumption. For every day of shutdown, federal compensation in Q4 is reduced by \$400 million, or \$1.6 billion at an annual rate. The effect is linear; a five-day shutdown would have five times the effect of a one-day shutdown.

* Whether federal pay is retroactively made up. If Congress opted to retroactively make up lost pay, as they did in 1995, it would mitigate the effect on the federal contribution to GDP, which treats compensation as

federal consumption. More important than the accounting issues, it would also mitigate the hit to personal income and reduce any potential effect on personal consumption. We don't include the effect on personal consumption in our estimate of the shutdown effect on growth, but if the shutdown persisted it seems reasonable to assume there could be at least a small effect.

* When in the quarter the shutdown occurs. Apart from compensation, which is a straightforward cancellation of pay, most of the rest of the effect is a question of how much spending is delayed from this quarter into next quarter. This would mainly be an issue for services procurement, which is worth roughly the same amount as civilian employee compensation. We assume that in a short shutdown, these areas would essentially be unaffected, but that in a longer shutdown a greater share of services procurement, for example, would be pushed into the following quarter.

Beyond the direct effect on federal consumption, if the shutdown continues for an extended period, the uncertainty it creates could also lead to downward pressure on growth, at least temporarily. We estimated recently that a rise in policy uncertainty, as measured by the Baker-Bloom-Davis economic policy uncertainty index, to the peak level seen around the 2011 debt limit deadline and the fiscal cliff would imply a 0.35pp negative impulse to our Current Activity Indicator (CAI) and a similar effect on GDP growth if it lasted for two weeks (i.e., about twice as long as in those other episodes). So far, the uncertainty index has roughly doubled compared with where it was over the last few weeks, but it is still around half what it was on average in the week or so preceding the fiscal cliff at the end of 2012, for example.

Exhibit 1: Most of the Shutdown Effect Would Come Through Federal Compensation

Source: Commerce Dept. Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research.

Q: How long will the shutdown last?

A: It is impossible to say but it seems likely to last through the end of the week and there is a clear chance that the shutdown could blend together with the debt limit debate, which could prolong the shutdown to mid-October. While the situation is very fluid, a few guideposts can be helpful to put the situation in perspective. First, there are a few natural deadlines: the end of this week could serve as a deadline, as members of Congress must decide whether to keep Congress in session over the coming weekend to hammer out a deal. Another obvious deadline would be the end of the following week (October 11), when Congress is in theory due to leave for a scheduled one-week recess for Columbus Day. The next deadline would be October 17, when the Treasury expects to exhaust its borrowing capacity under the debt limit.

Another perspective is to consider prior shutdowns. Exhibit 2 presents a histogram of the duration of government shutdowns from 1977 to the present. Although some recent commentary on the shutdown treats all prior shutdowns alike, there are two important distinctions between the current situation and the history of prior shutdowns. First, lapses in appropriations that occurred prior to 1981 did not for the most part result in a broad stop to federal activities, and are not comparable with the current situation. Appropriations lapses became more restrictive as a result of a legal interpretation in 1981, which specified that only essential activities could continue in the event of a lapse in appropriations. Among post-1981 shutdowns, a second distinction must be made between government-wide shutdowns and those that affect only a few agencies. The longest shutdown on record, in late 1995 and early 1996, lasted 21 days, but most of the executive branch had already received their annual appropriations by that point, so the shutdown affected only about 30% of the federal workers who are being furloughed in the current shutdown.

Beyond the natural deadlines on the calendar and prior precedents, the other factors that could influence the duration of the shutdown are shifts in public opinion and the reaction in financial markets.

Exhibit 2: Most comparable shutdowns have lasted 1-3 days

Source: Congressional Research Service. Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research.

Q: Are there signs of stress in financial markets over the shutdown?

A: Financial markets do not seem to have reacted that much to the federal shutdown per se. The S&P 500 declined by 0.6% on Monday, September 30 in anticipation of the shutdown, which appeared very likely by the time trading opened, but US equities recovered those losses today (October 1), despite what we perceived to be an increasing recognition among financial market participants over the course of the day that the shutdown might not be resolved quickly. Government-focused stocks, represented here with the basket of government-exposed stocks constructed by our colleagues in equity research, actually outperformed the broader S&P 500 (Exhibit 3)

However, the Treasury bill market is clearly indicating concern about upcoming debt ceiling deadlines (Exhibit 4). In our view this is the direct result of the increasing acrimony in Washington. Starting with the bill maturing on October 17—the day the Treasury Department has suggested it would exhaust its borrowing authority—bill rates are elevated, suggesting lower investor appetite for holding these securities. The distortion in the bill curve is most apparent in the security maturing on October 31, just after Treasury is likely to have depleted its cash balance. This unusual “humped” pattern is similar to that seen in late July 2011 during the last debt ceiling standoff.

Exhibit 3: Few Signs of Dislocation in Equities, Particularly in Government-Focused Sectors...

Source: Bloomberg. Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research.

Exhibit 4: ...But Treasury Bills Reflect New Signs of Concern About the Debt Limit

Source: Bloomberg. Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research.

Q: Where is public sentiment?

A: Sentiment is generally against the shutdown, but it varies by party and seems likely to shift over the coming days. There are a variety of ways to slice and dice public opinion polling, but we would make a few broad observations:

* The public is clearly against a shutdown when considered in isolation. A CNN poll conducted Sept. 27-29 indicates that 68% see a shutdown of a "few days" as bad for the country; 79% have a negative view of a shutdown lasting a "few weeks."

* Republicans marginally favor the shutdown, but are clearly more split on the issue than Democrats. A Quinnipiac poll (September 23-29) shows 49% of Republicans support a shutdown as a means of blocking Obamacare implementation, with 44% against, while 90% of Democrats are opposed. Independents are predictably in between, but lean more toward the Democratic position agreement over blocking Obamacare. The recent CNN poll shows similar results. The sentiment of self-identified Republican voters will be a

relevant indicator to watch over the coming days for clues as to how party leaders may approach the issue.

* The polling available thus far doesn't even cover the period since the shutdown began. The polling cited above runs through September 29, with sample periods that began before most people viewed a shutdown as very likely. It is hard to say how public opinion will shift, but it seems more likely in our view that opposition to the shutdown will increase.

* The latest "generic ballot" polling suggests an uptick in support for Democrats in the 2014 election.

Pollsters often ask respondents whether they are likely to support Republicans or Democrats in the upcoming congressional election, in a question known as the "generic ballot." The two most recent polls, from Rasmussen and Quinnipiac show a Democratic advantage of 4 points and 9 points respectively, a shift of around 4 or 5 points in both polls since mid-summer and near the highs for the year.

Q: How will this end?

A: It is only a matter of time before funding is restored and the government reopens. This will be accomplished through passage of a continuing resolution, but this could take a few different paths. We see three basic options:

* Pass a "clean" CR that does not include policy changes to Obamacare. This is the path of least resistance. It is fairly clear in our view that if such a bill were put to a vote in the House there would be a clear majority in support. In the Senate, where Republicans have opposed a clean CR thus far, we would not be surprised to see support begin to build among Senate Republicans over the next several days as public sentiment deteriorates.

* Negotiate a CR that includes minimal changes to Obamacare. Congressional Republicans appear to be exploring the possibility of attaching an incremental change to the Affordable Care Act to the CR. The idea behind this approach would be to attach something with symbolic importance but modest enough effects on the broader program that Democrats would be willing to accept it. The two obvious options are to repeal the tax on medical device sales (this would reduce tax revenue by \$29bn/10yrs) or to reverse a prior Obama administration decision regarding the treatment of members of Congress and their staff under the law. While it is still possible a deal could be struck along these lines, the willingness of congressional Democrats to entertain changes to Obamacare on the CR seems to be fading.

* Incorporate a CR into a broader agreement on the debt ceiling. As the duration of the shutdown lengthens, the likelihood that a debt ceiling increase and continuing resolution will be merged into one package increases. If the shutdown continues into next week, this would become the most likely outcome, in our view.

Q: How does the shutdown play into the debt ceiling debate?

A: If the shutdown lasts past the end of the week, it seems likely to converge with the debt limit discussion. This would be negative at face value because it would imply that the shutdown could potentially last for two weeks. What it means for the debt ceiling is less clear. Our first reaction is that it is probably a negative compared to where things seemed to stand heading into the shutdown. At that point, it initially appeared that the duration would be reasonably short--perhaps a few days--and that this would allow Republicans to demonstrate their commitment to blocking implementation of Obamacare without risking major negative consequences. This would create unity among Republicans that might ease consideration of the debt limit as lawmakers would be less inclined to have another drawn out dispute so soon after the previous one had been resolved.

This might still be the case, but if the two issues are combined this would mean that lawmakers would head into the debt limit discussion without having resolved the first dispute. This would mean that instead debating Obamacare in the context of the less risky discussion about a shutdown, it would still be in play in the debt limit discussion where the consequences of a mistake are much higher.

That said, ultimately the risks haven't changed that much. The effect on growth from a longer shutdown

would be incrementally more negative, as detailed below. But the debt limit is the main risk and we remain confident that while congressional leaders have been unwilling to compromise on the less risky shutdown question, they will do what is necessary on the debt limit. In fact, it is our sense that part of the reason the shutdown has taken place is because congressional leaders knew a showdown would occur on one of the fiscal deadlines, and it was less risky to have a dispute on the spending bill than on the debt limit.

Q: How does the shutdown affect the economic data release schedule?

A: Of the economic reports scheduled to be issued by federal agencies this week, only unemployment claims data appear likely to be released on schedule. Assuming the shutdown lasts another few days, it seems unlikely that the factory orders report scheduled for Thursday, October 3 will be issued. More importantly, at this stage it appears unlikely that the employment situation report will be issued on Friday, October 4 unless the shutdown is ended very soon. Our understanding is that while the survey work has been completed by now, additional work still must be performed. While it is at least possible that the BLS could still issue the report if an agreement to reopen the government were reached sometime on October 2, it seems unlikely to us that if the shutdown lasts into Thursday that the jobs report would be released on Friday, even if the government had reopened by that point. There are (luckily) only two historical precedents we are aware of for a shutdown around the scheduled release of the payroll report:

* December 1995: Due to the government shutdown between December 15, 1995 and January 6, 1996, the December 1995 employment report that was scheduled for release January 5, 1996 was ultimately released on Friday, January 19, 1996. The long delay was due to the long duration of the shutdown (as noted earlier, that shutdown was not directly comparable to the current one because the second 1995 shutdown affected only a few federal agencies, though the Department of Labor was among them). The delay was as long as it was because the shutdown began around the time when BLS would have conducted the survey and lasted until the day after the report was due to be released. We would not expect nearly as long a delay from the time the government reopens to the release date this time around.

* September 1984: The government shut down for one day (staff were sent home mid-day) on Thursday, October 4, 1984, the day before the employment situation report was due to be released. The government reopened on Friday, and the report was released on schedule.

Although we don't expect the payroll report to be issued this week assuming the shutdown lasts at least into Thursday, we would expect it to be released soon after the government reopens. In light of the 1995 precedent, the most likely scenario appears to be a release on the first Friday after the government reopens.

There is always a possibility that in the event of a prolonged shutdown, the decision not to release the employment report could be reversed. This is at least possible in light of another historical precedent, also from the 1995 shutdown. As noted in the BLS shutdown contingency planning memo, the 1995 shutdown occurred after the CPI estimates had been prepared but before they were released. Economic releases were not classified as exempt from the shutdown, but the risk of disclosure was deemed unacceptable so the report was released as part of the orderly closure process that usually takes place the morning of the first day of a shutdown. Since the employment situation report is of similar importance to the CPI report and was also probably near completion, it is at least possible that the issue could be revisited.

That said, it did not happen as part of the orderly shutdown process on October 1, and at this point the BLS is closed and our understanding is that the staff who compile the report are on furlough like many other federal workers. So until BLS or the White House Office of Management and Budget (which guides shutdown procedures) provides an indication that an exception may be made, we will continue to assume that the payroll report will not be released while the government is closed, and probably won't be released this week if the government has not reopened by Thursday.

Alec Phillips

Jan Hatzius - Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Ex 6 - (5 U.S.C. Sec 552 (b)(6))

Alec Phillips - Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Ex 6 - (5 U.S.C. Sec 552 (b)(6))

Jari Stehn - Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Ex 6 - (5 U.S.C. Sec 552 (b)(6))

Kris Dawsey - Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Ex 6 - (5 U.S.C. Sec 552 (b)(6))

David Mericle - Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Ex 6 - (5 U.S.C. Sec 552 (b)(6))

Shuyan Wu - Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Ex 6 - (5 U.S.C. Sec 552 (b)(6))

Michael Cahill - Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Ex 6 - (5 U.S.C. Sec 552 (b)(6))

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From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Thu Oct 03 2013 13:43:57 EDT
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
CC:
Subject: Fw: OLA Fiscal Report
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Lapse

From: Rodriguez, Miguel
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 01:23 PM
To: DMCOS; Nabors, Robert L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Pfeiffer, Dan; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Reed, Bruce N.
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Fernandez, Micaela
Subject: RE: OLA Fiscal Report

Cantor memo to House R conference immediately below.

###

TO: Republican Colleagues

FR: Eric Cantor

DT: October 3, 2013

RE: Current State of Play, Strategy, and Goals

I wanted to take a moment and provide an update as to how I see things developing with respect to the government shutdown. We are really in an unprecedented place. Consider the following:

- The President of the United States is refusing to actively engage to end the current impasse. Respected author Bob Woodward has called President Obama's avoidance of talks "baffling." The President and his team's absence is in stark contrast to the last Democrat President. During government shutdowns in 1995, President Clinton actively engaged Republican leaders in an attempt to find a solution.
- Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, not only refuses to participate in negotiations, he actually took the extra

step to procedurally kill, on a party-line vote, the House's formal request, backed by 7 House Democrats, to form a Conference Committee to resolve the current impasse.

- And with the shutdown occurring, House Democrats, Senator Reid, and President Obama have gone a step farther, refusing to even agree to common sense items to keep funding for veterans benefits and allow the District of Columbia to spend its local funds despite the fact that in the last government shutdown the House and Senate on voice vote passed and President Clinton signed a bill to do the very same thing.

- To make matters worse, the Obama Administration appears to be purposefully refusing to use the authority given to him by the Pay Our Military Act to bring civilian DOD employees back to work.

This shutdown is a result of President Obama and Majority Leader Reid refusing to reach across the aisle in a divided government, a problem that has sadly been a hallmark of this Administration.

One can only speculate as to why President Obama and Congressional Democrats are not only refusing to negotiate but now refusing to support or provide the American people with relief from the government shutdown. But I firmly believe their position is untenable. It is at odds with how even past Democratic Presidents have handled similar situations.

Because their position is unsustainable and because we are willing to negotiate to find a reasonable resolution, I believe it is critical that we continue to engage and offer meaningful solutions for the American people.

That is why over the next several days the House will pass bills to:

1. Reopen the NIH and ensure that all patients have access to clinical trials (passed 254 to 171 with the support of 25 Democrats),
2. Ensure that our National Guard and reservists are paid,
3. Fund veterans benefits,
4. Reopen our national parks (passed 252 to 173 with the support of 23 Democrats), and
5. Allow the District of Columbia to expend their local funds (passed by voice vote).

I expect that in addition to these bills, we will consider other similar pieces of legislation to reopen critical operations of the federal government.

Once we pass these bills, it will be up to Majority Leader Reid whether he continues his obstructionist tactics. I would point out though, that doing so means opposing proposals supported by Senate Democrats. For example:

- Senators Sanders, Hirono, Begich, Tester, and Blumenthal have introduced a companion bill to ensure that veterans' benefits are funded.
- Senator Landrieu has called for adoption of a proposal to allow the District of Columbia to expend their local funds.

Our Strategy: While no one can predict with certainty how the current shutdown will be resolved, I am confident that if we keep advancing common-sense solutions to the problems created by the shutdown that

Senate Democrats and President Obama will eventually agree to meaningful discussions that would allow us to ultimately resolve this impasse. The American people have elected a divided government and they expect us to work together and they will not countenance one party simply refusing to negotiate.

We must also not forget what we are fighting for: fairness and equal treatment under the law. Under Obamacare – which is now coming into effect – the Obama Administration has created thousands of special carve-outs for special interests:

- The Administration has suspended the mandate that large businesses provide insurance, but kept the mandate that individuals purchase insurance or face a penalty under the law.
- The Administration has created a special consideration – not in the law – to provide Members of congress with benefits under Obamacare that are not provided to anyone else in America.
- Over 1,600 health plans for unions, state and local governments and others have been granted special waivers from the requirements of Obamacare.

These sweet-heart deals where the law applies to some but not others; where unions, politicians, and big business get special breaks but working middle-class families and small businesses are left to suffer is unacceptable. The last bill we sent to the Senate did two very reasonable things, it delayed the mandate for individuals for one-year so that families are treated just like big businesses and overturned the special treatment for politicians, ensuring that elected officials and appointees live under Obamacare.

It is unfortunate – especially for the men and women who work for the federal government and serve our nation so admirably – that we are in this situation. I am willing, as I know you are, to resolve this impasse. And I look forward to the moment when our friends on the other-side of the aisle decide to do the same.

Thank you for all your efforts in these trying times.

Eric

From: Rodriguez, Miguel

Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 10:54 PM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; 'DMCOS'; Nabors, Robert L.; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; 'Christian.Weideman (b) (6)'; 'Randall.DeValk (b) (6)';

Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Fernandez, Micaela

Subject: OLA Fiscal Report

Attached please find this evening's OLA report.

Thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: Burwell, Sylvia

Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 07:19 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: Rodriguez, Miguel; DMCOS; Nabors, Robert L.; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; 'Christian.Weideman(b) (6)'; 'Randall.DeValk(b) (6)'

Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Fernandez, Micaela

Subject: RE: OLA Fiscal Report

We have now heard that (b) (5)

Will wait until after the 8 am to circulate a sap so we get input. We have a draft that we can modify accordingly.

Sylvia

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Rodriguez, Miguel

Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 09:42 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: DMCOS; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; 'Christian.Weideman(b) (6)'; 'Randall.DeValk(b) (6)'

Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Fernandez, Micaela

Subject: OLA Fiscal Report

Attached please find tonight's brief OLA report.

Thanks.

From: Rodriguez, Miguel

Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 8:03 PM

To: 'DMCOS(b) (6)'; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; 'Christian.Weideman(b) (6)'; 'Randall.DeValk(b) (6)'

Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Fernandez, Micaela

Subject: VOTE: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass Joint Resolution (Natl Parks), FAILED (252-176)

2/3s majority not achieved to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution.

22 Democrats voted "yes".

1 Republican voted "no".

From: Rodriguez, Miguel

Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 07:55 PM

To: 'DMCOS (b) (6)'; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; 'Christian.Weideman (b) (6)'; 'Randall.DeValk (b) (6)'; <(b) (6)>

Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Fernandez, Micaela

Subject: VOTE: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass Joint Resolution (DC Funding), FAILED (265-163)

2/3s majority not achieved to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution.

34 Democrats voted "yes".

From: Rodriguez, Miguel

Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 07:46 PM

To: 'DMCOS (b) (6)'; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; 'Christian.Weideman (b) (6)'; 'Randall.DeValk (b) (6)'; <(b) (6)>

Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Fernandez, Micaela

Subject: VOTE: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass Joint Resolution (VA Funding), FAILED (264-164)

2/3s majority not achieved to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution.

33 Democrats vote "yes".

From: Rodriguez, Miguel

Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 10:09 AM

To: 'DMCOS (b) (6)'; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; 'Christian.Weideman (b) (6)'; <(b) (6)>

(b) (6) >; 'Randall.DeValk(b) (6) (b) (6) >

Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Asen, Jonathan

Subject: VOTE: Senate Agrees to Table Motion to Go to Conference (54-46)

The Senate agreed to table the motion to go to conference on the CR, 54-46.

Party-line vote.

From: Rodriguez, Miguel

Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 1:19 AM

To: 'DMCOS(b) (6)'; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; 'Christian.Weideman(b) (6)'; 'Randall.DeValk(b) (6)'

Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Asen, Jonathan

Subject: HOUSE VOTE: Motion to Go to Conference, AGREED TO (228-199)

On agreeing to the resolution (includes motion to go to conference on the CR)

RY:221

RN:9

DY:7

DN:190

Totals

Yea: 228

Nay: 199

Breakdown of votes:

Dem Yeas (7):

Barber

Barrow

Maffei

Maloney, Sean

Matheson

McIntyre

Peterson

Republican Nays (9):

Bentivolio

Broun (Ga)

Dent

Grimm

Jones
King (NY)
LoBiondo
Massie
Wolf

House Dems scrapped the idea of a vote on a motion to instruct.

From: Rodriguez, Miguel
Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 12:15 AM
To: 'DMCOS (b) (6)'; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; 'Christian.Weideman (b) (6)'; '>'; 'Randall.DeValk (b) (6)'; '< (b) (6)'; '>
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Asen, Jonathan
Subject: Addl. House Votes Tonight

Earlier tonight the House Rules Committee voted to approve a rule to send the CR to a conference committee. At approximately 12:30 AM, the House will vote on the rule to go to conference with the Senate.

Following that vote, the House is expected to begin one hour of debate on a Democratic Motion to Instruct (MTI) conferees. The MTI will tell conferees to report a clean CR.

Following debate on the Motion to Instruct Conferees, the House is expected to vote on the motion. Reports are that votes could go until about 3:00 AM.

Reid just announced that he will move to table what the House sends over. The Senate is in at 9:30 AM Tuesday morning.

From: Rodriguez, Miguel
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 10:23 PM
To: 'DMCOS (b) (6)'; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; 'Christian.Weideman (b) (6)'; 'Randall.DeValk (b) (6)'; '>
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Asen, Jonathan
Subject: RE: VOTE: Motion to Table House Amdts to CR, AGREED TO (54-46)

House Rules Committee meeting at 10:30 PM. Chatter that they could execute a motion to request a

conference with the Senate on the CR. Conflicting reports on whether a short-term CR (7 days) would accompany such a motion.

We're looking into what the response from the Senate would be to such a request. Recall, House Rs have been refusing to go to conference with the Senate on the full budget for months.

Finally, worth noting that a motion to go to conference is subject to debate and 60 votes.

From: Rodriguez, Miguel
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 9:38 PM
To: 'DMCOS (b) (6)'; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; 'Christian.Weideman (b) (6)'; 'Randall.DeValk (b) (6)'
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Asen, Jonathan
Subject: VOTE: Motion to Table House Amdts to CR, AGREED TO (54-46)

As expected, the Reid motion to table House amendments to the Senate amendment to H.J.Res.59 was AGREED TO by a vote of 54 to 46. Strict party-line vote.

Message gets sent back to the House. No word yet on House Republicans' next move.

From: Rodriguez, Miguel
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 9:08 PM
To: 'DMCOS (b) (6)'; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; 'Christian.Weideman (b) (6)'; 'Randall.DeValk (b) (6)'
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Asen, Jonathan
Subject: RE: House -- Amendment PASSED (228-201)

Senate vote to table House amendment has just started.

From: Rodriguez, Miguel

Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 8:44 PM

To: 'DMCOS (b) (6)'; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; 'Christian.Weideman (b) (6)'; 'Randall.DeValk (b) (6)'
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Asen, Jonathan
Subject: House -- Amendment PASSED (228-201)

13 GOP “no” votes on CR, 9 Dem “yeas”.

Senate reportedly will take up the motion to table in the next 45 minutes or so.

From: Rodriguez, Miguel

Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 8:24 PM

To: 'DMCOS (b) (6)'; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; 'Christian.Weideman (b) (6)'; 'Randall.DeValk (b) (6)'
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Asen, Jonathan
Subject: House -- Voting NOW

The House is voting on their most recent amendment right now.

The Senate is prepared to take up and vote on tabling the House amendment as soon as 9:30 PM.

From: Rodriguez, Miguel

Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 3:51 PM

To: 'DMCOS (b) (6)'; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; 'Christian.Weideman (b) (6)'; 'Randall.DeValk (b) (6)'
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Asen, Jonathan
Subject: Senate -- Military Pay Bill, PASSED by Unanimous Consent

By unanimous consent, the Senate passed H.R.3210, legislation that ensures pay for military personnel in the event of a government shutdown.

From: Rodriguez, Miguel
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 2:26 PM
To: 'DMCOS (b) (6)'; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; 'Christian.Weideman (b) (6)'; 'Randall.DeValk (b) (6)'
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Asen, Jonathan
Subject: RE: VOTE: House Amendments to CR, TABLED, 54-46

Sorry for the multiple emails.

The joint resolution will now be sent back to the House of Representatives.

From: Rodriguez, Miguel
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 2:25 PM
To: 'DMCOS (b) (6)'; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; 'Christian.Weideman (b) (6)'; 'Randall.DeValk (b) (6)'
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Asen, Jonathan
Subject: VOTE: House Amendments to CR, TABLED, 54-46

Straight party line vote.

From: Rodriguez, Miguel
Sent: Sunday, September 29, 2013 12:14 AM
To: 'DMCOS (b) (6)'; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; 'Christian.Weideman (b) (6)'; 'Randall.DeValk (b) (6)'
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Asen, Jonathan
Subject: VOTE: Medical Device Tax Repeal Amendment to H.J. Res 59 (CR) -- PASSED, 248-174

Motion to Concur with the Senate Amendment with a House Amendment, Part 1 (Paulsen) – Repeals the Medical Device Tax, adding an estimated \$30 billion to the deficit over 10 years.

PASSED: 248-174

RY: 231

RN: 0

DY: 17

From: Rodriguez, Miguel
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2013 04:25 PM
To: DMCOS; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; Christian.Weideman (b) (6); (b) (6); Randall.DeValk (b) (6); (b) (6)
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Asen, Jonathan
Subject: CR Text

House text attached.

Thanks.

From: Rodriguez, Miguel
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 5:52 PM
To: DMCOS; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; Christian.Weideman (b) (6); Randall.DeValk (b) (6)
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Asen, Jonathan
Subject: OLA Fiscal Memo

Attached please find this evening's Congressional report.

Thanks.

From: Rodriguez, Miguel
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 1:50 PM
To: DMCOS; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; Christian.Weideman (b) (6); Randall.DeValk (b) (6)
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.
Subject: Senate Vote -- CR, PASSED (54-44)

Party-line vote.

Senators not voting – Flake and Hatch

From: Rodriguez, Miguel
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 1:32 PM
To: DMCOS; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; Christian.Weideman (b) (6); Randall.DeValk (b) (6)
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.
Subject: RE: Senate Vote -- Reid-Mikulski Striking Amendment, PASSED (54-44)

Reid-Mikulski amendment (striking amendment) PASSED 54-44.

Party-line vote.

Senators not voting – Flake and Hatch

Senate vote on final passage of the CR starting now.

From: Rodriguez, Miguel
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 1:18 PM
To: DMCOS; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; Christian.Weideman (b) (6); Randall.DeValk (b) (6)
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.
Subject: Senate Vote -- Motion to Waive the Budget Point of Order (68-30)

In the Senate, the motion to waive the budget point of order was AGREED TO by a vote of 68 to 30

Next votes:

- Reid-Mikulski amendment #1974; and
- Passage of H.J.Res.59, as amended, if amended.

Republicans Voting to Waive the Budget Point of Order:

Blunt

Chambliss

Chiesa

Cochran

Collins

Cornyn

Graham

Isakson

Kirk

McCain

McConnell

Murkowski

Portman

Wicker

Senators Not Voting

Flake

Hatch

From: Rodriguez, Miguel
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 12:58 PM
To: DMCOS; Nabors, Robert L.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Palmieri, Jennifer; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Sperling, Gene; Jarrett, Valerie; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; Christian.Weideman (b) (6); Randall.DeValk (b) (6)
Cc: Quillian, Natalie; Canegallo, Kristie A.
Subject: Vote -- Senate Invokes Cloture on CR (79-19)

From: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
Sent: Thu Oct 03 2013 16:50:14 EDT
To: DL-OMB-PADs and Policy Officials </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dlombpadsandpolicyofficials85717766>
CC:
Subject: RE: Heads up on Upcoming House Action
Attachments:

Importance: Normal

Priority: Normal

Sensitivity: None

This is the likely list –

For Friday and Saturday in House

WIC

FDA

Moran-Wolf to ensure that furloughed workers get paid after shutdown

For sometime next week:

Border Security

Nuclear Security

Tribes

Intell officers pay

Head Start

FEMA

National Weather Service

Impact Aid

From: Sarri, Kristen
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 4:42 PM
To: DL-OMB-PADs and Policy Officials
Subject: Heads up on Upcoming House Action

The House Rules Committee is expected to meet tonight around the dinner hour for another round of mini-CRs. Democrats anticipate 12 to 15 bills to be considered under one rule. WIC and FDA are expected.

Below is a memo from Cantor to the Republican Conference if you haven't see it yet.

TO: Republican Colleagues FR: Eric Cantor DT: October 3, 2013 RE: Current State of Play, Strategy, and Goals

I wanted to take a moment and provide an update as to how I see things developing with respect to the government shutdown. We are really in an unprecedented place. Consider the following:

- The President of the United States is refusing to actively engage to end the current impasse. Respected author Bob Woodward has called President Obama's avoidance of talks "baffling." The President and his team's absence is in stark contrast to the last Democrat President. During government shutdowns in 1995, President Clinton actively engaged Republican leaders in an attempt to find a solution.
- Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, not only refuses to participate in negotiations, he actually took the extra step to procedurally kill, on a party-line vote, the House's formal request, backed by 7 House Democrats, to form a Conference Committee to resolve the current impasse.

· And with the shutdown occurring, House Democrats, Senator Reid, and President Obama have gone a step farther, refusing to even agree to common sense items to keep funding for veterans benefits and allow the District of Columbia to spend its local funds despite the fact that in the last government shutdown the House and Senate on voice vote passed and President Clinton signed a bill to do the very same thing.

· To make matters worse, the Obama Administration appears to be purposefully refusing to use the authority given to him by the Pay Our Military Act to bring civilian DOD employees back to work.

This shutdown is a result of President Obama and Majority Leader Reid refusing to reach across the aisle in a divided government, a problem that has sadly been a hallmark of this Administration.

One can only speculate as to why President Obama and Congressional Democrats are not only refusing to negotiate but now refusing to support or provide the American people with relief from the government shutdown. But I firmly believe their position is untenable. It is at odds with how even past Democratic Presidents have handled similar situations.

Because their position is unsustainable and because we are willing to negotiate to find a reasonable resolution, I believe it is critical that we continue to engage and offer meaningful solutions for the American people.

That is why over the next several days the House will pass bills to:

1. Reopen the NIH and ensure that all patients have access to clinical trials (passed 254 to 171 with the support of 25 Democrats),
2. Ensure that our National Guard and reservists are paid,
3. Fund veterans benefits,
4. Reopen our national parks (passed 252 to 173 with the support of 23 Democrats), and
5. Allow the District of Columbia to expend their local funds (passed by voice vote).

I expect that in addition to these bills, we will consider other similar pieces of legislation to reopen critical operations of the federal government.

Once we pass these bills, it will be up to Majority Leader Reid whether he continues his obstructionist tactics. I would point out though, that doing so means opposing proposals supported by Senate Democrats. For example:

· Senators Sanders, Hirono, Begich, Tester, and Blumenthal have introduced a companion bill to ensure that veterans' benefits are funded.

· Senator Landrieu has called for adoption of a proposal to allow the District of Columbia to expend their local funds.

Our Strategy: While no one can predict with certainty how the current shutdown will be resolved, I am confident that if we keep advancing common-sense solutions to the problems created by the shutdown that Senate Democrats and President Obama will eventually agree to meaningful discussions that would allow us to ultimately resolve this impasse. The American people have elected a divided government and they expect us to work together and they will not countenance one party simply refusing to negotiate.

We must also not forget what we are fighting for: fairness and equal treatment under the law. Under Obamacare – which is now coming into effect – the Obama Administration has created thousands of special carve-outs for special interests:

- The Administration has suspended the mandate that large businesses provide insurance, but kept the mandate that individuals purchase insurance or face a penalty under the law.
- The Administration has created a special consideration – not in the law – to provide Members of congress with benefits under Obamacare that are not provided to anyone else in America.
- Over 1,600 health plans for unions, state and local governments and others have been granted special waivers from the requirements of Obamacare.

These sweet-heart deals where the law applies to some but not others; where unions, politicians, and big business get special breaks but working middle-class families and small businesses are left to suffer is unacceptable. The last bill we sent to the Senate did two very reasonable things, it delayed the mandate for individuals for one-year so that families are treated just like big businesses and overturned the special treatment for politicians, ensuring that elected officials and appointees live under Obamacare.

It is unfortunate – especially for the men and women who work for the federal government and serve our nation so admirably – that we are in this situation. I am willing, as I know you are, to resolve this impasse. And I look forward to the moment when our friends on the other-side of the aisle decide to do the same.

Thank you for all your efforts in these trying times.

Eric

From: DMCOS </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dmcos791>
Sent: Tue Oct 08 2013 20:27:47 EDT
Keenan, Cody </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=codykeen83443781>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Carney, Jay </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=james_f_carney>; Crutchfield, Danielle </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=daniellem.crutchfield16165155>; Furman, Jason L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=furman, jason l.277>; Gray, Danielle </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=danielle_c_gray>; Jarrett, Valerie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=valeriejarrett21782038>; Mastromonaco, Alyssa </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=alyssam.mastromonaco33373521>; Munoz, Cecilia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=ceciliamunoz11642114>; Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_l_nabors>; Palmieri, Jennifer </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=palmieri, jennifer m.cd6>; Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>; Reed, Bruce N. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bruce_n_reed>; Rodriguez, Miguel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=miguel_e_rodriguez>; Rouse, Peter M. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=peterm.rouse37733082>; Ruemmler, Kathryn H. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kathryn.h.ruemmler10175027>; Simas, David M. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=simas, david m.688>; Sperling, Gene </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eugene_b_sperling>; Tchen, Tina </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=christinatchen37475102>; Jennings, Christopher </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jennings, christopher c.e4e>; Lambrew, Jeanne </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jeanne_m_lambrew>; McGuinness, Tara </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=mcguinness, tara d.237>
To:
CC:
Subject: Re: Thanks from my Mom
Attachments:
Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Well, she gave us you so let's call it even.

From: Keenan, Cody
Sent: Tuesday, October 08, 2013 07:46 PM
To: DMCOS; Burwell, Sylvia; Carney, Jay; Crutchfield, Danielle; Furman, Jason L.; Gray, Danielle; Jarrett, Valerie; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Munoz, Cecilia; Nabors, Robert L.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Simas, David M.; Sperling, Gene; Tchen, Tina; Jennings, Christopher; Lambrew, Jeanne; McGuinness, Tara
Subject: Thanks from my Mom

I just shared this story with a few of you upstairs, but my mom currently pays \$1,100 a month for health care on the individual market in Maryland – completely unaffordable for most Americans – because CareFirst

claims her frequent heartburn is a preexisting condition. Oddly enough, the cancer she survived isn't considered a preexisting condition, but it's the reason she refuses to go uninsured and has no choice but to pay up.

Today, she discovered that thanks to Obamacare, she'll be able to stay with her insurance company, with pretty much the same plan she has now, and save \$6,000 a year.

She asked me to say "thank you" to everyone who worked so hard to make it happen. And I thought all of you would enjoy her note to her "no-good Congressman" Andy Harris, a Tea Party creep who's batting 0 for 45 in his efforts to repeal Obamacare.

ck

Begin forwarded message:

From: Marilyn Keenan
Date: October 8, 2013 at 11:29:01 AM EDT
To: Cody Keenan
Subject: Just sent this to Andy Harris, our no-good Congressman

Message Subject: MD health exchange

Message Text: It took a few tries, but I finally got the information I needed on the new MD health insurance exchange. I am going to get a new insurance plan (from the same company and with nearly all the same conditions) for \$6000 less a year! This new law is saving me \$6000 a year! I have been overcharged for years due to a minor pre-existing condition. Now I can get a fair price for my insurance. We need this law to be available to everyone who can't get insurance, couldn't afford it before, or who are currently overcharged. Please don't take it away. Vote for a total budget resolution to re-open the government without destroying this law. You have no idea what it's like to have to buy your own health insurance on the open market. This law is a Godsend for those of us who do. Marilyn Keenan

From: Keenan, Cody </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=codykeen83443781>
Sent: Tue Oct 08 2013 21:10:56 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: RE: Thanks from my Mom
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Hang in there! You've got the hardest job of anyone right now. I'm glad you're doing it.

-----Original Message-----

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Tuesday, October 08, 2013 08:48 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Keenan, Cody
Subject: RE: Thanks from my Mom

Cody, on a very long day...this made me smile and made my day....thank your mom.

From: Keenan, Cody
Sent: Tuesday, October 08, 2013 7:47 PM
To: DMCOS; Burwell, Sylvia; Carney, Jay; Crutchfield, Danielle; Furman, Jason L.; Gray, Danielle; Jarrett, Valerie; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Munoz, Cecilia; Nabors, Robert L.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Reed, Bruce N.; Rodriguez, Miguel; Rouse, Peter M.; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Simas, David M.; Sperling, Gene; Tchen, Tina; Jennings, Christopher; Lambrew, Jeanne; McGuinness, Tara
Subject: Thanks from my Mom

I just shared this story with a few of you upstairs, but my mom currently pays \$1,100 a month for health care on the individual market in Maryland – completely unaffordable for most Americans – because CareFirst claims her frequent heartburn is a preexisting condition. Oddly enough, the cancer she survived isn't considered a preexisting condition, but it's the reason she refuses to go uninsured and has no choice but to pay up.

Today, she discovered that thanks to Obamacare, she'll be able to stay with her insurance company, with pretty much the same plan she has now, and save \$6,000 a year.

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ck

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From: Marilyn Keenan
Date: October 8, 2013 at 11:29:01 AM EDT
To: Cody Keenan
Subject: Just sent this to Andy Harris, our no-good Congressman

Message Subject: MD health exchange

Message Text: It took a few tries, but I finally got the information I needed on the new MD health insurance exchange. I am going to get a new insurance plan (from the same company and with nearly all the same conditions) for \$6000 less a year! This new law is saving me \$6000 a year! I have been overcharged for years due to a minor pre-existing condition. Now I can get a fair price for my insurance. We need this law to be available to everyone who can't get insurance, couldn't afford it before, or who are currently overcharged. Please don't take it away. Vote for a total budget resolution to re-open the government without destroying this law. You have no idea what it's like to have to buy your own health insurance on the open market. This law is a Godsend for those of us who do. Marilyn Keenan

From: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
Sent: Thu Oct 10 2013 11:34:05 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: Fw: GOP presser
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Read out from Allie

From: Neill, Allie
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 11:33 AM
To: Sarri, Kristen
Subject: GOP presser

Line up of ldshp group who is coming to wh this afternoon. McMorris Rogers spoke first: Hopefully that we will have meaningful conversation today w/ POTUS

Today ee'll offer temp increase in debt ceiling

We hope potus choses negotiation over crisis. Negotiation over stonewall.

Boehner: Potus wont talk and we've tried to open up parts of the govt. We want to offer potus today the ability to move and discuss a way forward and deal with pressing problems. Its time for ldshp and conversations to begin. To move halfway towards what he wants so that these convos can begin.

Cantor: We have a temporary raise of debt ceiling in exchange for discussions on how to solve problems.

McCarthy: I'm hopeful for today. That's why our first bill was to go to conference. When we make this offer today for temp ect, we're looking for way to calm the debt.

Qs to Boehner:

Q:What do you need in order to open the govt

A: We need both sides to come together and talk about or nations problems

Q:Will we be back in the same place after the extension?

A:Boehner: We could

Q: Will you reopen the govt if potus doesn't agree to demands on obamacare?

A: no answer

From: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
Sent: Thu Oct 10 2013 19:23:09 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>
CC:
Subject: FW: Daily Briefing by the Press Secretary, 10/10/13
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

More on the death gratuity issue in today's briefing below:

Q One other question on another subject. The Congressional Research Service was asked to provide a legal opinion on whether the Pay Our Military Act could legally pay the death gratuity, and they say there appears to be sufficient legal basis upon which a court could hold that the best reading of the term "payment" would be to go ahead and pay the death gratuity.

MR. CARNEY: Well, again, it was the Department of Defense's position that they would not be legally able to. This was in the briefing that they gave Congress prior to the debt ceiling and in statements made by an Under Secretary of Defense to the press prior to -- sorry -- prior to October 1st and the decision by Republicans to shut down the government -- that the effect of a lapse in funding would be the Department of Defense would be legally unable to make those payments. So the Pay Our Military Act emerged after that.

It's important to remember -- and we had this discussion yesterday -- from the beginning, we were arguing, don't shut down the government. There would be myriad negative consequences to doing that. We explicitly, through the Department of Defense, noted this specific potential consequence. Every hour of every day since the Republicans shut the government down, we have been asking them to reopen the government so that more consequences would not occur, including this one. The Pay Our Military Act was written, passed and signed into law.

It was my understanding the judgment -- that since it did not explicitly call for or allow for this, that an alternative had to be found. And the President, when he learned that an alternative needed to be found, asked his Chief of Staff, Denis McDonough, to work with and speak to the Office of Management and Budget and with his lawyers to come to a resolution. And, obviously, you know now what it is, which is the Department of Defense is going to be able to --

Q It looked like they could have gotten another opinion.

MR. CARNEY: Well, again, that's a legal opinion that I understand was not the judgment at the time. And the President's interest here is that this be resolved. It is always worth noting that this never had to happen if Republicans hadn't shut down the government, if they had, alternatively, decided to allow for the government to stay open at funding levels that were perfectly acceptable to them a month ago, and six months ago, and a year ago, and at spending levels that they hailed as a success and an achievement for them -- until they decided they weren't good enough and they would shut the government down over it.

... Q Good. Following up on Bill, you started to say but went on to another point that this has been solved. I want to be clear. Are you saying because of the Fisher House saying that they'll pay -- the reason why I ask is the Senate, about an hour ago, passed by unanimous consent legislation that appears to mirror what the House already passed. And so my question really is, will the President sign that into law, or does the White House believe that the Fisher House paying this solves it?

MR. CARNEY: Again, the Fisher House is contracting with the Department of Defense; through that contract, the Department of Defense obligates itself to reimburse the Fisher House upon the reopening of the government. So it's not just the Fisher House taking on the sole responsibility in perpetuity for making these payments.

Q But does that mean you don't need legislation?

MR. CARNEY: It does mean that we don't need legislation. And again, we go from day to day, and we discover new, terrible consequences of shutdown. And when they get attention, lawmakers rush to propose a fix when there is an obvious available fix to avoid all of these negative consequences: Open the government. The only harm you're doing is to the American people and to your party by continuing to shut it down. Just open the government.

Q Would the President veto that legislation or --

MR. CARNEY: Again, I don't think -- first of all, the legislation is not necessary. Our view has been that this piecemeal funding is, again, a gimmick. It's an attempt -- why is it that -- think about the amount of expended energy here to try to piecemeal solve their specific political problems every day when a bad consequence is revealed because of their decision to shut down the government. They could save themselves a lot of trouble and the American people a lot of harm if they would simply open the government.

Q To follow up then, yesterday you took the question about when the President learned about the military

death benefits not being paid. A moment ago, you said, everyone should have known because the Pentagon warned everyone, I believe, on September 27th. When did that filter through to the President?

MR. CARNEY: What I can tell you is that in his evening walk with Chief of Staff Denis McDonough on Tuesday, the President raised the concern about death benefits not being paid to deserving families. And Mr. McDonough explained that the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Defense were trying to find a solution and that the Pay Our Military Act did not appear to fix it. The President directed Mr. McDonough to get creative and get it solved within 24 hours.

The Department of Defense had been approached by the Fisher House Foundation, which had generously offered to make charitable donations to these families from its own funds. The Department of Defense, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, developed a solution overnight. They determined that DOD could enter into a rush agreement with the Fisher House that would essentially make the organization a government contractor that could deliver benefits and enable DOD to reimburse the costs it had incurred after the shutdown ends.

Again, shutdown never should have happened. It was a choice made by Republicans, a choice that, for those who paid attention, included an awareness of the fact that among the many consequences potentially would be this one. When the Pay Our Military Act -- which was a bill supported by both parties and signed by the President to address some of the unfair consequences to our military families and those who support them -- was passed, and it was viewed by some at least that it did not solve this specific problem, the President said, get creative and solve it in 24 hours. And they solved it in less than that.

...Q Very quickly, about that act that we were just talking about, the Honoring the Families of Our Fallen Soldiers Act -- you said legislation is not needed. So a very simple yes or no, since the Senate has passed it, will the President veto that or will it just sit?

MR. CARNEY: Again, I'll have to -- when I walked out here, I was unaware that legislation had been acted on in the Senate. The President directed that this be resolved, and it has been. What is preposterous is this notion that we should piecemeal fix all the consequences caused by shutdown. Because, guess what, even the most competent Congress in the world couldn't do that without still causing harm to the American people. If they're concerned about the harm done by shutdown, they should open the government.

Q We'll let you find out what the position is now that you've been made aware of the Senate's movement on that. Specifically, in the conversation the President had with the American people and with reporters in this room just a couple of days ago, at one point he apologized that Americans have to put up with this right now. Has the President reached out to the families of those servicemembers who did not receive death benefits and apologized to them that they didn't receive those death benefits?

MR. CARNEY: I don't have any private conversations to read out to you. The President took action to solve this problem, ordered a creative solution to solve this problem, a problem caused by House Republicans who decided to shut the government down.

And I fail to see anyone in the House Republican leadership explain why, why this is a good thing to do, in exchange -- by the way, these benefits were held up because Republicans wanted to defund Obamacare. These benefits were held up because they wanted to get what they could not get through the legislative process, what they could not get from the Supreme Court of the United States, what they could not get in a national election for President.

That's why all of these consequences that you read about and see and hear about have occurred. And they're all unnecessary, because all the President has asked for, and what all the Senate and House Democrats have asked for is that the House pass a continuing resolution funding the government at levels that House Republicans support. What is so hard about that? Why punish the American people over refusing to -- because you refuse to accept what you wanted?

Q Secretary of Veteran Affairs Eric Shinseki yesterday testified that if the shutdown continues into late October, compensation payments for more than 3.8 million veterans will not be made in the month of November. Acknowledging in this conversation you spoke about the President pushing for creative measures in terms of death benefits, will the President push for creative measures to help those --

MR. CARNEY: Peter, my answer is the same. There are so many consequences of shutdown that Congress has a responsibility to resolve all of them with one vote in the House of Representatives that would receive a majority -- votes from Democrats and Republicans. Open the government. Solve this problem. And then, let's get about the business of dealing with our longer-term budget challenges.

From: Washington, Geovette </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=washington, geovette e.6dd>
Sent: Thu Oct 10 2013 23:56:04 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>
CC:
Subject: RE: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney, 10/9/2013
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 8:08 PM
To: Washington, Geovette; Deese, Brian C.; Shlossman, Amy
Subject: RE: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney, 10/9/2013

(b) (5)

From: Washington, Geovette
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 10:12 AM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Shlossman, Amy
Subject: RE: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney, 10/9/2013

(b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 6:17 AM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Washington, Geovette; Shlossman, Amy
Subject: FW: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney, 10/9/2013

(b) (5)

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya

Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2013 07:29 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Shlossman, Amy

Subject: FW: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney, 10/9/2013

Clips on Egypt and death benefits below –

Egypt

Q And then just on one other topic. Has the President made a final decision yet on cutting off some of the aid to Egypt?

MR. CARNEY: What I can tell you is that -- two things. One, reports that we are halting all military assistance to Egypt are false --

Q I'm asking about some aid, not all aid.

MR. CARNEY: No, but let me just make clear -- because maybe not everybody knows this -- but the reports that we are halting all military assistance to Egypt are false. And as the President said in his speech at the United Nations, our overriding interest throughout these past few years has been to encourage a government that legitimately reflects the will of the Egyptian people and recognizes true democracy as requiring the respect for minority rights, the rule of law, freedom of speech and assembly, and a strong civil society.

That remains our interest today. We will continue to work with the interim government to promote our core interests and to support areas that benefit the Egyptian people.

The President was also clear, and has been clear, that we are not able to continue with business as usual. And as you know, we have already announced that we are not proceeding with the delivery of certain military systems. Following on the results of the review directed by President Obama, we will announce the future of our assistance relationship with Egypt once we have made the appropriate diplomatic and congressional notifications.

We will continue to support a democratic transition and oppose violence as a means of resolving differences in Egypt. And our relationship with the Egyptian government, including U.S. assistance to Egypt, will continue. But any announcement about the future of our assistance relationship will come after we've made the appropriate diplomatic and congressional notifications.

Death Benefits:

Q Jay, I guess for the last couple of days, folks have been wondering what is going to happen to the military spousal death benefits. Any update on that that you can provide?

MR. CARNEY: I thank you for the question. The Department of Defense informed Congress that the department would be legally unable to pay death benefits were there to be a lapse in DOD appropriations -- in order words, informed Congress prior to the lapse that that would be the case if there were to be a lapse. Unfortunately, this issue was not explicitly addressed as part of the Pay Our Military Act.

The President was very disturbed to learn of this problem. And he directed the Department of Defense to work with the Office of Management and Budget, and his lawyers, to develop a possible solution. And he expects -- the President expects this to be fixed today.

Q Oh, so today?

MR. CARNEY: Correct.

Q This issue will be resolved and those payments should go out --

MR. CARNEY: That's what the President expects. He was not pleased to learn of this problem. And he has directed the OMB and his lawyers to find a solution. And he expects to have one today.

... Q ...On this question of families of those who have lost loved ones serving our country, you said that the White House knew that this problem would be there in the event of the shutdown and --

MR. CARNEY: The Department of Defense informed Congress, so Congress knew about it. Yes.

Q Yes, so Congress knew about it, the White House knew about it. The President is the Commander-in-Chief, he's the Chief Executive. Was there literally nothing that he could do to ensure that these families were taken care of? I mean, I --

MR. CARNEY: He's doing it today, Jon, because it was not addressed by Congress in the Pay Our Military Act. It was not --

Q Did he ask Congress to take care of it in the Pay Our Military Act? I mean, were there any discussions there?

MR. CARNEY: Jon, the Republicans shut the government down. None of this would be an issue if the government were open.

Q I understand.

MR. CARNEY: Okay. Two, the Department of Defense, as every agency did, warned Congress of the myriad consequences of shutdown. This is one of those consequences. And unfortunately, it was not explicitly addressed in the Pay Our Military Act. I'm not assigning blame for that, but it wasn't. The President learned that this had not been addressed. He directed the OMB and his lawyers to find a solution, and they're working on that and we expect one today.

So I don't think there's any disagreement that this is a matter that needs to be resolved, that it's unthinkable that these benefits would not be available. And therefore, he's doing the right thing as Commander-in-Chief and making sure that it's resolved.

Q But what I don't understand is there's discretion clearly in deciding who's essential and who's not essential, who's furloughed and who's not furloughed. You're here, these briefings are taking place. I mean, clearly, there's decisions made. How could there not have been a decision made that if there's anything that's essential it would be taking care of those who lost loved ones in the field of battle?

MR. CARNEY: And so the Department of Defense informed Congress that this would be a consequence, among many other consequences, and it wasn't --

Q But this wasn't --

MR. CARNEY: Well, Jon, look -- I mean, again, if you want to editorialize -- the Commander-in-Chief, when he found out that this was not addressed, he directed that a solution be found and we expect one today. I think that's --

Q So he didn't find out until yesterday that this wasn't being addressed?

MR. CARNEY: Again, I think I've been pretty clear about the process here. Congress was informed, as it was informed of all of the consequences of shutdown, and they are many, as we see. And a solution to all of this is not the piecemeal reaction to them or Band-Aid approach to solving them. It's opening the government at funding levels Republicans set.

Remember, if anybody thinks that Democrats in Congress are getting a concession by extending the government on a short-term continuing resolution at funding levels -- sequester levels agreed to and celebrated by Republicans, they're sorely mistaken. Leader Pelosi and Leader Reid deserve credit, and Democrats in the Senate and the House deserve credit that they agreed that it was too important not to shut the government down, they agreed to an extension at those levels. And unfortunately, Republicans instead decided to launch a quixotic crusade against Obamacare -- one that everyone knew was going to lead to nothing, and everyone across the country who has even a tangential relationship with the government is suffering as a consequence.

...MR. CARNEY: Let me just tell you one more time, Major --when the President found out --

Q I'm just saying, fair-minded people could look at that legislation and think it solved the problem. I'm just asking --

MR. CARNEY: What I'm saying is when he learned of this problem he was disturbed and he directed the Department of Defense to work with OMB and his lawyers to develop a possible solution. And at his direction, they are finding a solution and we expect one today.

Q And does that mean by definition that the original interpretation with Defense Department lawyers was erroneous?

MR. CARNEY: Again, no, I'm not saying that. I'm simply saying that Congress was informed of all of the implications and consequences of a potential lapse in funding by the Department of Defense, including that they would be unable to -- legally unable to pay death benefits, and that unfortunately, this issue was not explicitly addressed in the legislation that we've discussed here, the Pay Our Military Act. Upon learning that that was the case and that this issue had not been resolved, the President directed that a solution be found. And that is underway right now.

Q And does that mean there's no need for legislation to explicitly address this problem?

MR. CARNEY: We expect a solution today.

Q So Congress doesn't need to send anything, and if it did, the President wouldn't sign it?

MR. CARNEY: Well, we expect a solution to this problem today.

...Q Jay, when did the President learn specifically that the military death benefits would not be paid?

MR. CARNEY: Again, Ed, for the third time --

Q No, I didn't hear that question.

MR. CARNEY: Yes, and I -- well, it was asked. I can tell you that when he did learn, he asked --

Q Today? Yesterday?

MR. CARNEY: Ed, I don't know specifically. I can tell you that when he learned that these benefits were not explicitly dealt with in the Pay Our Military Act, he was very disturbed and he asked for the OMB and his lawyers to take action.

Q So why didn't he have that action taken before today, though?

MR. CARNEY: You have to work out a process. Unless --

Q Because there were news reports about it yesterday.

MR. CARNEY: Unless you're willing to write the check, Ed, I mean, we --

Q Well, there are people in the country who would write that check --

MR. CARNEY: It takes some time --

Q -- and care about this.

MR. CARNEY: It takes some time to -- and are you suggesting we don't, Ed?

Q I'm saying there are people who care about it who want to get it done quickly.

MR. CARNEY: And it's getting done today.

Q The President said he's doing it today. Why won't you tell us what day he learned? Was it yesterday? The day before?

MR. CARNEY: Ed, what I can tell you is when the President --

Q It's a simple fact.

MR. CARNEY: Right. And when the President found out, he was disturbed and he asked his lawyers and the OMB to get to work on a solution, and we expect a solution today.

What Congress did not do, when it was informed by the Department of Defense that the DOD would be legally unable to pay these death benefits, was take action, A, to keep the government open. That did not seem to disturb the Republicans who thought it was the right thing to do to shut the government down, just as it did not seem to be particularly disturbing to Republicans when they would cause all the other consequences of shutdown. They chose instead to shut the government down.

Unfortunately, this was not addressed in the Pay Our Military Act, which is a bill that was supported broadly, with bipartisan support as well as from the President and signed into law. And I mean, this is not that complicated. I know you're trying to make a partisan issue out of it, but the --

Q I'm not trying to make a partisan -- no, nice try.

MR. CARNEY: But, Ed --

Q Except you won't tell us the simple fact of when the President learned. You're trying to say he's outraged by it, so he wants to move quickly. If he learned last Tuesday, or yesterday, or the day before --

MR. CARNEY: I'm saying that when he learned about it, he asked for -- directed those who work for him to find a solution, and we expect a solution today. What I haven't seen is a solution from Congress, but the President will have one today.

Q So you've repeatedly said today and previous days that you don't want to do all of this in a piecemeal fashion; Republicans should pass a clean CR. We understand -- you've said that again and again. But you have had to deal with piecemeal, for example, on this issue -- the President wants a solution on this.

Yesterday, there was an immigration reform rally in Washington. The National Park Service had to staff it. They say they do that because it was on First Amendment grounds. But how do you -- how can you justify letting a rally like that go forward, that could happen yesterday, it could happen next week, before something like military death benefits are taken care of? Like, why is a rally so --

MR. CARNEY: Again, Ed, I'll answer it now and I look forward to the piece that you'll do on it. When the President learned that this --

Q I'm talking about the immigration rally.

MR. CARNEY: -- that this issue had not been explicitly taken care of in the Pay Our Military Act, he was disturbed and he asked those who work for him to find a solution, and they are busy at that work now and we expect a solution today.

The broader question you ask goes right to the heart of the fact that there are myriad consequences to shutdown, and you can't run around trying to fix all of them. That's not the way the United States of America should operate. You should simply open the government.

We're not -- look, the President has never asked for anything in return for Congress fulfilling its responsibility to open the government. He didn't ask for funding levels that are reflected in the budget he submitted. Neither did the Democrats. The Senate passed a budget as the Republicans demanded, and you will note that the CR that the Senate passed and Democrats support, and the House could pass if the Speaker would allow it to come to the floor and Democrats would support, does not represent funding levels that Democrats have requested. In fact, they fall far short of what Democrats have requested.

But the Democrats believe that because permits need to be issued, because death benefits need to be paid, because Head Start programs need to be opened, because hundreds of thousands of Americans need to get back to work, that we ought to open the government. It's as simple as that. Just vote and open the government.

...Q Jay, thanks. Just following up on the question of when President Obama found out, I hear you saying you're not quite sure. Can you take the question and get back to us?

MR. CARNEY: I will take the question. What I can tell you again --

Q Because I think we need to know specifically --

MR. CARNEY: -- is that the Commander-in-Chief, when he found out --

Q We just need to know when.

MR. CARNEY: -- he was disturbed and he directed those who work for him to find a solution, because the shutdown -- as Congress was informed -- makes DOD legally unable to pay these benefits. And the President wants a solution.

Q And I think we just want to know if he found out today or if it was yesterday or several days ago. So if you could just take the question.

MR. CARNEY: Again, and what I can tell you is when he found out, he directed that action be taken. And we expect a solution today.

Q I think the concern is that clearly action hasn't been taken quickly enough, because it's had a real impact so far.

MR. CARNEY: It's correct that Congress -- Republicans shut the government down knowing that this would happen and haven't taken action. The President, when he found out that the Pay Our Military Act did not explicitly address this problem, has ordered that we find a solution through the administration, and we're working on that.

Q I know you said he's disturbed, but what would he say to these families who have been impacted who are outraged?

MR. CARNEY: That it's unconscionable that the Congress of the United States would not open the government and ensure that these benefits -- and benefits of all different kinds to our veterans and others -- be available and paid on time. And in this specific case, because it is so important, he is directing that a solution be found.

From: Berman, Lindsey R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bermanl64651664>
Sent: Wed Oct 16 2013 15:46:34 EDT
Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Washington, Geovette </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=washington, geovette e.6dd>; Berger, Sam </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=samuel_k._berger>; Timberlake, Courtney B. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=courtneyb.timberlake45577210>; Jordan, Joseph </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jordan, joseph g.158>; O'Connor, Devin </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=devin_1_oconnor>; Vorhaus, Dave </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=davida.vorhaus13178357>
To: Neill, Allie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=allie_r_neill>; Menter, Jessica </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jessican.menter27256674>
CC:
Subject: RE: Potential Vote Times
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

FYI.

Statement on Bipartisan Senate Agreement to Reopen Government, Avoid Default

Posted by Speaker Boehner's Press Office

October 16, 2013

WASHINGTON, DC – House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) released the following statement regarding the bipartisan Senate agreement to reopen the federal government and avoid a national default:

“The House has fought with everything it has to convince the president of the United States to engage in bipartisan negotiations aimed at addressing our country's debt and providing fairness for the American people under ObamaCare. That fight will continue. But blocking the bipartisan agreement reached today by the members of the Senate will not be a tactic for us. In addition to the risk of default, doing so would open the door for the Democratic majority in Washington to raise taxes again on the American people and undo the spending caps in the 2011 Budget Control Act without replacing them with better spending cuts. With our nation's economy still struggling under years of the president's policies, raising taxes is not a viable option. Our drive to stop the train wreck that is the president's health care law will continue. We will rely on aggressive oversight that highlights the law's massive flaws and smart, targeted strikes that split the legislative coalition the president has relied upon to force his health care law on the American people.”

#####

From: Sarri, Kristen
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 3:13 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Washington, Geovette; Berger, Sam; Timberlake, Courtney B.; Jordan, Joseph; O'Connor, Devin; Vorhaus, Dave
Cc: Neill, Allie; Menter, Jessica; Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: RE: Potential Vote Times

+Dave

From: Sarri, Kristen
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 3:12 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Washington, Geovette; Berger, Sam; Timberlake, Courtney B.; Jordan, Joseph; O'Connor, Devin
Cc: Neill, Allie; Menter, Jessica; Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: Potential Vote Times

(b) (5)

A large black rectangular redaction box covering several lines of text.

From: Harris, Julian </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=harris, julian j.88f>
Sent: Wed Oct 16 2013 18:56:29 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>;Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
CC:
Subject: Fw: Twitter -- ACA
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Eyes on the prize.

From: Holzer, Benjamin
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 06:43 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: Twitter -- ACA

1. Richard Lowery@halo080126m

@DavidCornDC I work for a very large Telecom company and my 2014 Insurance is exactly the same as 2013. 1st time I recall cost not going up.

Retweeted by David Corn

From: Holzer, Benjamin
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 6:17 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: Twitter -- ACA

1. CCM722@Glic2m

@DavidCornDC Wm (gop) who cuts my hair w/serious pre-extg condition found plan thru #ACA 1/3 of what was paying on COBRA b4 it was cancelled

Retweeted by David Corn

From: Holzer, Benjamin
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 6:07 PM
To: Cutz, Fernando; Vega, Dag; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; Vorhaus, Dave; McFarlin, Mac; Monje, Carlos A.; Munoz, Cecilia; Clavel, Lise; Gonzalez, MC; Stevenson, Betsey; Stout, Jennifer; Berman, Lindsey R.; Neill, Allie; Stock, Jim
Subject: RE: Twitter -- ACA

1. Crystal Di'Anno@crystaldianno8m

@DavidCornDC New Obamacare policy will cost HALF of what I have been paying! and CoveredCA made it easy to apply. GO OBAMACARE!

Retweeted by David Corn

From: Holzer, Benjamin
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 6:07 PM
To: Cutz, Fernando; Vega, Dag; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; Vorhaus, Dave; McFarlin, Mac; Monje, Carlos A.; Munoz, Cecilia; Clavel, Lise; Gonzalez, MC; Stevenson, Betsey; Stout, Jennifer; Berman, Lindsey R.; Neill, Allie; Stock, Jim
Subject: Twitter -- ACA

1. Lawrence E. Gasch@larrygasch7m

@DavidCornDC 5 yr old gdaughter born w/Transposition of Great Vessel heart pre-existing cond ACA will cover for life pic.twitter.com/qWxk5APrUm

Retweeted by David Corn

From: Berman, Lindsey R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bermanl64651664>
Sent: Wed Oct 16 2013 18:56:53 EDT
To: Berger, Sam </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=samuel_k._berger>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
CC: Neill, Allie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=allie_r_neill>; Brown, Calla </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=calla_r_brown1>; Menter, Jessica </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jessican.menter27256674>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Timberlake, Courtney B. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=courtneyb.timberlake45577210>
Subject: RE: FY 2014 CR (&DL) Update: Senate reaches bipartisan deal on CR-DL // Boehner won't block // Votes tonight -- CORRECTION TO SUMMARY
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

+ Courtney

From: Berger, Sam
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 6:56 PM
To: Berman, Lindsey R.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: RE: FY 2014 CR (&DL) Update: Senate reaches bipartisan deal on CR-DL // Boehner won't block // Votes tonight -- CORRECTION TO SUMMARY

The debt limit description is a little off. Am editing the EBM, but will provide edits to that part after.

From: Berman, Lindsey R.
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 6:54 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: FY 2014 CR (&DL) Update: Senate reaches bipartisan deal on CR-DL // Boehner won't block // Votes tonight -- CORRECTION TO SUMMARY

There was an error in the summary I just sent. The summary below has been corrected. Apologies for any confusion.

From: Berman, Lindsey R.
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 6:37 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: FY 2014 CR (&DL) Update: Senate reaches bipartisan deal on CR-DL // Boehner won't block // Votes tonight

Senate leadership is expected to file the attached CR/DL bill very soon. Below is a summary of the bill. The Senate will consider the legislation this evening and the House will follow tonight. Speaker Boehner released a statement saying that blocking the Senate legislation “will not be a tactic for us.” The full Boehner statement, along with statements from Senators Reid and McConnell are below.

The filed Senate bill is the underlying Senate CR, with a new expiration date of January 15th. The bill maintains existing anomalies and adds a number of anomalies:

- Olmstead Locks and Dam: our authorization request was \$3,035 million; the bill contains only \$2,918 million (difference of \$117 million)
- Judiciary—Court of Appeals District Courts, and Other Judicial Services—Salaries and Expenses: allows \$25 million transfer between accounts and provides additional BA
- DC Local Funds: allows DC to expend its local funds for the entirety of fiscal year 2014
- Highly Qualified Teachers: includes requested anomaly
- Colorado Floods: allows Colorado to use Sandy money to cover up to \$450 million for floods from Federal Aid Highways Emergency Relief Program (cap would have otherwise been \$100 million); since this is simply a change in purpose and is declared emergency, there is no new BA cost
- Universal Service Antideficiency Temporary Suspension Act: Extends authorizations, including collection and spending of fees
- Office of Special Counsel: adds \$3 million in BA to post-sequester level
- Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board: adds \$2 million in BA to post-sequester level
- Customs and Border Protection: like the House bill, adds Air and Marine Operations to previous anomaly and permits exception apportionment above the daily rate but does not add funds
- Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act: extends National Park passes and other fees for one year
- Pay for Members of Congress: does not allow for COLA

- FAA: adds \$100 million in BA to post-sequester level
- Wireless Service on Metrorail: extends deadline for completing access throughout the rail system through period of the CR
- MARAD: adds \$26 million in BA to post-sequester level
- War Risk Insurance: extends through the period of the CR; cost estimate TBD

Start-up Provisions

The bill includes the following start-up provisions for:

- Federal employee back pay, including for DC Courts, DC Public Defenders (also adds DC government employees)
- Ratification
- Effective date
- Subsuming POMA in the CR levels
- Clarifying reimbursement of States; unlike the House bill, no OMB reporting requirement

The bill does not include a start-up provision to subsume funds donated to Interior in the CR level.

Affordable Care Act

Requires the Secretary of HHS to ensure that the exchanges are properly verifying eligibility for exchange tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies, and to certify to the Congress that the exchanges are verifying eligibility before making these credits and subsidies available. The Secretary must submit a report to Congress attesting to this, and the HHS IG must also submit a report on the effectiveness of the verification procedures.

Debt Limit

Amends the No Budget, No Pay Act to suspend the debt limit through 2/7/14 and reinstate it at an increased level on 2/8/14. Unlike the House bill, the Senate bill allows unwinding the extraordinary measures, providing borrowing authority for a limited period beyond 2/8/14. A process consistent with the McConnell debt disapproval language is overlaid on the debt limit suspension and increase.

Speaker Boehner Statement on Bipartisan Senate Agreement to Reopen Government, Avoid Default

Posted by Speaker Boehner's Press Office

October 16, 2013

WASHINGTON, DC – House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) released the following statement regarding the bipartisan Senate agreement to reopen the federal government and avoid a national default:

“The House has fought with everything it has to convince the president of the United States to engage in bipartisan negotiations aimed at addressing our country's debt and providing fairness for the American people under ObamaCare. That fight will continue. But blocking the bipartisan agreement reached today by the members of the Senate will not be a tactic for us. In addition to the risk of default, doing so would open the door for the Democratic majority in Washington to raise taxes again on the American people and undo the spending caps in the 2011 Budget Control Act without replacing them with better spending cuts. With our nation's economy still struggling under years of the president's policies, raising taxes is not a viable option. Our drive to stop the train wreck that is the president's health care law will continue. We will rely on aggressive oversight that highlights the law's massive flaws and smart, targeted strikes that split the legislative coalition the president has relied upon to force his health care law on the American people.”

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For Immediate Release

Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2013

CONTACT: Adam Jentleson, (b) (6)

REID REMARKS ON HISTORIC BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT TO REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT, PREVENT DEFAULT

“The compromise we reached will provide our economy with the stability it desperately needs.”

“As part of our agreement – and in order to assure Congress continues the work of setting this country on a path to fiscal sustainability – this legislation instructs leaders to name conferees to a budget conference committee. The members selected must have open minds willing to consider every option, no matter how painful to their own political party. This conference committee, led by Chairman Murray and Chairman Ryan, which will produce its negotiated budget resolution in December, is the appropriate place to discuss our differing views of the best way to chart a course for economic growth.”

“We have sent a message to Americans from every state and citizens of every country that the United States lives up to its obligations. Now Congress must return to its most important job – fostering economic growth and protecting middle-class families.”

Washington, D.C. – Nevada Senator Harry Reid spoke on the Senate floor today regarding the bipartisan agreement to reopen the government and pay our bills. Below are his remarks as prepared for delivery:

The eyes of the world were on Washington this week. And while they witnessed a great deal of political discord, today they will also see Congress reach a historic, bipartisan agreement to reopen the government and avert a default on the nation’s bills. The compromise we reached will provide our economy with the stability it desperately needs.

It’s never easy for two sides at odds to reach consensus. After weeks spent facing off across a partisan divide that often seemed too wide to cross, our country came to the brink of a disaster. But in the end, political adversaries set aside their differences and disagreements to prevent that disaster.

I thank the Republican Leader, for his diligent efforts to reach this important agreement. The Republican Leader’s cooperation was essential to reaching an accord that could pass both chambers and be signed by President Obama.

As part of our agreement – and in order to assure Congress continues the work of setting this country on a path to fiscal sustainability – this legislation instructs leaders to name conferees to a budget conference

committee. The members selected must have open minds willing to consider every option, no matter how painful to their own political party. This conference committee, led by Chairman Murray and Chairman Ryan, which will produce its negotiated budget resolution in December, is the appropriate place to discuss our differing views of the best way to chart a course for economic growth.

This legislation also funds the government through January 15 and averts default through February 7, during which time we can work towards a long-term budget agreement that prevents these frequent crises. And perhaps most importantly, this legislation ends a standoff that ground the work of Washington to a halt this fall.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol to pass this remarkable agreement, which will protect the long-term health of our economy avert a default on our nation's debt and allow us to set a foundation for economic expansion.

We have sent a message to Americans from every state and citizens of every country that the United States lives up to its obligations. Now Congress must return to its most important job – fostering economic growth and protecting middle-class families.

I appreciate the stead hand of President Obama through this process, guiding us to this conclusion. And I am optimistic that the spirit of compromise that has taken root in the Senate over the last two days will endure.

MR. McCONNELL FLOOR STATEMENT:

THIS HAS BEEN A LONG, CHALLENGING FEW WEEKS FOR
CONGRESS AND FOR THE COUNTRY. IT'S MY HOPE THAT TODAY WE CAN
PUT SOME OF THOSE MOST URGENT ISSUES BEHIND US. AFTER
YESTERDAY'S EVENTS THE MAJORITY LEADER AND I BEGAN A SERIES OF
CONVERSATIONS ABOUT A WAY TO GET THE GOVERNMENT REOPENED AND TO
PREVENT DEFAULT. I'M CONFIDENT WE'LL BE ABLE TO DO BOTH THOSE
THINGS LATER TODAY. CRUCIALLY, I'M ALSO CONFIDENT THAT WE'LL BE
ABLE TO ANNOUNCE WE'RE BROKING THE GOVERNMENT SPENDING

REDUCTIONS THAT BOTH PARTIES AGREED TO UNDER THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT. AND THAT THE PRESIDENT SIGNED INTO LAW. THAT'S BEEN A TOP PRIORITY FOR ME AND FOR MY COLLEAGUES ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE OF THE AISLE THROUGHOUT THIS DEBATE. AND IT'S BEEN WORTH THE EFFORT. SOME HAVE SUGGESTED THAT WE BREAK THAT PROMISE AS PART OF THIS AGREEMENT, SOME HAVE WADE WASHINGTON NEEDS TO SPEND MORE, THAT WE NEED TO RAISE TAXES, THAT WE NEED TO JUST TAX OUR WAY TO PROSPERITY AND BALANCE. BUT WHAT THE B.C.A. SHOWED IS THAT WASHINGTON ACTUALLY CAN CUT SPENDING AND BECAUSE OF THIS LAW THAT'S JUST WHAT WE'VE DONE. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE KOREAN WAR -- THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE KOREAN WAR -- GOVERNMENT SPENDING HAS DECLINED FOR TWO YEARS IN A ROW, THE FIRST TIME IN 50 YEARS. AND WE'RE NOT GOING BACK ON THIS AGREEMENT. IT'S A LOT -- THERE'S A LOT MORE WE NEED TO DO TO GET OUR NATION'S FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER. HOPEFULLY ONCE WE'RE PAST THE DRAMA OF THE MOMENT WE CAN GET TO WORK ON IT BUT FOR NOW LET'S NOT UNDERSTATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT OR THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FIGHT TO PRESERVE IT. THIS LEGISLATION IS THE LARGEST SPENDING REDUCTION BILL OF THE LAST QUARTER CENTURY, AND THE LARGEST DEFICIT REDUCTION BILL SINCE 1981 THAT DIDN'T INCLUDE A TAX HIKE. PRESERVING THIS LAW IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY. THROUGHOUT THIS DEBATE THE PUBLIC HAS RIGHTLY FOCUSED ON OBAMACARE FOR GOOD REASON. THIS LAW IS RAVAGING OUR ECONOMY, KILLING JOBS, DRIVING UP PREMIUMS, AND DRIVING PEOPLE OFF THE HEALTH CARE PLANS THEY HAVE AND LIKE IN DROVES. IT'S DISASTROUS ROLLOUT IS A SIGN OF EVEN WORSE THINGS

TO COME. AND THE REFUSAL TO DELAY IT REFLECTS A KIND OF
STUBBORN IDEOLOGICAL OBSESSION THAT WILL DO UNTOLD DAMAGE TO
OUR COUNTRY AND REPUBLICANS REMAIN DETERMINED TO REPEAL THIS
TERRIBLE LAW. BUT FOR TODAY, FOR TODAY, THE RELIEF WE HOPE FOR
IS TO REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT, AVOID DEFAULT, AND PROTECT THE
HISTORIC CUTS WE ACHIEVED UNDER THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT. THIS IS
FAR LESS THAN MANY OF US HAD HOPED FOR, FRANKLY,. BUT IT'S FAR
BETTER THAN WHAT SOME HAD SOUGHT. NOW IT'S TIME FOR REPUBLICANS
TO UNITE BEHIND OTHER CRUCIAL GOALS. MADAM PRESIDENT, I YIELD
THE FLOOR.

From: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
Sent: Wed Oct 16 2013 21:43:52 EDT
To: Schultz, Eric </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eric_h_schultz>; Holzer, Benjamin </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=benjamin_s_holzer>; Earnest, Joshua R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=joshuar.earnest67836121>; Palmieri, Jennifer </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=palmieri, jennifer m.cd6>; Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>; Brundage, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>; Beirne Fallon, Katie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=fallon, katherine b.311>; Carney, Jay </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=james_f_carney>; Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_l_nabors>
CC: Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Subject: RE: Olmstead Dam funding
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Schultz, Eric
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 9:09 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Holzer, Benjamin; Earnest, Joshua R.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Brundage, Amy; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Carney, Jay; Nabors, Robert L.
Cc: Posner, Steven; Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: RE: Olmstead Dam funding

(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 9:06 PM
To: Schultz, Eric; Holzer, Benjamin; Earnest, Joshua R.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Brundage, Amy; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Carney, Jay; Nabors, Robert L.
Cc: Posner, Steven; Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: RE: Olmstead Dam funding

(b) (5) below are our suggested points
so folks have them:

- (b) (5)

- (b) (5)

-----Original Message-----

From: Schultz, Eric

Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 8:21 PM

To: Holzer, Benjamin; Earnest, Joshua R.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Brundage, Amy; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Carney, Jay; Nabors, Robert L.

Cc: Deese, Brian C.; Posner, Steven

Subject: Re: Olmstead Dam funding

+ OMB

Bloomberg, others looking for guidance on this.

-----Original Message-----

From: Benjamin Holzer

To: Joshua Earnest

To: Jennifer Palmieri

To: Dan Pfeiffer

To: Amy Brundage

To: Beirne Fallon, Katie

To: Eric Schultz

To: James Carney

To: Nabors, Robert L.

Subject: RE: Olmstead Dam funding

Sent: Oct 16, 2013 8:06 PM

Flagging that (b) (5)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics-live/liveblog/live-updates-the-shutdown-9/?id=a9f2f203-96e6-4943-baf1-bc7ae85af94f>

'Kentucky Kickback'? Not so much. The Senate Conservatives Fund, which has suggested it might oppose Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) in a primary next year, alleges McConnell got a bit of sweetener in the Senate's plan to reopen the government and extend the debt ceiling.

They group even has a catchy name for it — “The Kentucky Kickback.”

Well now U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has an Obamacare earmark of his own.

The McConnell-Reid bill not only funds Obamacare and suspends the debt limit, it ALSO includes a provision in Section 123 that increases the authorization for the Olmsted Lock in Kentucky from \$775 million to nearly \$3 billion.

But as our David Fahrenthold reports, the funding was actually requested by President Obama and, according to congressional sources from both parties, wasn't a McConnell project.

From: Holzer, Benjamin

Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 7:56 PM

To: Earnest, Joshua R.; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Brundage, Amy; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Schultz, Eric; Carney, Jay; Nabors, Robert L.

Subject: RE: Olmstead Dam funding

(b) (5)

1. Chad Pergram?@ChadPergram29s

Feinstein says she requested money for locks/dams on Ohio River. Says those locks close if they aren't funded. Major source of commerce.

From: Earnest, Joshua

Eric Schultz

w (b) (6)

c (b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
Sent: Wed Oct 16 2013 23:24:13 EDT
To: Neill, Allie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=allie_r_neill>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Berman, Lindsey R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bermanl64651664>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC: Brown, Calla </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=calla_r_brown1>; Menter, Jessica </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jessican.menter27256674>
Subject: RE: FY 2014 CR (&DL) Update: House appoints Budget Resolution Conferees
Attachments: image002;image003.png;image004.png;image006.png

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Rs are: Ryan, Price, Cole and Black for Rs. Ds are: Van Hollen, Clyburn, and Lowey

From: Neill, Allie
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 11:08 PM
To: Sarri, Kristen; Deese, Brian C.; Berman, Lindsey R.; Burwell, Sylvia
Cc: Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica
Subject: RE: FY 2014 CR (&DL) Update: House appoints Budget Resolution Conferees

Pelosi named Assistant Democratic Leader James E. Clyburn; Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Ranking Member on the Budget Committee; and Congresswoman Nita Lowey, Ranking Member on the Appropriations Committee.

From: Sarri, Kristen
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 11:04 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Neill, Allie; Berman, Lindsey R.; Burwell, Sylvia
Cc: Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica
Subject: RE: FY 2014 CR (&DL) Update: House appoints Budget Resolution Conferees

The Senate is the full Committee. I need to check on House but 3/2 ratio

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 11:03 PM
To: Neill, Allie; Berman, Lindsey R.; Burwell, Sylvia

Cc: Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: RE: FY 2014 CR (&DL) Update: House appoints Budget Resolution Conferees

Do we know who House and Sen named as conferees?

From: Neill, Allie
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 10:59 PM
To: Berman, Lindsey R.; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Cc: Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: FY 2014 CR (&DL) Update: House appoints Budget Resolution Conferees

Before adjourning, the House agreed to go to conference with the Senate on the Budget Resolution and authorized the Chair to appoint conferees. Below is the joint press release from House Budget Committee Chairman Ryan and Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman Murray.

Also, courtesy of Lindsey, below are the statements from House Appropriations Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey on passage of the CR.

Joint Statement from Chairman Patty Murray and Chairman Paul Ryan

Washington, Oct 16 | Conor Sweeney (Ryan) (b) (6)
Eli Zupnick (Murray): (b) (6)

WASHINGTON D.C.—In advance of convening a conference on a budget resolution, Senate Budget Committee Chairman Patty Murray and House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan released the following joint statement:

“In the months ahead, we hope both sides can work together to grow the economy and tackle our debt responsibly. We recognize the many differences between the House and Senate budget resolutions and the challenges we face in reaching an agreement. But we want to find common ground and work toward a bipartisan deal. We intend to focus on what we can achieve. We hope we can reduce the deficit in a smarter way. We hope to restore stability to the budget process and end the lurching from crisis to crisis. And we look forward to the discussion.”

NEWS

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

Website address: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

For Immediate Release: October 16, 2013

Contact: Jennifer Hing, (b) (6)

Chairman Rogers Praises Passage of Bill to Raise Debt Limit, End Government Shutdown

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. House of Representatives tonight passed H.R. 2775, a bill that will raise the United States debt ceiling, and provide funding for the operations of the federal government to end the government shutdown. The bill now heads to President Obama for his signature.

Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers gave the following statement on the House floor in support of the bill:

“Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present H.R. 2775. This legislation will raise the nation’s debt ceiling to avoid default, reopen the doors of the federal government, and end this unfortunate shutdown.

“The legislation before us is a Senate amendment to H.R. 2775. The Senate has just passed this bill, and now it is up to this House to send it to the President for his signature. It is the product of a final agreement between Republicans and Democrats to help put us back on stable ground – with an open government, and without the threat of default – as we look to find a long-term, comprehensive solution to our multitude of fiscal problems.

“First and foremost, it provides critical funding for operating the federal government at the current, annual rate of \$986 billion through January 15th – to end the government shutdown.

“The resolution includes a limited number of non-controversial or technical changes, called “anomalies.” Many have already been passed by the House and the Senate. However, a few are new, such as provisions to ensure the smooth re-opening of the government; to provide due compensation for federal employees and other funding for shutdown costs; to provide funding for the FAA to continue current operations without interruption; and so on. These have been included to prevent irrevocable harm to vital government programs, to continue critical services, and to ensure good governance.

“To be clear, the CR portion of this resolution is virtually “clean,” and is essentially identical to the legislation I introduced in the House in early September.

“Secondly, this legislation will increase the debt limit until February 7th. By extending our borrowing ability, we will avoid the damage a default would cause to our recovering economy, to businesses small and large, and to our people who desperately need a stable economy and continued job growth.

“Lastly, the resolution before us will help protect against fraud and abuse by requiring income verifications for individuals seeking subsidies under ObamaCare.

“Essentially, this bill before us tonight allows us to move forward. It deals with the nation’s immediate, short-term problem, and allows time for Congress to address the broader picture – what the real drivers of our debt are, how we can keep from reaching the debt limit in the future, and how we avoid staggering from fiscal crisis to fiscal crisis. After two long weeks, it is time to end this government shutdown. It’s time to take the threat of default off the table. It’s time to restore some sanity to this place. To do this, we’ve all got to give a little. Clearly no one on either side has received everything they wanted, but I believe that now we all should act for the greater needs of our nation.

“I may not look like it, but I’ve been here for 30 years. I was here during the last shutdown. I was here for the shutdown before that. I know that it takes all sides – Democrats, Republicans, House, Senate, and White House – to get things done in a productive way. I’ve said this all along – last week, two weeks ago, two months ago, two years ago when the Republicans took control of this House: If we want to get anywhere, we must be willing to negotiate and to compromise, and we should be willing to put partisanship aside and govern for the greater good.

“The House must realize it is just one-half of one-third of this government, and that no laws can be made without the consent of the Senate and the President, just as they can’t enact laws without us.

“We must also acknowledge that the status quo isn’t acceptable – it’s driving us into unsustainable debt, and it’s hurting this nation and the people who call it home.

“I’m optimistic that, once this resolution is passed, the House and the Senate will come together in a budget conference to work out our broad fiscal and budgetary challenges. It is my hope that a common, topline discretionary number for fiscal year 2014 will be established that will allow Congress to enact full-year appropriations bills and avoid shutdowns like this in the future. And it is also my hope that Congress can address head-on the problem of unsustainable growth in our mandatory and entitlement programs, and work

to reform our overly complicated, growth-stifling tax code.

“The resolution before us will buy time to accomplish this “Must-Do list” and will ensure that our people have access to the critical government services they rely on in the meantime.

“This bill is a fair bill. It is a compromise bill. It will help restore the peoples’ confidence in their elected officials, and in the economic future of this nation. I believe that my colleagues can support it – and should support it today – to end this shutdown and to pull us back from the ledge of this fiscal cliff. The sooner we pass this resolution, the sooner we can move on to the many other tasks the people have sent us here to do.

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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY), Ranking Member

For Immediate Release

October 16, 2013

Contact: Matt Dennis (b) (6)

Lowey Urges End to Shutdown, Default Threat

Appropriations Ranking Dem: “Has it Been Worth It?”
“Stop Letting Fringe Dictate Agenda of House”

Congress Has 3 Months to Finalize 2014 Appropriations Bills,
Avoid More Mindless Across-the-board Cuts

Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY), Ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee, tonight delivered the following statement in support of ending the government shutdown and removing the threat of default on our nation’s debt:

Mr. Speaker, fifteen days after the shutdown began, the House is finally considering a bill to reopen the government and avoid the economic calamity that could have ensued if the United States defaulted on its debt.

It is incredibly disappointing that Republicans have dangerously put our economy and American families at such great risk. I ask them tonight: has it been worth it?

800,000 federal workers have been furloughed. Families that depend on critical services from disaster aid to nutrition assistance have been left in the cold. Billions in economic activity has been lost. Fitch Ratings placed the United States on “rating watch negative” due to political brinkmanship.

Despite clear opposition from the American people, many Republicans are poised to oppose this short-term bill tonight to reopen government, pay America’s bills, and negotiate a reasonable budget agreement for 2014.

Congress has already enacted \$2.5 trillion deficit reduction measures since 2010. Looming across-the-board sequester cuts threaten all our priorities from job creation, to Head Start, to military readiness, and everything in between. For example, if we do not act before January 15th, defense spending will be cut by approximately \$20 billion below 2013 levels, and we could jeopardize up to 1.6 million American jobs over the next year.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot meet these serious challenges without a spirit of bipartisanship and a commitment to working in good faith. I urge the Majority to learn the lesson of this irresponsible shutdown: do not allow the fringe in your party, those disconnected from reality and whose sole goal is obstruction, to continue to dictate the agenda of this House.

No member of this esteemed body should ever again threaten the full faith and credit of the United States or shut down the government to advance a reckless ideological agenda.

I support this bill tonight with hope that my colleagues in the Majority will work in a bipartisan way to avoid a repeat of this tragic episode when the funding and debt ceiling deadlines in this bill are reached in the new year.

###

From: Berman, Lindsey R.

Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 10:25 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: FY 2014 CR (&DL) Update: House PASSES Senate-passed DL/CR -- 285-144
Importance: High

By a vote of 285-144, the House has PASSED the Senate amendment to H.R. 2775, the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014. Voting against passage were 144 Republicans.

The bill will now go to the President to be signed.

From: Berman, Lindsey R.
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 9:25 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: RE: FY 2014 CR (&DL) Update: House gets unanimous consent to proceed to Senate-passed DL/CR

By unanimous consent, the House will proceed straight to one hour of debate on the Senate-passed DL/CR bill. By doing getting unanimous consent, they have bypassed the Rules Committee and are able to go straight to floor consideration of the bill.

From: Berman, Lindsey R.
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 8:14 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: FY 2014 CR (&DL) Update: Senate PASSES CR-DL Bill - 81-18 // Clears way for Budget Res. Conference
Importance: High

The Senate has PASSED H.R.2775, as amended (Debt Limit/CR) by a vote of 81-18.

The following Senators voted against passage of the bill: Coburn, Cornyn, Crapo, Cruz, Enzi, Grassley, Heller, Johnson (Wis.), Lee, Paul, Risch, Roberts, Rubio, Scott, Sessions, Shelby, Toomey, and Vitter.

Prior to the vote on passage, by consent, the Senate began consideration of H.R.2775, agree to the substitute amendment, which is the text of the debt limit and CR deal, and immediately proceeded to a cloture vote on the bill, as amended.

Cloture was invoked 83-16.

The following Senators voted against invoking cloture: Cornyn, Crapo, Cruz, Enzi, Grassley, Heller, Johnson (Wis), Lee, Paul, Risch, Roberts, Rubio, Sessions, Shelby, Toomey, and Vitter.

Prior to taking the votes, the Senate also agreed that if the Senate passed H.R.2775, as amended, the Senate go to conference on the Budget resolution and authorized the Chair to appoint conferees with a ratio of 12 Democrats and 10 Republicans. The conferees are instructed to report back a conference report by December 13, 2013. It is not in order for the Senate to consider a conference report if it includes reconciliation instructions to raise the debt limit. If the House fails to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R.2775 (Debt Limit/CR), the agreement to go to conference on the Budget would be vitiated.

Agreement to go to conference on Budget resolution

Murray: I ask unanimous consent that if the Senate passes H.R.2775, as amended, the Senate then proceed to the consideration of Calendar #33, H.Con.Res.25; that the amendment at the desk, which is the text of S.Con.Res.8, the budget resolution passed by the Senate, be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that H.Con.Res.25, as amended, be agreed to; the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the motion for the Senate to insist on its amendment, be agreed to; that the Senate request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses and authorize the Chair to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate, with a ratio of 12 Democrats and 10 Republicans; that the conferees be instructed to report back a conference report by December 13, 2013; that if the Senate receives from the House a request to go to conference on S.Con.Res.8, that this agreement be modified so that the Senate agree to the request to go conference on S.Con.Res.8, with the remaining provisions related to the conference remaining in effect; further, that it not be in order for the Senate to consider a conference report with respect to H.Con.Res.25 or S.Con.Res.8, if it includes reconciliation instructions to raise the debt limit; and that all of the above occur with no intervening action or debate; finally, that H.Con.Res.25, as amended, and passed, be held at the desk until a message is received from the House relative to H.R.2775 and if the House fails to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R.2775, this agreement be vitiated.

Without objection.

Agreement on CR/Debt Limit

Reid: I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar #193, H.R.2775; that the substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to (text of debt limit until February 7, 2014 and CR through January 15, 2014); that a cloture motion on the bill, as amended, which is at the desk, then be read; that the mandatory quorum required under rule 22 be waived; that no other amendments, points of order or motions be in order to the bill; that if cloture is invoked, all post-cloture time be yielded back and the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended; that if the bill, as amended, is passed, that a title amendment, which is at the desk be agreed to; finally, that if cloture is not invoked, the action above with respect to the amendment to the bill be vitiated and the bill be returned to the calendar.

Without objection.

From: Berman, Lindsey R.

Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 6:37 PM

To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff

Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Berman, Lindsey R.

Subject: FY 2014 CR (&DL) Update: Senate reaches bipartisan deal on CR-DL // Boehner won't block // Votes tonight

Senate leadership is expected to file the attached CR/DL bill very soon. Below is a summary of the bill. The Senate will consider the legislation this evening and the House will follow tonight. Speaker Boehner released a statement saying that blocking the Senate legislation “will not be a tactic for us.” The full Boehner statement, along with statements from Senators Reid and McConnell are below.

The filed Senate bill is the underlying Senate CR, with a new expiration date of January 15th. The bill maintains existing anomalies and adds a number of anomalies:

- Olmstead Locks and Dam: our authorization request was \$3,035 million; the bill contains only \$2,918 million (difference of \$117 million)
- Judiciary—Court of Appeals District Courts, and Other Judicial Services—Salaries and Expenses: allows \$25 million transfer between accounts and provides additional BA
- DC Local Funds: allows DC to expend its local funds for the entirety of fiscal year 2014
- Highly Qualified Teachers: includes requested anomaly
- Colorado Floods: allows Colorado to use Sandy money to cover up to \$450 million for floods from Federal

Aid Highways Emergency Relief Program (cap would have otherwise been \$100 million); since this is simply a change in purpose and is declared emergency, there is no new BA cost

- Universal Service Antideficiency Temporary Suspension Act: Extends authorizations, including collection and spending of fees
- Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board: adds \$2 million in BA to post-sequester level
- Customs and Border Protection: like the House bill, adds Air and Marine Operations to previous anomaly and permits exception apportionment above the daily rate but does not add funds
- Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act: extends National Park passes and other fees for one year
- Pay for Members of Congress: does not allow for COLA
- FAA: adds \$100 million in BA to post-sequester level
- Wireless Service on Metrorail: extends deadline for completing access throughout the rail system through period of the CR
- MARAD: adds \$26 million in BA to post-sequester level
- War Risk Insurance: extends through the period of the CR; cost estimate TBD

Start-up Provisions

The bill includes the following start-up provisions for:

- Federal employee back pay, including for DC Courts, DC Public Defenders (also adds DC government employees)
- Ratification
- Effective date
- Subsuming POMA in the CR levels
- Clarifying reimbursement of States; unlike the House bill, no OMB reporting requirement

The bill does not include a start-up provision to subsume funds donated to Interior in the CR level.

Affordable Care Act

Requires the Secretary of HHS to ensure that the exchanges are properly verifying eligibility for exchange tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies, and to certify to the Congress that the exchanges are verifying eligibility before making these credits and subsidies available. The Secretary must submit a report to Congress attesting

to this, and the HHS IG must also submit a report on the effectiveness of the verification procedures.

Debt Limit

Extends the debt limit through 2/7/14 and reinstates it at an increased level on 2/8/14. Unlike the House bill, the Senate bill allows unwinding the extraordinary measures, providing borrowing authority for a limited period beyond 2/8/14. A process consistent with the McConnell debt disapproval language is overlaid on the debt limit suspension and increase.

Speaker Boehner Statement on Bipartisan Senate Agreement to Reopen Government, Avoid Default

Posted by Speaker Boehner's Press Office

October 16, 2013

WASHINGTON, DC – House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) released the following statement regarding the bipartisan Senate agreement to reopen the federal government and avoid a national default:

“The House has fought with everything it has to convince the president of the United States to engage in bipartisan negotiations aimed at addressing our country's debt and providing fairness for the American people under ObamaCare. That fight will continue. But blocking the bipartisan agreement reached today by the members of the Senate will not be a tactic for us. In addition to the risk of default, doing so would open the door for the Democratic majority in Washington to raise taxes again on the American people and undo the spending caps in the 2011 Budget Control Act without replacing them with better spending cuts. With our nation's economy still struggling under years of the president's policies, raising taxes is not a viable option. Our drive to stop the train wreck that is the president's health care law will continue. We will rely on aggressive oversight that highlights the law's massive flaws and smart, targeted strikes that split the legislative coalition the president has relied upon to force his health care law on the American people.”

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For Immediate Release

Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2013

CONTACT: Adam Jentleson, (b) (6)

REID REMARKS ON HISTORIC BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT TO REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT, PREVENT DEFAULT

“The compromise we reached will provide our economy with the stability it desperately needs.”

“As part of our agreement – and in order to assure Congress continues the work of setting this country on a path to fiscal sustainability – this legislation instructs leaders to name conferees to a budget conference committee. The members selected must have open minds willing to consider every option, no matter how painful to their own political party. This conference committee, led by Chairman Murray and Chairman Ryan, which will produce its negotiated budget resolution in December, is the appropriate place to discuss our differing views of the best way to chart a course for economic growth.”

“We have sent a message to Americans from every state and citizens of every country that the United States lives up to its obligations. Now Congress must return to its most important job – fostering economic growth and protecting middle-class families.”

Washington, D.C. – Nevada Senator Harry Reid spoke on the Senate floor today regarding the bipartisan agreement to reopen the government and pay our bills. Below are his remarks as prepared for delivery:

The eyes of the world were on Washington this week. And while they witnessed a great deal of political discord, today they will also see Congress reach a historic, bipartisan agreement to reopen the government and avert a default on the nation’s bills. The compromise we reached will provide our economy with the stability it desperately needs.

It's never easy for two sides at odds to reach consensus. After weeks spent facing off across a partisan divide that often seemed too wide to cross, our country came to the brink of a disaster. But in the end, political adversaries set aside their differences and disagreements to prevent that disaster.

I thank the Republican Leader, for his diligent efforts to reach this important agreement. The Republican Leader's cooperation was essential to reaching an accord that could pass both chambers and be signed by President Obama.

As part of our agreement – and in order to assure Congress continues the work of setting this country on a path to fiscal sustainability – this legislation instructs leaders to name conferees to a budget conference committee. The members selected must have open minds willing to consider every option, no matter how painful to their own political party. This conference committee, led by Chairman Murray and Chairman Ryan, which will produce its negotiated budget resolution in December, is the appropriate place to discuss our differing views of the best way to chart a course for economic growth.

This legislation also funds the government through January 15 and averts default through February 7, during which time we can work towards a long-term budget agreement that prevents these frequent crises. And perhaps most importantly, this legislation ends a standoff that ground the work of Washington to a halt this fall.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol to pass this remarkable agreement, which will protect the long-term health of our economy avert a default on our nation's debt and allow us to set a foundation for economic expansion.

We have sent a message to Americans from every state and citizens of every country that the United States lives up to its obligations. Now Congress must return to its most important job – fostering economic growth and protecting middle-class families.

I appreciate the stead hand of President Obama through this process, guiding us to this conclusion. And I am optimistic that the spirit of compromise that has taken root in the Senate over the last two days will endure.

MR. McCONNELL FLOOR STATEMENT:

THIS HAS BEEN A LONG, CHALLENGING FEW WEEKS FOR CONGRESS AND FOR THE COUNTRY. IT'S MY HOPE THAT TODAY WE CAN PUT SOME OF THOSE MOST URGENT ISSUES BEHIND US. AFTER YESTERDAY'S EVENTS THE MAJORITY LEADER AND I BEGAN A SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS ABOUT A WAY TO GET THE GOVERNMENT REOPENED AND TO PREVENT DEFAULT. I'M CONFIDENT WE'LL BE ABLE TO DO BOTH THOSE THINGS LATER TODAY. CRUCIALLY, I'M ALSO CONFIDENT THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE WE'RE BROKING THE GOVERNMENT SPENDING REDUCTIONS THAT BOTH PARTIES AGREED TO UNDER THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT. AND THAT THE PRESIDENT SIGNED INTO LAW. THAT'S BEEN A TOP PRIORITY FOR ME AND FOR MY COLLEAGUES ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE OF THE AISLE THROUGHOUT THIS DEBATE. AND IT'S BEEN WORTH THE EFFORT. SOME HAVE SUGGESTED THAT WE BREAK THAT PROMISE AS PART OF THIS AGREEMENT, SOME HAVE WADE WASHINGTON NEEDS TO SPEND MORE, THAT WE NEED TO RAISE TAXES, THAT WE NEED TO JUST TAX OUR WAY TO PROSPERITY AND BALANCE. BUT WHAT THE B.C.A. SHOWED IS THAT WASHINGTON ACTUALLY CAN CUT SPENDING AND BECAUSE OF THIS LAW THAT'S JUST WHAT WE'VE DONE. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE KOREAN WAR -- THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE KOREAN WAR -- GOVERNMENT SPENDING HAS DECLINED FOR TWO YEARS IN A ROW, THE FIRST TIME IN 50 YEARS. AND WE'RE NOT GOING BACK ON THIS AGREEMENT. IT'S A LOT -- THERE'S A LOT MORE WE NEED TO DO TO GET OUR NATION'S FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER. HOPEFULLY ONCE WE'RE PAST THE DRAMA OF THE MOMENT WE CAN GET TO WORK ON IT BUT FOR NOW LET'S NOT UNDERSTATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT OR THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FIGHT TO PRESERVE IT. THIS LEGISLATION IS THE

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From: Berman, Lindsey R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bermanl64651664>
Sent: Thu Oct 17 2013 00:37:10 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dl-omb-permanentstaff>
CC: Neill, Allie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=allie_r_neill>; Brown, Calla </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=calla_r_brown1>; Menter, Jessica </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jessican.menter27256674>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Berman, Lindsey R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=bermanl64651664>
Subject: FY 2014 CR (&DL) Update: Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014 has been signed
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

On Thursday, October 17, 2013, the President signed into law:

H.R. 2775, the "Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014," which provides fiscal year 2014 appropriations for projects and activities of the Federal Government through Wednesday, January 15, 2014. The effective time for the continuing resolution begins on October 1, 2013. H.R. 2775 also extends the Nation's debt limit through February 7, 2014.

From: Berman, Lindsey R.
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 10:25 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: FY 2014 CR (&DL) Update: House PASSES Senate-passed DL/CR -- 285-144
Importance: High

By a vote of 285-144, the House has PASSED the Senate amendment to H.R. 2775, the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014. Voting against passage were 144 Republicans.

The bill will now go to the President to be signed.

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Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 9:25 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: RE: FY 2014 CR (&DL) Update: House gets unanimous consent to proceed to Senate-passed DL/CR

By unanimous consent, the House will proceed straight to one hour of debate on the Senate-passed DL/CR bill. By doing getting unanimous consent, they have bypassed the Rules Committee and are able to go straight to floor consideration of the bill.

From: Berman, Lindsey R.
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 8:14 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: FY 2014 CR (&DL) Update: Senate PASSES CR-DL Bill - 81-18 // Clears way for Budget Res. Conference
Importance: High

The Senate has PASSED H.R.2775, as amended (Debt Limit/CR) by a vote of 81-18.

The following Senators voted against passage of the bill: Coburn, Cornyn, Crapo, Cruz, Enzi, Grassley, Heller, Johnson (Wis.), Lee, Paul, Risch, Roberts, Rubio, Scott, Sessions, Shelby, Toomey, and Vitter.

Prior to the vote on passage, by consent, the Senate began consideration of H.R.2775, agree to the substitute amendment, which is the text of the debt limit and CR deal, and immediately proceeded to a cloture vote on the bill, as amended.

Cloture was invoked 83-16.

The following Senators voted against invoking cloture: Cornyn, Crapo, Cruz, Enzi, Grassley, Heller, Johnson (Wis.), Lee, Paul, Risch, Roberts, Rubio, Sessions, Shelby, Toomey, and Vitter.

Prior to taking the votes, the Senate also agreed that if the Senate passed H.R.2775, as amended, the Senate go to conference on the Budget resolution and authorized the Chair to appoint conferees with a ratio of 12

Democrats and 10 Republicans. The conferees are instructed to report back a conference report by December 13, 2013. It is not in order for the Senate to consider a conference report if it includes reconciliation instructions to raise the debt limit. If the House fails to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R.2775 (Debt Limit/CR), the agreement to go to conference on the Budget would be vitiated.

Agreement to go to conference on Budget resolution

Murray: I ask unanimous consent that if the Senate passes H.R.2775, as amended, the Senate then proceed to the consideration of Calendar #33, H.Con.Res.25; that the amendment at the desk, which is the text of S.Con.Res.8, the budget resolution passed by the Senate, be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that H.Con.Res.25, as amended, be agreed to; the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the motion for the Senate to insist on its amendment, be agreed to; that the Senate request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses and authorize the Chair to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate, with a ratio of 12 Democrats and 10 Republicans; that the conferees be instructed to report back a conference report by December 13, 2013; that if the Senate receives from the House a request to go to conference on S.Con.Res.8, that this agreement be modified so that the Senate agree to the request to go conference on S.Con.Res.8, with the remaining provisions related to the conference remaining in effect; further, that it not be in order for the Senate to consider a conference report with respect to H.Con.Res.25 or S.Con.Res.8, if it includes reconciliation instructions to raise the debt limit; and that all of the above occur with no intervening action or debate; finally, that H.Con.Res.25, as amended, and passed, be held at the desk until a message is received from the House relative to H.R.2775 and if the House fails to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R.2775, this agreement be vitiated.

Without objection.

Agreement on CR/Debt Limit

Reid: I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar #193, H.R.2775; that the substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to (text of debt limit until February 7, 2014 and CR through January 15, 2014); that a cloture motion on the bill, as amended, which is at the desk, then be read; that the mandatory quorum required under rule 22 be waived; that no other amendments, points of order or motions be in order to the bill; that if cloture is invoked, all post-cloture time be yielded back and the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended; that if the bill, as amended, is passed, that a title amendment, which is at the desk be agreed to; finally, that if cloture is not invoked, the action above with respect to the amendment to the bill be vitiated and the bill be returned to the calendar.

Without objection.

From: Berman, Lindsey R.
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 6:37 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; DL-OMB-Permanent Staff
Cc: Neill, Allie; Brown, Calla; Menter, Jessica; Sarri, Kristen; Berman, Lindsey R.
Subject: FY 2014 CR (&DL) Update: Senate reaches bipartisan deal on CR-DL // Boehner won't block // Votes tonight

Senate leadership is expected to file the attached CR/DL bill very soon. Below is a summary of the bill. The Senate will consider the legislation this evening and the House will follow tonight. Speaker Boehner released a statement saying that blocking the Senate legislation “will not be a tactic for us.” The full Boehner statement, along with statements from Senators Reid and McConnell are below.

The filed Senate bill is the underlying Senate CR, with a new expiration date of January 15th. The bill maintains existing anomalies and adds a number of anomalies:

- Olmstead Locks and Dam: our authorization request was \$3,035 million; the bill contains only \$2,918 million (difference of \$117 million)
- Judiciary—Court of Appeals District Courts, and Other Judicial Services—Salaries and Expenses: allows \$25 million transfer between accounts and provides additional BA
- DC Local Funds: allows DC to expend its local funds for the entirety of fiscal year 2014
- Highly Qualified Teachers: includes requested anomaly
- Colorado Floods: allows Colorado to use Sandy money to cover up to \$450 million for floods from Federal Aid Highways Emergency Relief Program (cap would have otherwise been \$100 million); since this is simply a change in purpose and is declared emergency, there is no new BA cost
- Universal Service Antideficiency Temporary Suspension Act: Extends authorizations, including collection and spending of fees
- Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board: adds \$2 million in BA to post-sequester level
- Customs and Border Protection: like the House bill, adds Air and Marine Operations to previous anomaly and permits exception apportionment above the daily rate but does not add funds
- Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act: extends National Park passes and other fees for one year
- Pay for Members of Congress: does not allow for COLA
- FAA: adds \$100 million in BA to post-sequester level
- Wireless Service on Metrorail: extends deadline for completing access throughout the rail system through

period of the CR

- MARAD: adds \$26 million in BA to post-sequester level
- War Risk Insurance: extends through the period of the CR; cost estimate TBD

Start-up Provisions

The bill includes the following start-up provisions for:

- Federal employee back pay, including for DC Courts, DC Public Defenders (also adds DC government employees)
- Ratification
- Effective date
- Subsuming POMA in the CR levels
- Clarifying reimbursement of States; unlike the House bill, no OMB reporting requirement

The bill does not include a start-up provision to subsume funds donated to Interior in the CR level.

Affordable Care Act

Requires the Secretary of HHS to ensure that the exchanges are properly verifying eligibility for exchange tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies, and to certify to the Congress that the exchanges are verifying eligibility before making these credits and subsidies available. The Secretary must submit a report to Congress attesting to this, and the HHS IG must also submit a report on the effectiveness of the verification procedures.

Debt Limit

Extends the debt limit through 2/7/14 and reinstates it at an increased level on 2/8/14. Unlike the House bill, the Senate bill allows unwinding the extraordinary measures, providing borrowing authority for a limited period beyond 2/8/14. A process consistent with the McConnell debt disapproval language is overlaid on the debt limit suspension and increase.

Speaker Boehner Statement on Bipartisan Senate Agreement to Reopen Government, Avoid Default

Posted by Speaker Boehner's Press Office

October 16, 2013

WASHINGTON, DC – House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) released the following statement regarding the bipartisan Senate agreement to reopen the federal government and avoid a national default:

“The House has fought with everything it has to convince the president of the United States to engage in bipartisan negotiations aimed at addressing our country's debt and providing fairness for the American people under ObamaCare. That fight will continue. But blocking the bipartisan agreement reached today by the members of the Senate will not be a tactic for us. In addition to the risk of default, doing so would open the door for the Democratic majority in Washington to raise taxes again on the American people and undo the spending caps in the 2011 Budget Control Act without replacing them with better spending cuts. With our nation's economy still struggling under years of the president's policies, raising taxes is not a viable option. Our drive to stop the train wreck that is the president's health care law will continue. We will rely on aggressive oversight that highlights the law's massive flaws and smart, targeted strikes that split the legislative coalition the president has relied upon to force his health care law on the American people.”

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For Immediate Release

Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2013

CONTACT: Adam Jentleson, (b) (6)

REID REMARKS ON HISTORIC BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT TO REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT,

PREVENT DEFAULT

“The compromise we reached will provide our economy with the stability it desperately needs.”

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From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Fri Oct 18 2013 09:35:55 EDT
To: Harris, Julian </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=harris, julian j.88f>
CC:
Subject: RE: TNR: The Truth About the Obamacare Rollout
Attachments: image001.jpg

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5) ...let me know...

From: Harris, Julian
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2013 9:25 AM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.
Subject: Fw: TNR: The Truth About the Obamacare Rollout

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2013 08:43 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: TNR: The Truth About the Obamacare Rollout

<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/115230/obamacare-implementation-what-feds-got-wrong-states-got-right>

The Truth About the Obamacare Rollout

The feds botched the website. But the states are doing much better.

New Republic // Jonathan Cohn

The federal government is open and paying its bills, which means you can start looking at the other big story from the past few weeks: The startup of Obamacare's marketplaces. But to fully appreciate what's happening, you need a split screen.

On one side is the story you've heard so much about. In 36 states, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is operating the new insurance marketplaces, where non-elderly people without employer benefits can buy coverage on their own. This part of the rollout has gone ... really badly. Two weeks after the sites went online, people are still have trouble setting up accounts and logging onto the system.

HHS is working feverishly to make improvements and the system's performance has improved incrementally. But people are still getting hung up at the initial stages, which means they never get the chance to apply for financial assistance and shop for plans. A study following web traffic showed a sharp drop-off in users at each successive stage of the online application process, which suggests the system was stopping a lot of people from moving forward. And that's just the part of the system visible to consumers. Insurers say that the system is producing some incorrect information about the few people who make it through the process—a fixable problem, for sure, but a warning that other flaws may yet lurk undetected.

Administration officials have said they never expected so many initial visitors and that the high demand is a good sign. Both claims are true. But the system quite obviously suffers from serious design flaws. I've spoken to about a half-dozen developers in the week and they pointed to some of the same problems that experts in the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Kaiser Health News, and Slate identified previously. It's hard to know how much of the second-guessing is accurate. But there's a broad consensus about one early source of trouble. As a story in the Journal explained, the site initially required visitors to create accounts before shopping, because a tool to allow anonymous browsing wasn't ready on time. Establishing an account is among the more complicated tasks the website must perform—it requires sending information back and forth between multiple systems, all through secure channels. The result was a bottleneck.

In fairness, federal officials operated under tremendous political and logistical constraints, the kind few outsiders can grasp. Private developers don't have the same stringent standards for privacy and security, for instance. And given the enormous challenges of trying to integrate so many systems—some new, some old—nobody seriously expected the launch of Obamacare's federal websites to take place without glitches. But few expected this many problems. And nobody seems quite sure when things will get better.

You can get a sense of what real people visiting the sites are seeing by reading dispatches from Sarah Kliff and Phil Galewitz, two reporters who have spent the last two weeks trying to apply. (Kliff finally succeeded; Galewitz got only as far as the account creation process, and that was after 63 tries.) You could also listen to some of the law's "navigators"—the official counselors, most of whom work for non-profits, who are advising people on coverage options and how to enroll. Here's, Vicki Tucci, who works with the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Florida, and who spoke recently to TNR reporter Mimi Dwyer:

There's long periods where it will just be a wait, then the system will kick you out, or it won't let you go any farther--that kind of stuff ... You can only get to a certain point in the process and then it shuts you out ... Most people are frustrated. Last week we had a week full of appointments scheduled and we've had to reschedule those appointments. Today I had to reschedule a woman for the second time.

People trying to get insurance have been remarkably patient, which tells you something important about how dysfunctional and frustrating the old insurance market was. In fact, one of the most insightful analyses of Obamacare's federal site came from John Green, co-producer of Vlogbrothers—who tried applying for insurance via an Obamacare exchange (one the federal government is running for Indiana) and then compared the experience to applying for insurance the old way, via an insurance company website. Even with

the delays and server errors, he found, Obamacare was quicker and easier—mostly because, under the old system, he had to reconstruct several years of his medical history down to every exam and test.

But at some point patience will run out—and delays will start to affect who's signing up for insurance.

So that's the part of the story you've heard. But it's not the whole story—not by a longshot.

Obamacare's architects assumed that most states would opt to run their own marketplaces, with federal officials running only a few. The assumption proved wrong: Pretty much any state with a Republican governor or Republican legislative control said no, adding to the administrative burden on HHS. But 14 states plus the District of Columbia are managing their own markets. Mostly it's places you would expect—progressive outposts like California, Washington, and New York—where Obama and his policies are most popular. But Kentucky, where a Democratic governor and group of dedicated officials have worked diligently to deliver the law's benefits, is also on the list.

Some of these states are still having major problems: Hawaii, which relied on the same contractor as HHS, seems to be in the worst shape. But the websites in other states are now running and, while it's difficult to get a precise sense of how each one is operating, most appear to be functioning well. They may have more traditional glitches, like random error messages or delays, and most had trouble on the first day or two. But since that time they've been running more smoothly.

One of those states is Connecticut, where Kevin Counihan, chief executive of Connecticut's health marketplace, told me last week that

The system has been working well and consistently since Tuesday afternoon on October 1. We were down from 12:30 until 2 that day, for a fix, but we've had no problems since. We are able to process applications through enrollment and we don't have issues with wait time.

As a result, Obamacare in these places seems to be working more or less like it's supposed to work. Consumers are getting opportunities they never had before—to shop for insurance plans, each one with clearly defined benefits that make true comparisons possible, and to receive substantial financial assistance that provides many with thousands of dollars a year in assistance. And, from the looks of things, people are taking advantage of it. The Advisory Board, which is tracking state figures, says that about 180,000 have completed applications for insurance and, of those, 50,000 have enrolled.

Those figures don't say much about whether Obamacare in these states will meet goals for enrollment. It's way, way too early to make that judgment. But the figures suggest that the technology in these places works. And people using the sites say the same thing. "The system is working well—we can't complain," Licelot Miguel, a navigator in New York, told Dwyer. (Miguel emphasized that she was speaking for herself, not on behalf of her organization.) The first day was tough, Miguel said: It seems some browsers weren't working. But now the slowdowns tend to be human rather than technological, Miguel said, because people need 15 or 20 minutes to choose the right plan. "When you get through to the end, it's like ooooooh. People get excited."

The success of some (not all) states shouldn't spare the federal sites from scrutiny. It's possible, for example, that federal procurement and contracting policies limited HHS to a universe of information technology developers that were good at delivering winning bids—but not so good at making modern websites. It's also possible that cabinet agencies are not set up to run these kinds of operations well, at least not on such a large scale and under such a strict timeline. In the future, conservatives will cite the early problems of Obamacare's federal websites when they express skepticism of large federal programs. They might be right when they do.

The Obama Administration also has questions to answer. Implementation did not appear to suffer from neglect or indifference. Countless officials, staff, and contractors put in long weeks and long hours. Chief of Staff Denis McDonough told people he spending two hours a day on it. (Presumably he still is.) But a recent New York Times story painted a devastating picture of project management, with officials ignoring internal warnings or refusing to heed them. And it sounds like things got worse in the weeks leading up to October 1, as the likelihood of a severely flawed launch grew. Here's what I heard from somebody with direct knowledge of what was happening behind the scenes:

I'd call myself a committed liberal and I was totally unprepared for the realities of a bureaucratic environment. What really surprised me was that, as October 1 approached and the reality of the malfunctioning software sunk in, the desire to avoid being blamed seemed at the forefront of leadership's mind. If that's your goal, then the bureaucracy is the ultimate environment for skirting responsibility. Which meant communication up the chain totally broke down as no one wanted to admit how bad things were.

But if these past two weeks appear to reflect poorly on the federal bureaucracy and the Administration managing it, they shouldn't reflect poorly on health care reform itself—which, after all, has worked in Massachusetts and seems to be working in the states running their own operations. The success of states like Kentucky and New York and Connecticut and California are important for their own sake. By my count, they constitute about a fourth of the national population. But they are also important for what they show about how the law can work, once the technology piece is in place.

Larry Levitt, a senior vice president of the Kaiser Family Foundation, puts it this way:

It's important to separate the law itself and what it will mean for people from how it's been administered in the early going. Implementation was always going to be uneven across the country, with a number of states actively putting up roadblocks. It's still way too early to come to any judgment, but there do seem to be some individual states that are having successful launches.

One reason it's too early to draw judgments is that the administration still has time. Open enrollment lasts until March 31. To get coverage that will start by January 1, consumers must enroll by the middle of December. The best evidence we have about enrollment patterns comes from a New England Journal of Medicine paper written by economists Amitabh Chandra, Jonathan Gruber, and Robin McKnight. They examined the Massachusetts reforms, during the first year, to see who signed up and when. Most people waited until the last minute—the point at which delay meant incurring financial penalties under the mandate.

Relatively speaking, the latecomers were more likely to be young and healthy people, the ones whose support the system needs to function properly. That's good news, because it suggests the most tentative consumers—the ones least likely to wait out website delays—haven't started shopping yet.

New England Journal of Medicine

Massachusetts provides another lesson: Early logistical and technological problems aren't the end of the world. Stephanie Mencimer recalled the history recently in *Mother Jones*:

After the law went into effect in Massachusetts, state offices were totally overwhelmed by the number of people clamoring to sign up for insurance, or what the state's Medicaid director dubbed the "stress of success." Lost paperwork, computer glitches, confusion over who was eligible for what, and not enough staff to handle the workload meant that in those early days, consumers could wait several months after submitting an application to finally get coverage. So many people were trying to enroll in the expanded Medicaid program that the Medicaid agency ended up with a months-long backlog of applications.

Medicare Part D, the prescription drug benefit that the Bush Administration introduced in 2006, had its own problems at the start. Now the program works seamlessly. "We saw the same kind of challenges in Part D and they sorted themselves out," Karen Ignani, the head of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), told me recently. She would know. One reason the Bush Administration was able to correct the problems of Part D is that groups with a stake in success, like the insurers, lent a hand. Insurers are doing the same thing now—in no small part because the high web traffic suggests a large market of new and enthusiastic buyers. "I can tell you, based on calls and emails and other kinds of contacts, like through brokers, the interest is very high," Ignani says. "And we're seeing enrollment coming through and that's growing."

Obamacare is a more ambitious enterprise and, as such, its problems appear to be more significant. And Ignani, like administration officials, has a rooting interest in the new system's success. (Her members want and need the customers.) But she is absolutely right to make a big deal about the apparent enthusiasm. The architects of Obamacare weren't simply trying to build websites, after all. They were trying to build a whole new health care system. And, up until now, they've been mostly successful. A few million young adults have gotten health insurance through their parents' policies. Hospitals are reducing readmissions, apparently in reaction to the law's new incentives. Setting up insurance marketplaces was always bound to be more complicated, just because it requires reinventing the existing market. But that effort has also achieved more than most people seem to realize. Insurers are offering competitive premiums, lower even than projections had suggested. And it's for a product—comprehensive insurance, available to anybody at uniform prices—that in most places insurers never offered before.

That leaves just one, final challenge: Making sure people can actually buy the insurance, and apply for the federal subsidies, so they can get the security they've craved for so long. It's no minor thing: Given the depth of problems at the federal sites, there's obviously a lot of work to do. And if it's months, rather than weeks,

before the federal sites are working, the administration will need to consider other actions—whether it's quickly developing alternative methods of enrollment, extending the open enrollment period beyond March 31, or even offering short-term extensions and exemptions from the mandate in those states where people can't enroll easily. (Dan Diamond and Jonathan Chait discussed those possibilities recently.) But the administration still has plenty of time to get this right, just as some states have already.

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Sat Oct 19 2013 17:29:07 EDT
To: Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>; Cain, Emily </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=cain, emily e.8be>
CC: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
Subject: Re: Link to Al Hunt Bloomberg TV Political Capital video
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Posner, Steven
Sent: Saturday, October 19, 2013 02:59 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Cain, Emily
Cc: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Shlossman, Amy; Deese, Brian C.
Subject: Re: Link to Al Hunt Bloomberg TV Political Capital video

(b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Saturday, October 19, 2013 02:16 PM
To: Cain, Emily; Posner, Steven
Cc: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Shlossman, Amy; Deese, Brian C.
Subject: RE: Link to Al Hunt Bloomberg TV Political Capital video

(b) (5)

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Cain, Emily
Sent: Saturday, October 19, 2013 10:18 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Posner, Steven; Burwell, Sylvia
Cc: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Shlossman, Amy

Subject: Re: Link to Al Hunt Bloomberg TV Political Capital video

Here is the transcript:

Burwell Says Strong Progress Made on Obamacare (Transcript)

By Editor: Robin Meszoly

October 18, 2013 8:31 PM EDT

Sylvia Mathews Burwell, director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, said in an interview with Bloomberg Television's "Political Capital with Al Hunt," airing this weekend, that the Obama administration is making "strong progress" in fixing enrollment problems in health-care exchanges under the U.S. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

(This is not a legal transcript. Bloomberg LP cannot guarantee its accuracy.)

AL HUNT: Joining me now is White House Office of Management and Budget Director Sylvia Mathews Burwell. It's always hard for me to say "Burwell," because I knew you when you were first Mathews, but thank you so much for being with us.

SYLVIA MATHEWS BURWELL: Thank you.

HUNT: Madam Director, we've just been through one political, economic trauma. I'm sure that you had a lot of almost sleepless nights, but we have another -- budget and debt deadlines are looming in January and February. Given the political polarization, why is it going to be any different?

BURWELL: I think one of the things that hopefully will be different is having passed through and been through what we have been through and seeing the ramifications of that, especially with regard to the shutdown and what that meant economically and to people as individuals, in terms of how they interact with their government, I think we're hopeful, and we see signals on a bipartisan basis that a shutdown is no longer on the table.

HUNT: Just as a quick aside, how much will it affect your economic forecast? And how much will it affect unemployment and the budget?

BURWELL: So one of the things is, we will have to work through exactly what that will mean. One of the things that didn't happen because we had a shutdown is we weren't able to close the government's books for the year. And so now that everyone's back, that's one of the first tasks at hand that we'll be setting about to do, to close the year's books and think about how we set our baselines for the following year.

HUNT: Let's look ahead to these budget -- House-Senate budget negotiations, which you will -- are very important, due to report Dec. 13. What is your realistic expectation as to what could come out of that in a broad sense?

BURWELL: I think what we're hopeful for is that having a conference we'll return, one, to regular order, get a process that will work in terms of the way historically these things have happened, and I think that we're hopeful that many issues can be on the table, both big and small. And that means -- I think you've seen the president's budget has a wide range of issues in it, in terms of long-term deficit reduction, in terms of the ability to buy out the sequester and do those kinds of deficit reduction in a way that we believe is healthier for the current economic recovery and taking care of some of our long-term problems, as well as other issues like corporate tax reform that we have mentioned in our budget and the president's mentioned recently as part of talking about a grand bargain and what we need to do to grow this economy.

HUNT: Well, let me tell you what Paul Ryan and some of his allies are talking about. They say there is a deal, there is a deal to be made that they would accept the president's own proposals on entitlements, means-testing in Medicare and chained CPI, in return for alleviating much of the sequester. Does that sound like a good deal to you?

BURWELL: I think when we think about those things that were in the president's budget, we actually thought of a larger deal and a deal that included both revenues, as well as entitlement issues. And as we think through what we're going to do, I think we want to understand, what is the size of the package that people are talking about?

HUNT: So that deal would have to include revenues, too, as well as what I just enumerated.

BURWELL: That is what we have said.

HUNT: The Republicans say they've given the opposite. In January, they increased revenues.

BURWELL: I think when one thinks about the long-term issues, deficit reduction, and when you look at the president's budget, that was a \$1.8 trillion proposal, \$1.2 trillion of that was to shift out the sequester and then an additional \$600 billion. To do those kinds of changes in long-term changes, we believe you have to think about it in a balanced way over time and include not just entitlements, but also revenue.

HUNT: And do you have any realistic idea what the scope could be of either over one or two years, over 10 years of such a deal, if you got it?

BURWELL: So I think when one thinks about what the conference can do, I think the conference can think about a 10-year deal that includes some of these big issues that you and I are just talking about, or can think about a smaller approach, and that approach would be more like one or two. And so I think either are possible.

And I think what we've seen in the last weeks, in the last months is, one, you actually can't predict exactly what will or will not happen in terms of where people will go and what you can get. So I think what we need to do is go in with optimism, put everything on the table, and see how far we can take moving the economy forward using fiscal policy.

HUNT: Let me ask you about these next eight weeks and how involved the president will be. Leon Panetta, one of your predecessors at OMB and also a former White House chief of staff, says the president -- these are his words -- can no longer walk away from the table. And if he feels Republicans won't deal with him, he, quote, "ought to be willing to delegate that responsibility to someone who can do it," end quote. Your reaction?

BURWELL: My reaction is that the president and the administration have been engaged and been engaged throughout the spring and the fall, since I entered the administration five months ago, in terms of whether it's dinners, meetings, conversations, calls, with both sides of the aisle, and we'll continue to do that.

HUNT: So you expect the president to be deeply involved in these next eight weeks, in these negotiations?

BURWELL: What I expect is that the administration and the president will do what we have been doing up to this point and will continue to do, and that is engagement in the way we have been engaging, as well as a clear articulation of our principles. And that's what the president and the administration did during the period leading up to where we are today.

HUNT: Madam Director, as well as budget, you run the Office of Management. Now, the administration just

saw a management debacle. It's not your primary responsibility, I know, but the rollout of Obamacare frustrated millions, including my own son, who went to try to sign up. What can OMB do in supporting the implementation of these exchanges to make sure this is -- this is rectified? This really was awful.

BURWELL: So I think, first, I'd start with the fact -- what the president has said in terms of his disappointment about the problems and challenges that you're articulating. And the administration has put together a team and is deeply focused on the issues of, how do we fix those problems?

Second, in terms of one of the things, as OMB thinks about our programmatic and policy, focusing on two very large issues, and one is actually what the Affordable Care Act set out to do, and that is provide a product, affordable insurance, for those who are uninsured. And on that front, I think we're making very strong progress.

HUNT: But people can't sign up. They can't get affordable care. And can you guarantee the public that by Dec. 15, say, which is a little over two weeks before they can, you know, really join, that these problems will be largely rectified?

BURWELL: I think that the administration is working deeply on the problems that exist, and I think it's also important to recognize that there are other places and ways, in terms of whether those are the phone numbers, the navigators, and other tools and choices that people have to do that.

I think also, from an OMB perspective, it's important to also recognize, in addition to the issue of health care for the uninsured, the issue of people who have children up to 26 being covered, the issue of pre-existing conditions, all of those are being worked on in a very successful way, in terms of the substance and reducing cost.

HUNT: Cautiously optimistic you'll have it rectified by Dec. 15?

BURWELL: I am optimistic that we will continue to make progress on that issue.

HUNT: Sylvia Burwell, thank you so much for being with us today.

END OF TRANSCRIPT

From: Posner, Steven

Sent: Friday, October 18, 2013 05:46 PM

To: Burwell, Sylvia

Cc: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Cain, Emily; Shlossman, Amy

Subject: Link to Al Hunt Bloomberg TV Political Capital video

The show airs at 9:00pm on Bloomberg TV.

The video should also be posted later tonight here: <http://www.bloomberg.com/video/political-capital/>.

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Mon Oct 21 2013 13:28:22 EDT
To: Sperling, Gene </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=eugene_b_sperling>
CC:
Subject: RE: HP: AFL-CIO To Democrats: We'll Work To End Your Career If You Cut Social Security Or Medicare
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Not so helpful ...

From: Sperling, Gene
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 1:28 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: Re: HP: AFL-CIO To Democrats: We'll Work To End Your Career If You Cut Social Security Or Medicare

Lovely huh?

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 01:27 PM
To: Sperling, Gene
Subject: RE: HP: AFL-CIO To Democrats: We'll Work To End Your Career If You Cut Social Security Or Medicare

Thanks for forwarding...

From: Sperling, Gene
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 12:53 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Furman, Jason L.
Subject: Fw: HP: AFL-CIO To Democrats: We'll Work To End Your Career If You Cut Social Security Or Medicare

From: Allen, Jessica

Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 12:13 PM

To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Clavel, Lise; Henderson, Bethany; Lachman, Sherry; Lopez, Rafael; Tamarin, Nate; Twigg, Carri; Valencia, Stephanie M.

Subject: HP: AFL-CIO To Democrats: We'll Work To End Your Career If You Cut Social Security Or Medicare

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/21/social-security-cuts-afl-cio_n_4136470.html?1382370869

AFL-CIO To Democrats: We'll Work To End Your Career If You Cut Social Security Or Medicare

Huffington Post // Dave Jamieson

11:54 AM

WASHINGTON -- With fresh Capitol Hill budget battles on the horizon, the head of the leading labor federation planned to issue a blistering warning to unions' Democratic allies on Monday, saying the AFL-CIO would "never stop working" to end the political careers of Democrats who cut entitlement programs.

"No politician ... I don't care the political party ... will get away with cutting Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid benefits. Don't try it," AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said, according to prepared remarks for a speech in Las Vegas, Nev.

According to the draft, which was supplied to HuffPost by the AFL-CIO, Trumka stressed his point for Democrats who may be wobbly on the issue.

"This warning goes double for Democrats," he said. "We will never forget. We will never forgive. And we will never stop working to end your career."

The AFL-CIO has long opposed any cuts to Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid, and the labor federation has suggested in the past that it would consider pulling support from Democrats who help make those cuts happen. But Trumka's remarks on the issue Monday amounted to a far more aggressive threat: That the AFL-CIO would actively use its war chest to unseat Democrats on the other side of the issue.

An AFL-CIO spokesperson clarified for HuffPost that the federation still considers so-called "chained CPI" to be part of the off-limits cuts to which Trumka was referring. A chained CPI inflation index would alter the

way cost-of-living adjustments are made for Social Security recipients, slowing increases and reducing the benefits for seniors and the disabled. Many Democrats have shown an openness toward chained CPI, and the measure was included in President Barack Obama's 2014 budget, where it was paired with extra money for the elderly and poor.

Damon Silvers, the AFL-CIO's policy director, told The Washington Post last week that chained CPI was "the vampire of American politics," saying that it "keeps being shot through the heart and it keeps reviving." Silvers told the Post that the AFL-CIO also opposes a form of Medicare means testing in the president's budget.

It isn't clear yet how entitlement cuts will figure in the post-shutdown budget talks, but it's possible they'll become part a new "grand bargain" discussion on Capitol Hill.

Saying he had a "sinking feeling that too many politicians are ready to put the hurt on regular working people," Trumka argued that lawmakers should be increasing Social Security payments rather than cutting them. He said we live in a time of "self-imposed scarcity" that's driven by "fear" rather than logic.

"Millions of Americans are afraid Social Security might not be there for them," Trumka said. "We cannot listen to that fear and believe Social Security is the problem. It isn't. The fear is. Instead of cutting Social Security, which will make the fear come true, we should, as a nation, invest in Social Security. Increase benefits."

Elsewhere in the speech, which was addressed to the annual conference of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, Trumka called the Affordable Care Act a "significant step forward" but said there "real problems that still exist" in the health care reform law. Recently, unions had tried to pressure the White House to extend the eligibility for subsidies to unions' multi-employer health plans, known as Taft-Hartley plans, but the administration ultimately rebuffed them. Several unions are concerned their plans may become uncompetitive under Obamacare.

"I give you my word that we're fighting for a level playing field for the health funds of working people," Trumka said. "This is one of my top priorities, and we're going to keep talking with the federal government agencies and the White House and Congress regarding the implementation of the Affordable Care Act until we get what we want and need."

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Mon Oct 21 2013 14:13:57 EDT
To: Saj-nicole Joni <(b) (6)>
CC:
Subject: RE: Google Alert - Sylvia Burwell
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Thanks S.

Hopefully I will get things on keel this week and can reach out.

(b) (6) so probably headed to WV this weekend.

S

From: Saj-nicole Joni [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 1:06 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: Fwd: Google Alert - Sylvia Burwell

S

You looked great! Not easy time, have your back

S

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>

Date: October 21, 2013, 1:00:46 PM EDT

To: (b) (6)

Subject: Google Alert - Sylvia Burwell

News

1 new result for Sylvia Burwell

WH can't say Obamacare site will be fixed by deadline BizPac Review

Appearing on Bloomberg TV's "Political Capital," White House Office of Management and Budget Director Sylvia Burwell would not say whether HealthCare.gov ...

See all stories on this topic »

Delete this alert.
Create another alert.
Manage your alerts.

From: Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy.1.058>
Sent: Tue Oct 22 2013 10:43:09 EDT
To: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: FW: Oversight Leaders Investigating HealthCare.gov Development, Decision to Hide Premium Prices
Attachments: image001.jpg

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

From: Posner, Steven
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 10:40 AM
To: VanRoekel, Steven; Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy; Sarri, Kristen
Cc: Cain, Emily
Subject: FW: Oversight Leaders Investigating HealthCare.gov Development, Decision to Hide Premium Prices

From: Schultz, Eric
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 10:35 AM
To: Posner, Steven
Cc: Siskel, Edward; Leinwand, Jessica; McQuaid, Nicholas
Subject: FW: Oversight Leaders Investigating HealthCare.gov Development, Decision to Hide Premium Prices

Steve – we are going to send any incoming on this to you (b) (5)
[REDACTED] Thank you.

From: Carroll, Caitlin [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 9:34 AM
Subject: Oversight Leaders Investigating HealthCare.gov Development, Decision to Hide Premium Prices

October 22, 2013

Contact: Caitlin Carroll, (b) (6)

Oversight Leaders Investigating HealthCare.gov Development, Decision to Hide Premium Prices

Decision to Hide Prices from Shoppers was Made One Month Before Launch, Contractors Tell Oversight Committee

WASHINGTON – Leaders on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee are seeking answers from the Obama Administration’s top technology officials about the development of the problem-plagued federal insurance exchange website, HealthCare.gov, in a letter announced today. Information obtained by the Committee indicates that, just one month before the website’s launch, the Administration directed contractors to change the site’s design to hide price comparisons from unregistered shoppers.

“Given the information gathered by the Committee thus far, we are concerned that the Administration required contractors to change course late in the implementation process to conceal ObamaCare’s effect on increasing health insurance premiums,” the letter to Steve VanRoekel, the Chief Information Officer, and Todd Park, the Chief Technology Officer, at the White House Office of Management and Budget, states. “We believe that the political decision to mask the ‘sticker shock’ of ObamaCare to the American people prevented contractors from using universally accepted and OMB-advocated IT ‘best practices’ in the development and roll out of this massive federal government IT project. When prudent design and programming decisions are subordinated to politics, the result is the chaotic mess we have today.”

The letter, signed by Committee Chairman Darrell Issa, R-Calif., and Subcommittee Chairmen John Mica, R-Fla., James Lankford, R-Okla., Jim Jordan, R-Ohio and Black Farenthold, R-Texas, cites January 9, 2013 and October 16, 2013 briefings with CGI Federal Inc., one of the major contractors tasked with building the federal health insurance exchange website.

“CGI officials told Committee staff that CMS officials and employees constantly mentioned the ‘White House’ when discussing matters with CGI. For example, CMS officials would routinely state: ‘this is what the White House wants,’” the letter continues. “Moreover, CGI officials told Committee staff that the ability to shop for health insurance without registering for an account – a central design feature of the health insurance exchange – was removed ‘in late August or early September.’”

"Although, CGI officials were not able to identify who within the Administration made the decision to disable the anonymous shopping feature, evidence is mounting that political considerations motivated the decision," the letter finds.

The Committee as longstanding legislative jurisdiction over federal information technology (IT) acquisition. Most recently, the Committee released a June 2013 staff report on flawed contracting process for IT purchases at the IRS. The Committee has also sent several letters to Health and Human Services' Secretary Kathleen Sebelius about contracting practices at HHS and HHS's role in ObamaCare implementation. In September 2013, the Committee issued a staff report detailing the security risks posed by the Administration's extralegal Navigator and Assister outreach campaign.

You can read a copy of the letter [here](#).

###

Caitlin A. Carroll

Deputy Press Secretary

House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Chairman Darrell Issa

Rayburn 2157

Office: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Tue Oct 22 2013 11:54:52 EDT
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
CC:
Subject: RE: The Hill: Democrats to go on offense in tax debate
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

ty

From: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 11:33 AM
To: Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: RE: The Hill: Democrats to go on offense in tax debate

Fyi in case helpful for this conversation - Gene has rescheduled the corporate tax meeting for this Friday.

From: **Secretary Lew**
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 11:14 AM
To: Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: FW: The Hill: Democrats to go on offense in tax debate

Any progress on getting next conversations going? I could not track Rob down yesterday afternoon.

From: Earnest, Natalie W.
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 10:19 AM
To: **Secret**
Subject: FW: The Hill: Democrats to go on offense in tax debate

From: Reyes, Anthony
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 10:03 AM
To: _DL_FYI; Mazur, Mark
Subject: The Hill: Democrats to go on offense in tax debate

The Hill: Democrats to go on offense in tax debate

By Alexander Bolton - 10/22/13 06:00 AM ET

Democrats plan to capitalize on Republicans' poor handling of the recent fiscal showdown, parlaying it into another legislative victory.

Emboldened Senate Democratic leaders are planning to go on offense on raising taxes.

Democrats are planning to capitalize on the Republican Party's poor handling of the recent fiscal showdown by parlaying it into another legislative victory.

Congressional Democrats want Republicans to sign off on \$50 billion worth of tax increases to eliminate the sequester's automatic spending cuts. The next phase of these cuts will take effect Jan. 15, when government funding will drop from \$986 billion to \$967 billion.

"There's a lot of pressure on both sides, especially Republicans, after what they did to the country by following the Tea Party agenda, to show they are willing to come to the table and compromise," said a Democratic aide.

Democrats say they would not accept any budget deal unless it includes tens of billions in new tax revenue. Their opening bid is \$1 in new taxes for every \$1 in spending cuts to offset the cost of ending sequestration for domestic and defense discretionary spending programs.

They add that Republicans will have added incentive to agree to tax increases because a disproportionate share of the sequester for 2014 will hit defense programs.

Budget experts estimate it would cost about \$100 billion to turn off the sequester for fiscal 2014. Richard

Kogan of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities pins the number at \$109.3 billion.

Some Republicans, such as Sens. John McCain (Ariz.) and Lindsey Graham (S.C.), are focused on stopping automatic cuts to defense programs. Democrats say every dollar in averted defense cuts must be matched by protecting a dollar in nondefense domestic spending.

A GOP leadership aide said Democrats are deluding themselves if they think Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (Ky.) or Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) would go along with any tax increases.

“Jobs are still slow to come back, ObamaCare is crushing small businesses, and the last thing to do is raise taxes,” said the aide. “Republicans will be very, very insistent that tax increases are not be part of this.”

But Democrats argue the political damage inflicted by the GOP could have unusual reverberations in the policy field.

A Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll from earlier this month showed public support for ObamaCare increased during the government shutdown, even as the rollout of the healthcare law was plagued by technical glitches.

A CNN/ORC International poll released Monday showed that 56 percent of Americans think the GOP is too extreme.

Democrats say Republicans would be more eager to compromise on taxes to erase the narrative that they have become beholden to their most doctrinaire factions of their party. But others maintain that there is no daylight between the Tea Party and GOP leaders on Capitol Hill on tax policy.

Another senior Democratic aide said Republican negotiators could meet the revenue requirement demanded by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-Wash.) by raising various fees.

“If there’s commitment on both sides to undo sequestration because of hits to defense, people’s definition of revenues can change. There are other ways to raise revenues that are not tax increases or loophole closures,” said the aide. “There are plenty of fees out there that you could call revenues.”

Transitioning from defense to offense presents new political problems for Reid, who attributed his negotiating strength in the recent fiscal standoff to the unity of the Democratic caucus.

While Democrats stood together against making concessions in exchange for keeping federal agencies open and debt obligations paid, they are more divided on the issue of taxes.

Four Democrats, including three facing tough reelection fights next year, voted against the Senate Democratic budget plan that will guide Murray's opening bid in talks with

House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-Wis.). They have been instructed by leaders to reach a deal by Dec. 13.

"The debt held by the public has increased 90 percent since President Obama took office because [Democratic Sens.] Kay Hagan [N.C.], Mary Landrieu [La.], Mark Pryor [Ark.] and Mark Begich [Alaska] have spent like drunken sailors and now want to raise taxes to spend even more, hurting the middle class," said National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC) spokesman Brad Dayspring.

Of that group, only Landrieu voted for the Democratic budget in March. That blueprint, which has been lambasted by the GOP, would raise nearly \$1 trillion in new revenue through eliminating some tax breaks for the wealthy.

Democrats say the government shutdown will be a bigger issue than tax hikes in the next year's election.

"2014 is shaping up to be a referendum on the badly damaged Republican brand that's gotten worse in recent months after nearly every Republican Senate candidate supported a reckless and irresponsible shutdown championed by NRSC Vice Chair Ted Cruz [R-Texas]," said Justin Barasky, spokesman for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Democrats are seeking to take advantage of their political momentum in other areas.

Sen. Charles Schumer (N.Y.), the third-ranking Senate Democratic leader, will propose legislation that would reduce Congress's authority over raising the debt limit.

It would give the president authority to raise the debt limit and merely allow Congress to vote on a resolution of disapproval to block action. The disapproval resolution would be subject to a veto, meaning Congress would need to muster two-thirds support in both chambers to stop future debt-limit increases. Schumer has dubbed it the “McConnell rule,” noting the minority leader offered such a plan a couple years ago.

From: Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>
Sent: Mon Oct 28 2013 17:18:31 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC: Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>; Cain, Emily </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=cain, emily e.8be>
Subject: RE: ACA q/A
Attachments:

Importance: Normal

Priority: Normal

Sensitivity: None

We asked for their latest this morning and were told Jay's response below was best. But please advise if you need more and we can go back to them.

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From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 5:14 PM

To: Posner, Steven
Cc: Shlossman, Amy; Cain, Emily
Subject: ACA q/A

[REDACTED] (b)
[REDACTED])
[REDACTED] (5)

From: Harris, Julian </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=harris, julian j.88f>
Sent: Tue Oct 29 2013 11:19:53 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
CC: Rzeczkowski, Kristin </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=rzeczkowski, kristin c.def>
Subject: Talkers
Attachments: Cancellations 10-28-13.final.docx

Importance: Normal

Priority: Normal

Sensitivity: None

Haven't reviewed yet. Will let you know if I have any concerns.

From: McGuinness, Tara
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:57 AM
To: Harris, Julian
Cc: Rzeczkowski, Kristin
Subject: RE: Quick ?

HEALTH LAW AND COVERAGE

(b) (5) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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from 35 to 67 percent of enrollees leave their plan after a year.

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FACT CHECKS:

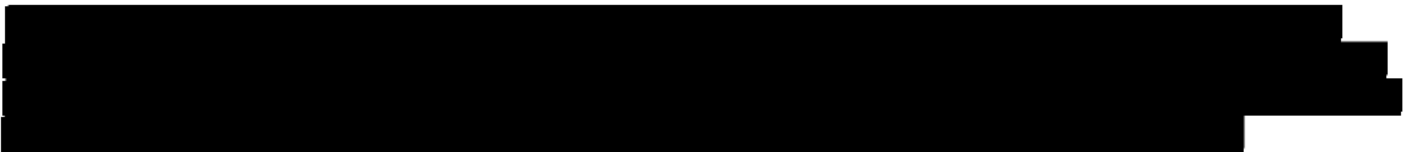
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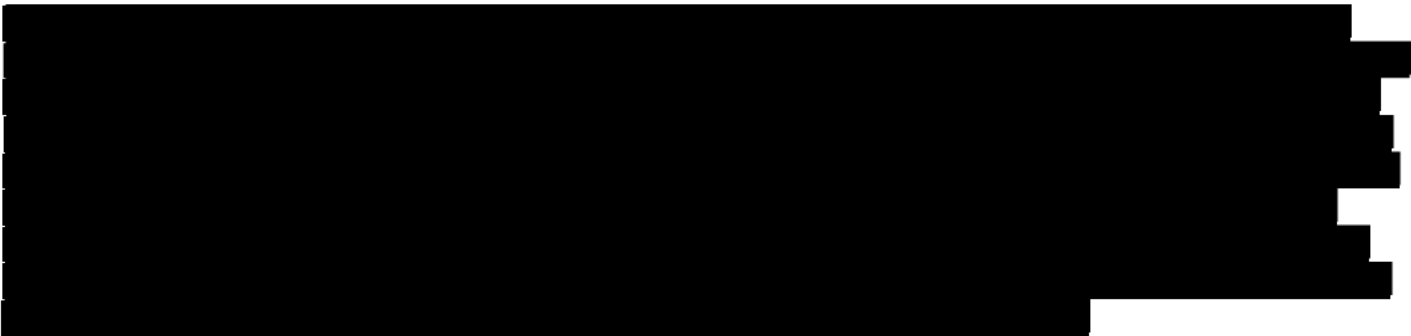
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A single line of text is redacted with a solid black box.



A block of text, consisting of approximately 3 lines, is redacted with a solid black box.



A large rectangular area of the document is completely redacted with a solid black box. The redaction covers approximately 10 lines of text.

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Tue Oct 29 2013 14:56:50 EDT
To: Harris, Julian </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=harris, julian j.88f>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
CC: Rzeczkowski, Kristin </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=rzeczkowski, kristin c.def>; Rzeczkowski, Kristin </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=rzeczkowski, kristin c.def>
Subject: RE: Talkers
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Thanks.

From: Harris, Julian
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:43 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Rzeczkowski, Kristin; Rzeczkowski, Kristin
Subject: RE: Talkers

Circling back on these. Think they are actually quite good, and don't have any concerns about you using them as written.

From: Harris, Julian
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:20 AM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Rzeczkowski, Kristin
Subject: Talkers

Haven't reviewed yet. Will let you know if I have any concerns.

From: McGuinness, Tara
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:57 AM

To: Harris, Julian
Cc: Rzeczkowski, Kristin
Subject: RE: Quick ?


HEALTH LAW AND COVERAGE

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Background:

· The Affordable Care Act allows plans covering people at the time that the law was enacted to continue to
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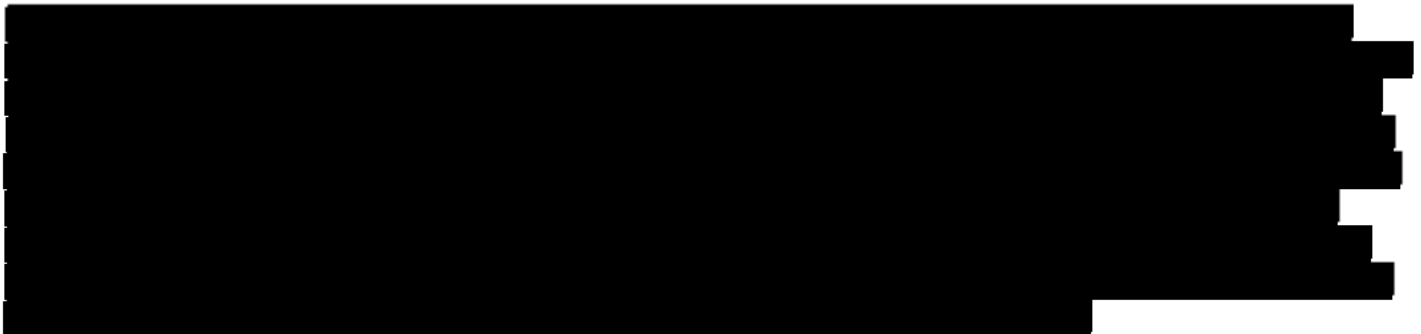
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A single line of text is redacted with black ink.



A block of text consisting of two lines is redacted with black ink.



A large block of text, spanning approximately four lines, is redacted with black ink, covering the bottom third of the page content.

From: Dukakis, Michael (b) (6)
Sent: Sat Nov 02 2013 17:07:52 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=cop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: RE: Early...
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Sylvia:

Thanks. I feel like twenty, and I am so proud of you. One of these days when I get to D.C., I'll drop in and say hello. We've got to take over the Congress next year if you and the President are going to be in a position to wind up a good eight years.

In the meantime, please urge him to emphasize that 85% of the uninsured people in this country ARE WORKING OR MEMBERS OF WORKING FAMILIES. We aren't saying that, and a lot of our fellow citizens think Obamacare is another welfare program. National polls say 93% of the American people support decent and affordable health care for working Americans and their families. We have to say that twenty times a day! All the best. MSD

From: Burwell, Sylvia (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2013 5:55 PM
To: Dukakis, Michael
Subject: Early...

Governor,

Just wanted to wish you a very Happy Birthday, a bit early!

Also thanks for giving me that first opportunity many years ago as a Governor's Aide with Marilyn Anderson Chase.

Hope you are doing well.

Best,

Sylvia

From: Harris, Julian </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=harris, julian j.88f>
Sent: Wed Nov 06 2013 21:32:08 EST
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: Re: healthcare.gov talkers
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

This is for tomorrow evening, correct? Want to provide one context addendum in the am.

From: Cain, Emily
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 09:23 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Vorhaus, Dave; O'Connor, Devin; Aron-Dine, Aviva; Shlossman, Amy; Posner, Steven; Berger, Sam; Washington, Geovette
Cc: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Harris, Julian; Martin, Kathryn; Reilly, Tom
Subject: FW: healthcare.gov talkers

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[REDACTED]

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From: Cain, Emily </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=cain, emily e.8be>
Sent: Wed Nov 06 2013 21:23:34 EST
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Vorhaus, Dave </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=davida.vorhaus13178357>; O'Connor, Devin </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=devin_1_ocomnor>; Aron-Dine, Aviva </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=aron-dine, aviva r.92e>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy l.058>; Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>; Berger, Sam </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=samuel_k.berger>; Washington, Geovette </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=washington, geovette e.6dd>
CC: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>; Harris, Julian </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=harris, julian j.88f>; Martin, Kathryn </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kathrynmartin15107475>; Reilly, Tom </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=thomasm.reilly54276557>
Subject: FW: healthcare.gov talkers
Attachments: Fact_Sheet_Cancellations.docx; Fact_Sheet_Provider_Shock_Attack.docx; HHS and CMS Improvements to HealthCare.gov.docx; Tough Q&A for Burwell.11.5.13.docx
Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

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From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Wed Nov 13 2013 11:30:56 EST
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
CC:
Subject: Fw: Today's hearing at 9:30AM
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

D

From: Brown, Calla
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 09:30 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: DL-OMB-PADs and Policy Officials; DL-OMB-Assistants to Policy Officials
Cc: Sarri, Kristen; Menter, Jessica; Berman, Lindsey R.; Neill, Allie
Subject: Today's hearing at 9:30AM

All,

Steve VanRoekel will be testifying this morning at 9:30 AM in front of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on "ObamaCare Implementation: The Rollout of HealthCare.gov."

The hearing can be viewed live on CSPAN.org: <http://www.c-span.org/>

Thanks,

Calla

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Fri Nov 15 2013 14:55:11 EST
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
CC:
Subject: Fw: Tweets - ACA
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

D

From: Harris, Julian
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 02:46 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: Fw: Tweets - ACA

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 02:44 PM
To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex
Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

Mike Majchrowitz @Majchrowitz1m

The Health Insurance Execs have arrived at the White House. We expect some public comments before the meeting #fnr

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 2:00 PM
To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex
Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

igorvolsky @igorvolsky2m

Before Obama's fix, Upton was expecting 100+ Dem votes. Yesterday he told @gretawire he could get up to 50. Today, he only got 39.

jennifer bendery @jbendery40s

This Upton vote seems kinda a mixed bag, politically. 39 Dems voted to rebuke Obama, but at one point, as many as 100 were expected.

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 1:50 PM
To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex
Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

Seung Min Kim @seungminkim12s

And the four Republicans who voted *against* the Upton bill: Bridenstine, Broun, Hall, Massie

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 1:50 PM
To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex
Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

igorvolsky @igorvolsky53s

Ds YES on Upton Barber Barrow Bera Bishop Braley Brownley Bustos DeFazio DelBene Duckworth Enyart Esty Foster Gallego Garamendi Garcia...

igorvolsky @igorvolsky24s

Ds YES on Upton Kind Kuster Loeb sack Maffei Maloney Matheson McIntyre McNerney Murphy Nolan Owens Peters Peterson Rahall Ruiz...

igorvolsky @igorvolsky1m

Ds YES on Upton (3/3) Schneider Schrader Shea-Porter Sinema Vela Walz

From: Allen, Jessica

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 1:42 PM

To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex

Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

Deirdre Walsh @deirdrewalshcnn22s

Four house conservatives who voted against upton bill --Bridenstine Broun Hall Massie

Shawna Thomas @ShawnaNBCNews1m

On CMS call, Jeffrey Zients said of the health care website: "The marketplace system was stable all week...no unscheduled outages..."

Joanne Peters @JoannePtrs52s

Zients: we've driven the error rate on <http://healthcare.gov> to under 1 percent.

Mark Murray @mmurraypolitics1m

WH's insurance "fix" was - more than anything else - effort to buy time with worried Dems. Seems they now have that more time - thru Nov. 30

From: Allen, Jessica

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 1:40 PM

To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex

Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

Sabrina Siddiqui @SabrinaSiddiqui6s

The 39 Dem defectors are far short of the number anticipated earlier. Similar to #s on House GOP's piecemeal bills to reopen parts of govt.

From: Allen, Jessica

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 1:38 PM

To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex

Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

David M. Drucker @DavidMDrucker3s

Dems for Upton: 39 yea's - Repubs against Upton: 4 no's

Mark Murray @mmurraypolitics21s

39 Dems voted for Upton bill -- could have been MUCH worse for the White House

From: Allen, Jessica

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 1:34 PM

To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex

Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

Jessica Taylor @JessicaTaylor11s

Up to 35 Dem yay votes for Upton votes -- higher than some Dems had hoped for WH, but not as high yet as it would have been yesterday

From: Allen, Jessica

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 1:34 PM

To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex

Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

Aaron Blake @AaronBlakeWP22s

Keep Your Health Plan Act will pass. 25 Dem ayes, 3 GOP nays so far.

Jake Sherman @JakeSherman13s

fascinating divide: the WH and some Dems painting Upton vote as abandoning ACA. And dozens of Dems voting with Upton/House Rs.

From: Allen, Jessica

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 1:29 PM

To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex

Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

Deirdre Walsh @deirdrewalshcnn27s

House Dems alternative Obamacare fix failed 187-230 - as expected

From: Allen, Jessica

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 1:25 PM

To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex

Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

Mike Memoli @mikememoli1m

Scratch that, Dems are getting an MTR vote

Ashley Parker @AshleyRParker6m

Democratic Rep. Rahall says he would give the White House an F-minus for their handling of Obamacare.

From: Allen, Jessica

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 1:20 PM

To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex

Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

Chad Pergram @ChadPergram5m

Vote on bill to allow people to keep their health care delayed. First Dem MTR ruled out of order. Vote sustained that. Dems offering 2nd MTR

Chad Pergram @ChadPergram4m

Rep. Don Young usually heckles from the rear when votes drag on too long. He gets friendly heckling today when he shows up late today.

Chad Pergram @ChadPergram2m

Rare to have 2 MTR's on a bill. Additional MTR is in order because previous one was ruled out of order and vote sustained that ruling.

From: Allen, Jessica

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 1:19 PM

To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex

Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

Aaron Blake @AaronBlakeWP3m

North Carolina ---> RT @NCCapitol: Insurance Commissioner @WayneGoodwin: Don't cancel health plans.

Details @wral at 6.

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 12:58 PM
To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex
Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

Sahil Kapur @sahilkapur17m

BTW, Dem criticisms of the Upton bill (sicker exchanges, higher premiums) could apply to the Obama fix, too.

Sahil Kapur @sahilkapur11m

It looks like House Rs will rule the Dems' ACA alternative non-germane and prevent a vote on it.

Sahil Kapur @sahilkapur1m

The House is voting now on a motion to table the Dems' "Landrieu lite" alternative to the GOP bill. YEA means NAY on the Dem bill.

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 12:45 PM
To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex
Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

Mike Memoli @mikememoli56s

Vote series beginning on Upton bill

From: Lee, Jesse C.
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 12:39 PM

To: Allen, Jessica; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex
Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

1. Deirdre Walsh@deirdrewalshcnn7m

Upton on the floor said yesterday afternoon it looked like his bill would get 300 votes, and then the President proposed a fix

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 12:17 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex
Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

Deirdre Walsh @deirdrewalshcnn3m

Both R & D aides say good barometer to see how many House Ds defect on Upton bill is vote in July to delay corp mandate 35 Ds voted for it

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 11:49 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex
Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

Igor Bobic @igorbobic1m

RT @SabrinaSiddiqui: Dem Rep. Jim McDermott ahead of vote on Upton bill: "I haven't seen so much panic on this floor since 9/11."

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 10:30 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex
Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

igorvolsky @igorvolsky2m

I get the politics, but Republicans have effectively convinced Dems that Americans should stay in crappy, unregulated health care plans

From: Allen, Jessica

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 10:28 AM

To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex

Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

Seung Min Kim @seungminkim1m

House Dem ldrship not formally whipping against Upton bill. But are recommending that members vote against it.

Deirdre Walsh @deirdrewalshcnn1m

Pelosi also says House D alternative gives state insurance commissioners the authority to investigate and act upon rate increases

From: Allen, Jessica

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 10:24 AM

To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex; DL-WHO-Oversight Details

Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

jennifer bendery @jbendery56s

Upton bill = Insurance co's can extend crappy plans for a year to anyone. Dems' bill = Insurance co's can only extend to current enrollees.

Dana Bash @DanaBashCNN1m

Dems call alt "Landrieu lite" but its really what POTUS proposed. Tells you something when Dems think calling it POTUS plan is bad messaging

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 10:21 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex; DL-WHO-Oversight Details
Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

Dana Bash @DanaBashCNN35s

House dems just released alt measure they hope will minimize dem defections on GOP bill. Calling it "landrieu lite"-

Chad Pergram @ChadPergram2s

House D's alternative to Upton (MTR) doesn't extend health plans permanently like bill offered by Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA).

Seung Min Kim @seungminkim50s

House Dem plan also ensures that new consumers cannot enroll in existing insurer plans - one of their big points of contention w/ Upton bill

Chad Pergram @ChadPergram53s

D's MTR to Upton bill gives State Commissioners authority to go after bad actor insurance companies.

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 10:19 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex; DL-

WHO-Oversight Details
Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

jennifer bendery @jbendery1m

Dems will offer Landrieu-esque bill during "motion to recommit" on Upton's bill. Could get awkward, Landrieu bill goes further than Upton's.

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 10:16 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex; DL-WHO-Oversight Details
Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

jennifer bendery @jbendery11s

Dem leadership aide: Today, House Dems will offer an alternative to Upton's Obamacare "fix" bill that is similar to Sen. Landrieu's bill.

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 10:12 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex
Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

Sam Stein @samsteinhp1m

Republicans are making the same mistake (to a much smaller degree) Obama made in pledging fidelity to keeping existing health plans intact

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 10:11 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex
Subject: RE: Tweets - ACA

Sarah Kliff @sarahkliff4m

Vermont appears to be the third state that will not allow insurers to extend through 2015.
<http://vtdigger.org/2013/11/14/shumlin-stays-course-health-care-exchange-despite-obama-shift/> ...

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 9:57 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Heyman, Liza; Lindsay, Erin; Schulman, Kori; Wall, Alex
Subject: Tweets - ACA

igorvolsky @igorvolsky2m

Higher 2015 premiums will be revealed in fall of 2014, during the midterm elections, pushing D&Rs to extend fix or unravel O-Care even more.

igorvolsky @igorvolsky3m

Problem w/ @RepFredUpton's plan: Insurers market indiv policies 2 healthiest, keeping them out of exchanges. O-care premiums increase

Eric Cantor @GOPLeader3m

These are the victims of ObamaCare: <http://youtu.be/OE-lXB5tcSc> #KeepYourPlan

From: Harris, Julian </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=harris, julian j.88f>
Sent: Fri Nov 15 2013 21:07:07 EST
To: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>;Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>;Martin, Kathryn </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kathrynmartin15107475>;Reilly, Tom </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=thomasm.reilly54276557>
CC:
Subject: Re: TheHill: Insurers might get bigger payments
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 09:03 PM
To: Harris, Julian; Burwell, Sylvia; Martin, Kathryn; Reilly, Tom
Subject: Re: TheHill: Insurers might get bigger payments

(b) (5)

From: Harris, Julian
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 08:50 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Martin, Kathryn; Reilly, Tom
Subject: Fw: TheHill: Insurers might get bigger payments

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 05:10 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: TheHill: Insurers might get bigger payments

<http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/health-reform-implementation/190457-insurers-may-see-extra-funds-under-o-care-fix>

Insurers might get bigger payments

4:31 PM

Health insurance companies could see higher government payments because of President Obama's administrative move to address the criticism over canceled health plans.

White House spokesman Jay Carney suggested Friday that federal health officials would raise payments to insurance companies should the policy shift bring on unexpected costs.

"If the costs are higher, then [the Department of Health and Human Services] can mitigate those costs with insurers," Carney said at a briefing.

"If costs come in significantly lower, then the insurers will replenish the fund by passing back some of those profits."

The remark came after health insurers strongly criticized Obama's policy, which threatens the already uneasy alliance between the industry and the White House.

Higher reimbursements under ObamaCare could quiet insurers' concerns about the announcement, which shifts blame to the insurance industry for policies voided under the health law.

Carney was addressing part of ObamaCare that entitles insurers to additional funding if more expensive patients sign up for their products than anticipated.

The payments, which fall under the law's "risk corridor" provision, are intended to protect the industry from any unforeseen financial strain associated with covering new, sick patients.

Insurance companies will have to pay the government if their costs are less than projected, providing money for officials to reimburse other insurers.

The fear with Obama's policy is that more young, healthy people will retain their old policies and not move into ObamaCare's new insurance marketplaces, which need a balance of sick and healthy patients in order to function properly.

Weak marketplace enrollments from the healthy could ultimately destabilize the system and raise premiums, a possibility insurers raised after the announcement Thursday.

"Premiums have already been set for next year based on an assumption of when consumers will be transitioning to the new marketplace," said America's Health Insurance Plans President Karen Ignagni in a statement.

"If now fewer younger and healthier people choose to purchase coverage in the exchange, premiums will increase and there will be fewer choices for consumers."

Ignagni insisted that the administration work to avoid this outcome, indirectly arguing for higher payments to the industry.

"Additional steps must be taken to stabilize the marketplace and mitigate the adverse impact on consumers," she said.

It is unclear whether adjusting the risk corridors would affect the law's overall cost.

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) is reportedly offering legislation that would repeal the provision altogether, arguing it raises the possibility of an insurance industry "bailout."

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Sat Nov 16 2013 14:01:05 EST
To: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Nabors, Robert L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=robert_l_nabors>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Rodriguez, Miguel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=miguel_e_rodriguez>; DMCOS </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dmcos791>
CC:
Subject: RE: Flag --- CVH Budget Proposal Ask
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Plus Denis. Please see Chris' note on FY14 Conference

(b) (5)



I do have a Murray meeting late in the afternoon on Monday.

SB

From: Sarri, Kristen
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 4:59 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Nabors, Robert L.; Deese, Brian C.; Rodriguez, Miguel
Subject: Flag --- CVH Budget Proposal Ask

(b) (5)




Rob, I wanted to flag (b) (5)

Washington Post (Plum Line): Democrats' challenge: How to shift back to jobs?

BY GREG SARGENT

November 15 at 1:18 pm

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/wp/2013/11/15/democrats-challenge-how-to-shift-back-to-jobs/>

The problems plaguing Obamacare have been damaging to Dems in their own right, sowing doubts about the President's competence and stoking public doubts about the law itself. But the rollout has also been harmful in another way: It has drowned out Dem plans to use budget talks to draw a sharp contrast with Republicans over fiscal priorities and jobs.

Dems know they need to change this, and fast. They are looking at the President's announcement of an administrative fix as a way to declare that it's time to shift back to the economy.

I'm told that as part of the coming budget talks, Dems will place a heavy focus on not just replacing the sequester, but also on the demand that Republicans agree to infrastructure investment and an extension of unemployment benefits, which would also help stimulate the economy.

"We're going to be focused on stepping up our investment in infrastructure, on replacing the job killing sequester, and on extending unemployment," Dem Rep. Chris Van Hollen, a top party strategist and the ranking Dem on the House Budget Committee, told me. "If we don't address that issue, more than a million Americans who are still looking for work will have no means of supporting their families."

The Dem plan to prioritize extending unemployment, along with infrastructure spending, in the coming budget talks is good news. As Robert Greenstein of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has noted, unemployment benefits produce a big "bang for the buck in economic activity per dollar of federal cost." It's also a good issue on which Dems can draw a sharp contrast in priorities with Republicans.

Some liberals, such as Ezra Klein, Jonathan Chait, and the Plum Line's own Ryan Cooper, have argued it might not be the worst outcome if Dems drop the push for new revenues. Opposition to new taxes remains as much of a core GOP organizing principle as hatred of Obamacare (if such a thing is even possible).

In this alternative Dems would get something else, such as more spending on infrastructure or early childhood education, in exchange for entitlement cuts. Meanwhile they would push to replace the sequester cuts with cuts spread deeper into the future, to lift the impact the sequester is having right now, when the recovery is weak – making the easing of austerity the top priority. But Senate budget chair Patty Murray continues to insist new revenue through the closing of loopholes must be part of the talks.

Van Hollen said Dems were looking at restructuring spending cuts, for instance by replacing part of the sequester with cuts to agricultural subsidies over 10 years. But asked if there is any scenario under which

Dems would accept a deal without new revenues, Van Hollen said: “We’ve not heard any reason why we shouldn’t be closing these tax breaks. The burden is on Republicans to show why they want to preserve them.”

The shift back to the economy creates a tricky balancing act. Since Republicans will keep hammering Obamacare failings, Dems know their shift back to jobs must be accompanied with a readiness to fix future health law problems if they arise. Dems will try to point to the President’s fix for those losing coverage (which may not end up solving the problem, to be fair) to argue we should now talk about the economy, while also casting continued GOP attacks on the law as proof of an obsession with it that’s out of step with public concern about jobs.

“We stand ready to fix problems as they come up,” Van Hollen said. “But Republicans only have a negative agenda. They want to talk about the Affordable Care Act until the cows come home. Now that we’ve fixed this problem, we need to move on to the things the country cares most about — jobs and the economy.”

From: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
Sent: Wed Nov 20 2013 09:58:13 EST
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Cobert, Beth </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=cobert, beth f.551>
CC: Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>
Subject: Fw: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney, 11/19/2013
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

FYI:

Q Second question -- Jeffrey Zients is the President's pick to succeed Gene Sperling as National Economic Council Director in January. My question is, is the President considering making any adjustment to that assignment? Or, if not, if Jeff is going to take over the NEC in January, who will do what he is doing now on the health care project?

MR. CARNEY: The answer to the first part of the question is that Jeff Zients will be taking over for Gene Sperling at the National Economic Council in January. And I don't have any other personnel announcements beyond that to make.

Q Can you just add -- would the President expect to find a successor manager to continue working this through into the New Year?

MR. CARNEY: Sure, that's a good question. I just don't have a personnel announcement to make.

From: White House Press Office [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 09:28 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya
Subject: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney, 11/19/2013

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release November 19, 2013

PRESS BRIEFING

BY PRESS SECRETARY JAY CARNEY

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

1:29 P.M. EST

MR. CARNEY: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for your patience. I wanted to wait before coming out here until I could get a full read out on the President's meeting with a group of United States senators.

Today, the President hosted a meeting at the White House with chairmen, ranking members and other members of the Senate Banking Committee, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senate Armed Services Committee, and Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to discuss Iran. The President was joined by his national security team, including Secretary of State John Kerry and National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice. The meeting lasted approximately two hours.

The President made clear that achieving a peaceful resolution that prevents Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon is profoundly in America's national security interest. The initial six-month step of the P5-plus-1 proposal would halt progress on the Iranian nuclear program and roll it back in key respects, stopping the advance of the program for the first time in nearly a decade, and introducing unprecedented transparency into Iran's nuclear activities while we negotiate a long-term, comprehensive solution. The President underscored that in the absence of a first step, Iran will continue to make progress on its nuclear program by increasing its enrichment capacity, continuing to grow its stockpile of enriched uranium, installing advanced centrifuges, and making progress on the plutonium track at the Arak reactor.

The President noted that the relief we are considering as part of a first step would be limited, temporary and reversible, and emphasized that we will continue to enforce sanctions during the six-month period. He dispelled the rumors that Iran would receive \$40 billion or \$50 billion in relief, noting that those reports are inaccurate.

The President expressed his appreciation for the bipartisan congressional support for the most effective sanctions regime in history. He reiterated that the purpose of sanctions was and remains to change Iran's calculus regarding its nuclear program. He indicated that new sanctions should not be enacted during the current negotiations, but that they would be most effective as a robust response should Iran not accept the P5-plus-1 proposal or should Iran fail to follow through on its commitments.

The President is determined to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and firmly believes that it would be preferable to do so peacefully. Therefore, he has a responsibility to pursue the ongoing diplomatic negotiations before turning to other alternatives, including military options. With this current P5-plus-1 proposal, we have the opportunity to halt the progress of the Iranian program, roll it back in key respects, while testing whether a comprehensive resolution can be achieved.

With that, I'll take your questions. Julie.

Q Thanks, Jay. I have a couple of questions on that meeting. Did the President walk away from the meeting with any assurances from lawmakers about their willingness to pause sanctions for the period of time he is seeking?

MR. CARNEY: The President made the case that I just described to you. I won't speak for senators who were there. There was obviously a diversity of opinion represented in the room. I would point you to public statements by Senator Corker on this issue. And we certainly believe that with a new round of negotiations beginning in Geneva in just a couple of days that it would be appropriate for the Senate to pause before considering new sanctions to see if these negotiations can move forward and make progress. And if there is an agreement, a first-phase agreement, obviously a lot of interested parties will want to review that agreement and assess whether or not, as we've said, it will do something that hasn't been done in a decade, which is halt progress on Iran's nuclear program and roll it back in key respects.

So we are appreciative of the meeting. And the President obviously spent a fair amount of time with these senators, because this is such an important issue and Congress has been such an important partner in helping the administration and our partners and allies construct the most comprehensive and effective sanctions regime in history.

Q How does the White House view this next round of talks that starts tomorrow? Because of how close it seemed like the P5-plus-1 and Iran got in the last round, do you view these next couple of days as the last chance for Iran to sign on to this current agreement, and if they walk away, then maybe we have to move forward on other sanctions? Or is this perhaps the next in what will be a series of negotiations over the same plan?

MR. CARNEY: Well, I'd say a couple of things. One, the previous round of negotiations were constructive and progress was made. The P5-plus-1 was unified, but Iran decided that it could not at that time make an agreement.

We will see in Geneva whether or not Iran is prepared to reach an agreement with a unified P5-plus-1 that commits itself to, in a transparent way, taking steps to halt progress on its nuclear program and roll back certain important aspects of it, so that we can --

Q But if they're not prepared to accept that deal over the next couple of days, do you --

MR. CARNEY: Well, I'm not going to get into hypotheticals. I think that what we can say is that it is important when it comes to congressional action for Congress to hold in abeyance its potential for passing new sanctions for the time when it might be most effective. Congress has been a very strong partner with the administration in taking that kind of action and deserves credit in the effort to construct the sanctions regime, which, in turn, has led us to this situation where there may be a potential for resolving this diplomatically, where Iran, faced with the crippling effect of the sanctions, has changed its calculus, or at least appears to have changed its calculus.

So that is what we are testing, and it is certainly the Commander-in-Chief's responsibility, as he leaves all options on the table, including military force, to test whether or not we can resolve this peacefully through diplomatic negotiations. And that's what he's doing.

Q On another foreign policy front, there's a report that Hamid Karzai and John Kerry spoke today and resolved this issue of night raids in Afghanistan. That's one of the issues that's been holding up a deal on a post-2014 troop presence there. Can you confirm that there's been an agreement?

MR. CARNEY: Well, what I can tell you is that you already know because we've discussed that we reached general agreement on the bilateral security agreement when Secretary Kerry was in Kabul last month. Since then, discussions have been ongoing with the Afghans to finalize the text ahead of the loya jirga, including today between Secretary Kerry and President Karzai. As you know, the text needs to go through the loya jirga before any agreement can be declared final.

So we've been -- there are ongoing negotiations or consultations. The general agreement has been in place since last month. I would simply say that this negotiation or this agreement is not reached until the loya jirga has passed judgment on it.

Q But did Secretary Kerry and Karzai agree on what would go in the text on the raids today?

MR. CARNEY: What I can tell you is that this issue of raids has always been one that's been a subject of negotiation and conversation and consultation with the Afghans, and that the general issue of civilian casualties has, of course, been of concern, understandably, to the Afghan government and concern to the United States and to the administration, to the U.S. military, which takes extraordinary precautions to avoid civilian casualties. So it is certainly the case that this has been a subject of discussion between the United States and Afghanistan.

Q But that doesn't really answer the question of whether there's an agreement.

MR. CARNEY: Well, I think that what I can say is that there are ongoing conversations; that Secretary Kerry spoke with the President; that the general agreement was reached last month; that these conversations are continuing. And we look forward to consideration by the loya jirga.

Reuters.

Q Thank you, Jay. Back on Iran. To what extent did Israel and its concerns about an agreement come up in today's meeting with the senators, and what did the President say about that?

MR. CARNEY: Well, I've given you a pretty comprehensive readout. What has always been the case and I think is repeated in our conversations with members of Congress and allies is that we consult very closely with Israel on all these matters regarding Iran, as well as so many others -- one; two, that there is no daylight between the United States and Israel when it comes to the objective of preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon; and three, the fact that we believe strongly that reaching an agreement, if it can be reached with Iran, that commits Iran in a first phase to halting progress on its weapons -- or its nuclear program for the first time in nearly a decade and rolling back key aspects of it is the right way to go, because as we seek to find out whether a comprehensive agreement is reachable, it is preferable to halt that progress and roll back aspects of it to the alternative, which is to potentially pursue a comprehensive agreement without any restrictions on Iranian behavior. That, of course, would allow Iran to continue to make progress in its program, and it would forsake the potential not only for halting the progress that's underway, but from rolling back aspects of the program, which is what this agreement, if it's reached, envisions.

Q Does the White House have a longer-term plan for keeping senators onboard with it regarding Iran so that Congress doesn't try to start another push for more sanctions later if the White House isn't ready? In the longer term, not today.

MR. CARNEY: Sure. The plan is what it has always been, which is to consult closely with Congress on these matters. Today's meeting was part of that effort -- ongoing effort. Congress has been an important partner in the five-year effort under this President to make clear that Iranian behavior is the issue and to gather together an international consensus behind that premise and behind the most comprehensive set of sanctions ever put in place in history.

So we'll continue to work with Congress. And what the President said and what others on his national security team have said is that we view the Congress's best use of potential future sanctions as one where they could hold it in abeyance, essentially, and -- hold that option in abeyance and use it if Iran fails to meet its commitments or there is not an agreement with the P5-plus-1. So we think that would be more effective.

That's the kind of conversation the President had with senators today, and this reflects the conversations that we've been having with lawmakers all along. And I'm sure that as this process moves forward, depending on the course it takes, we will have similar conversations going forward.

Q Okay. And one question on health care. Today, a respected security expert told Congress that the website puts user data at critical risk. How worried should Americans be about their data when they're signing up to healthcare.gov?

MR. CARNEY: I appreciate the question. And let me get to my spot here. On the issue of security, as HHS has said, the privacy and security of consumers' personal information are a top priority. When consumers fill out their online marketplace applications, they can trust that the information that they are providing is protected by stringent security standards. Security testing happens on an ongoing basis, using industry best practices to appropriately safeguard consumers' personal information. The healthcare.gov website has been determined to be compliant with the Federal Information Security Management Act, based on standards promulgated by the National Institutes of Standards and Technology.

So this is an ongoing effort. We are -- or CMS and HHS are constantly testing the system and making sure that it is meeting the security standards that are in place.

Q Are you not concerned about this testimony that says that user data is at critical risk?

MR. CARNEY: Well, again, the story I saw also had, I think, if it's the same individual -- and forgive me if it's not -- but said that if -- I think he was quoted as saying, if I had to guess, then I would say this. And the thing is the folks obviously working on the testing of the system and the security of the system aren't guessing. They're testing it and ensuring that it meets the standards necessary so that the information

provided by consumers is secure.

Let me move around. Alexis.

Q Jay, can I follow up on what Jeff asked? As you know, Henry Chao of CMS also indicated that the back end of healthcare.gov, the part that has to interact with the insurers, is way behind in terms of writing and completing the technical part of that, to actually do the billing and to create the coverage. I have two questions. Is the President at all concerned that getting that far behind in that part of healthcare.gov would prevent policies from being issued on January 1 for those people who have to make their selections by December 15th?

MR. CARNEY: I think what he testified to was the same as what he said on November 13th, which is that they are still building parts -- and this is a quote: "We are still building parts of the system to calculate payment, to collect the enrollment data from all the marketplaces and to make that payment." That's from testimony a week ago, or nearly a week ago. So the breaking-news alert today is actually not breaking news, unless you sort of do that on a monthly basis -- (laughter) -- breaking this month is that news.

So the point is we are still in the process of building -- they are still in the process of building aspects of the site that handle back-end issues. And I would point you to his testimony in terms of where they are in that progress. I think he said 30 to 40 percent of it.

Q But a month later, he's saying the same thing.

MR. CARNEY: No, no, a week. Six days.

Q A week later he's saying the same thing. So I'm just trying to ask, is the President concerned. I'm not talking about --

MR. CARNEY: Well, the President -- I think that the President is of course very focused on the need to continue to make improvements to the website. As I think some reporting has indicated, there have been noticeable improvements to the site over recent days and weeks, and we expect that to continue.

He is also focused on making sure that the aspects of the system that are still in build are completed on time. So there's work going on 24/7 to make sure that that happens. Because our goal, as I talked about yesterday,

isn't to just build a highly functioning website, but to make sure that all aspects of the system are working in a way that allows Americans who are interested in purchasing insurance on the marketplace to do so, and find that they have affordable coverage available to them, often for the first time.

Q Second question -- Jeffrey Zients is the President's pick to succeed Gene Sperling as National Economic Council Director in January. My question is, is the President considering making any adjustment to that assignment? Or, if not, if Jeff is going to take over the NEC in January, who will do what he is doing now on the health care project?

MR. CARNEY: The answer to the first part of the question is that Jeff Zients will be taking over for Gene Sperling at the National Economic Council in January. And I don't have any other personnel announcements beyond that to make.

Q Can you just add -- would the President expect to find a successor manager to continue working this through into the New Year?

MR. CARNEY: Sure, that's a good question. I just don't have a personnel announcement to make.

Yes, Jon.

Q Jay, a couple quick things. First, the President, as you know, many times said some variation of this -- we will keep this promise to the American people. If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor, period. Is that promise still operative?

MR. CARNEY: Jon, the President made clear throughout the effort to pass the Affordable Care Act and throughout the period that continues to this day in which Republicans have sought to repeal it that the vast majority of the American people, those who have insurance through their employers, who have insurance through Medicare or Medicaid, will not see a change, and that includes to how their plans allow them to get access to different doctors.

The reality of the insurance system that we've seen over the years is that these plans change all the time. So there are limits -- if you're building on the private-insurance-based system that the President is doing, using the model from a Republican governor of Massachusetts, as he did -- this is not a government-run insurance program -- what is the case is that, if you're purchasing insurance in the marketplace, you have a variety of options available to you from less expensive plans to more expensive, more comprehensive plans.

And as is the case in insurance markets and networks all over the country, the more comprehensive plans tend to have broader networks. So if you are looking for -- if you want coverage from your doctor, a doctor that you've seen in the past and want that, you can look and see if there's a plan in which that doctor participates. And that reflects the way that the private insurance system has long worked.

Q So is this another promise where he needs to kind of modify? Because that's not what he said. He said, if you like your doctor you can keep your doctor, period. But you just offered -- for the vast majority and depending on which plan you keep.

MR. CARNEY: Jon, I think everybody understands how the insurance system works. And what the President clearly talked about throughout the effort to get the Affordable Care Act passed and since, in his efforts to make sure that it is implemented -- against the constant assault by Republicans who want to repeal it and replace it with exactly nothing -- that the system is built on the existing private insurance system that we have in this country. And that allows for a reform that for the vast majority of the people, because they get insurance like you and I do and most people in this room, through their employer or through Medicare or through Medicaid or the VA -- for there to be no change beyond the added benefits that the ACA provides to all of us.

And then, if you are obviously uninsured, like 15 percent of the population, the only doctor you've been able to see is the doctor at the emergency room, and you now have, through expanded Medicaid in those states that wisely choose that option, or through tax credits that allow you to purchase affordable health care, you have a choice of doctor for the first time.

If you're in the private insurance market -- again, this is building on the private insurance market -- there's an enormous amount of churn. If your insurance was canceled regularly, if it was changed regularly, that is part of a system that the ACA was designed in part to improve. And what is the case is that in state after state after state, individuals have more options than they've ever had before. They have different levels of coverage to choose from, and depending on the level of coverage they choose from, they'll likely have a broader network of doctors and specialists to be able to see.

Q Jay, if I can just get clarification on this Henry Chao testimony, you say what he said six days ago. Today, it seems he is much more specific. He is saying that 30 or 40 percent of this tech system that allows for the payments to go to the insurance companies has not even been built.

MR. CARNEY: Well, I think they are building it, is what he said.

Q Yes. He said, 30 to 40 --

MR. CARNEY: I mean, Jon, I guess the --

Q You're not concerned about that?

MR. CARNEY: Jon, I think again, breaking news, the website is a problem. And we have been --

Q This is a whole other problem.

MR. CARNEY: -- working on it. And I know that people who are trying to work 24/7 on the website are spending a lot of time on Capitol Hill, where they're repeating testimony that they gave six days ago, in some cases. But the fact is, yes, we're concerned about the website. That's why the President is focused so intently on making sure that the best possible teams are working on making improvements to it; that people are working around the clock 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to fix the problems that the website itself has experienced and to ensure that all aspects of it are functioning when they're supposed to function.

And that's where we are on November -- late November in 2013. We're focused on a troubled website that needs to be fixed. We're focused on solutions to problems that exist, rather than an ongoing political effort to undermine the Affordable Care Act without any alternative. And what every critic up on Capitol Hill of Obamacare never adds to the sentence or the paragraph is what he or she would do in the alternative.

And that's because the alternative is a system where insurance companies, again, can deny you coverage because you have asthma or some other preexisting condition; where they can charge you double because you're a woman; where they can excise out coverage on a certain condition because you actually suffer from it; where they can give you coverage of a sort, but actually that coverage doesn't include hospitalization, so you can be bankrupt in a minute if you get sick.

That's the debate we had. And, in many ways, while there is justifiable focus on the problems with the launch, that's the debate we're still having, because to this day Republicans have refused to offer an alternative. And if you don't offer an alternative, then you are passively saying that you prefer the status quo. And they ought to concede that and say they want a system where insurance companies can deny you coverage because you have a preexisting condition. They want a system where insurers can charge you double if you're a woman, insure one child and not the other because one's sick and one's healthy.

That's not what the President believes is right. And we are still having this debate, and engaging this debate obviously is made more difficult for us because of the problems with the website. And as the President said, that's on us. It shouldn't be that way, and that's why we're working so hard to fix it.

Q Can I just ask you if there's anything to this report you can just knock down that interviews were faked in the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys on the unemployment numbers. Is there anything --

MR. CARNEY: Well, look, I would refer you to Census. That story is obviously misleading. I think a lot of people shed a lot of credibility engaging in conspiracy theories last fall about rigged jobs numbers. I have to tell you, as somebody who's been here for a long time, when month after month after month the jobs numbers came in and then later were revised upward, it sure didn't feel like they were helping us. I remember the zero-jobs month in August of '11. I think that's now over 100,000 jobs created. Imagine how you and others would have reported it had the actual number been more accurate.

Q So you've heard nothing of any of this?

MR. CARNEY: Absolutely not.

Q Okay, right. Thanks.

MR. CARNEY: Brianna.

Q Thanks, Jay. On October 21st, the President cited the story of Jessica Sanford, a Washington State woman, as a success story. She was thrilled she had checked in to getting health insurance. She's a court reporter who has a son with ADHD, and she was quoted a price that included a subsidy and she was very happy because she was going to be able to afford insurance. She's now spoken to CNN. She cannot -- she's found out actually that she does not qualify for a subsidy. It was revised down once. She now doesn't qualify. And she simply cannot afford the insurance. Now, I'm wondering what the President's message is for her, having used her as a success story, and obviously for a number of people who are in a similar situation.

MR. CARNEY: Well, first of all, as I know you I think included -- CNN included in its report but not in that question, is that Jessica Sanford is working with a state-based exchange and --

Q And it was the state exchange who --

MR. CARNEY: Right.

Q -- quoted her that.

MR. CARNEY: And we're obviously -- I saw the news coverage and don't know whether or not the details are correct. But I can tell you that my understanding is Washington State health officials are reaching out to Ms. Sanford to make sure she has accurate information about her options, and I'd refer you to the Washington Health Benefit Exchange for more details.

And now, while that state exchange has done a lot of things right, we also know that they have recently had problems with errors in tax credit estimates, and we're certainly as sorry as we can be that Jessica is one of the folks that has been affected by this, if that's the case, as reported. I think also it's important to note, again, as the state exchange looks into her personal situation and makes sure that all the numbers are accurate when it comes to whether or not she qualifies for a credit, that Jessica --

Q Are you -- do you think she may qualify for a credit?

MR. CARNEY: No, I'm saying I have no idea. I'm saying that she got --

Q I guess my question is more that she's someone who it appears now she doesn't, and yet it's very expensive for her, and she's saying she cannot afford it.

MR. CARNEY: Again, I don't know the numbers about what her income is, what the coverage cited to her is. I know based on your --

Q I mean, the President used her story.

MR. CARNEY: Absolutely, based on what she told the President and what she told the White House she had been told by the state exchange when she was initially told she would get a subsidy and therefore the coverage would be less expensive than what she's being told now. In either case, this is not the federal-run

marketplace; this is a state-run exchange, so we don't --

Q But the concept of her being in a --

MR. CARNEY: Brianna, if I could just finish my sentence for one --

Q Everyone qualifies for certain subsidies. I'm just saying if she can't afford it and she doesn't qualify for a subsidy, and she's --

MR. CARNEY: And what I'm saying, Brianna, is I don't know her personal circumstances. And it's my understanding that Washington State health exchange officials will reach out to her to make sure that the information she's gotten is correct because there is -- obviously there has been, with her in particular, and with other individuals in Washington State, instances of errors in the information they'd been given. And that's what led initially to her believing that she would get a tax credit and then to at least the current information that she won't.

What I think is also noteworthy -- and I saw it in your report, or CNN's report, so I'll mention it now -- is that she says she's still a supporter of the Affordable Care Act. And the Affordable Care Act is designed to give access to millions of Americans who, like her, have never had insurance before or have been uninsured for a long time, to affordable, quality health insurance.

Again, I don't know her personal economic circumstances or what is affordable for her. But there is no question that, again, based on your reporting and our understanding of what she's told us before, that she did not have insurance before, was uninsured before. So let's --

Q But she said she was a supporter of the ACA, but she also feels that she has not been served well by the ACA. So what is -- I guess that's the response I'm looking for.

MR. CARNEY: Well, what I can tell you is that, again, I don't know her personal circumstances. I don't know her income level or what goes in to the calculation of whether or not she gets a tax credit. What I can tell you is that she did not get insurance at all, she was uncovered, she was uninsured -- one of the 15 percent with zero coverage, and whether --

Q And she's saying she'll remain uninsured now.

MR. CARNEY: Well, again, I don't know her personal circumstances. But when we're looking at the fact that the Affordable Care Act would increase coverage in this country by tens of millions, the fact is that the status quo means that that 15 percent of the population remains uninsured, and that 15 percent grows, because that has been the case over decades now, since the last effort to reform health care in this country -- where the ranks of the uninsured have increased, where employers over years were shedding coverage, and premiums for all of us were going up. Health care costs were skyrocketing. And now, for the first time in 50 years, since data has been reported, health care costs are growing more slowly than ever.

Q But some people, like Jessica, may just fall through the cracks?

MR. CARNEY: Well, again, I don't know her personal circumstance so I can't keep guessing based on what you tell me. I can tell you that the Affordable Care Act is designed to provide affordable, quality health insurance to millions of Americans. What I can tell you -- this doesn't apply to Washington State -- but there's no question, because Republican governors around the country are making actually the fiscally unwise decision, as I think was reported about one state today, not to expand Medicaid, and they are choosing --

Q That's not Washington State.

MR. CARNEY: I just said in my answer, Brianna, I just said this doesn't apply to Washington. But there are millions of Americans across the country who are going to be denied insurance coverage because governors across the country decided for ideological reasons not to expand Medicaid to their citizens. And that's certainly unfortunate.

And we're working regularly with governors around the country and lawmakers around the country to make the case for why that is not the right decision for their constituents. And you have seen Republican governors in states like Ohio and Arizona and Florida make a different choice, because they know that's the right thing to do for their constituents, because providing people without insurance basic coverage through Medicaid is the right thing to do.

Let me move around. Laura.

Q What is the White House reaction to the bombing of the embassy in Beirut today? And do you think in your opinion it has anything to do with the conflict in Syria?

MR. CARNEY: The United States strongly condemns today's terrorist bombings in Beirut, which occurred near the Iranian embassy. We extend our condolences to the victims of this tragic event and to their families. We call on all parties to exercise calm and restraint to avoid enflaming the situation further.

We support the government of Lebanon's commitment to conduct a thorough investigation into this attack. We look to all parties to cooperate with the investigation, and urge that those responsible are brought to justice. Acts of terror only reinforce our determination to work with the institutions of the Lebanese state, including the Lebanese armed forces and the internal security forces, to ensure a stable, sovereign and secure Lebanon.

In terms of the purpose of the attack and those responsible, we've seen reported claims, but obviously we're making, as others are making, early assessments.

Q But in this part of the world, people are saying that it's a direct consequence of what's happening in Syria. And now that Lebanon is completely --

MR. CARNEY: That's a judgment that goes to claims of responsibility, and we cannot at this time, this early stage, independently confirm who is responsible. And until we can do that, it's hard to make a judgment about what the implications of the attack are.

Q Jay, I wanted to ask you first about Afghanistan and follow up on Julie. There's a Reuters report saying that Hamid Karzai's spokesman is claiming that President Obama is going to write a letter to the Afghan people acknowledging mistakes made in the war on terror. Can you rule that out, or --

MR. CARNEY: Well, what I can tell you is that we don't comment on presidential correspondence and I don't have any specifics on any language of a letter that hasn't been written.

More broadly, I would reiterate that we take every precaution to prevent civilian casualties and we always express regret when civilians are killed. This is not a new issue in our relationship. It's one we've discussed openly in the past, and it's one we continue to work through.

I think it is notable that our concern about potential civilian casualties is reflected in the extreme care taken by our military forces in Afghanistan, and that continues to be the case. And when there have been civilian casualties that have been verified, the military and the administration, the government of the United States

has always regretted that and made clear that regret.

Q Health care -- on Brianna's questions about Jessica Sanford, you repeatedly said you don't know the details, so if you don't know the details, how could the President of the United States go out there and hold her up as a success story without someone here at the White House checking out to see how she would be impacted in Washington State?

MR. CARNEY: She contacted the White House, said what her circumstances were --

Q But no one checked that out and said, well, actually you'll pay more --

MR. CARNEY: But, Ed, my understanding is that that is what she believed her situation was at the time that she wrote to the White House and that she participated in this event. Again, if you look at CNN's report -- and I can't -- I'm saying I can't independently verify it, I'm not doubting CNN's report -- but that she was then notified that there were errors in the calculation of the tax credit that reduced her credit and then told her that she got no credit. That's something that the Washington State exchange does.

What I can tell you is that at the time, she believed she was getting a tax credit that would make insurance affordable -- or more affordable for her. And I think it's important to remember -- again, very important to remember -- and I would encourage you, Ed, when you do this story, to focus on this -- that she was uninsured and is uninsured, and that the status quo ante for her and for 15 percent of the population is no insurance. It's going to the emergency room, so that everybody in this room and everybody around the country foots the bill. And that's bad for her and her family, bad for everyone of that 15 percent, and bad for our economy and bad for every one of us who has to bear the cost of that system.

Q The McKinsey & Company report that was done I believe back in March suggesting there might be problems with the website -- I'm going to give you a chance -- I haven't heard you asked about it yet, in general, and I understand you've been upset before about some of the documents Republican Darrell Issa has put out there, so I want to make clear they're being put out by a Republican -- if you want to respond, great. But specifically, I want to know, as you answer that, was the President briefed on that report?

MR. CARNEY: Here's what I can tell you. As we have said many times now -- I, myself, many times, and others -- and this has been frequently reported, flags were raised throughout the development of the website, as would be the case for any IT project of this size and complexity. Those issues, including the ones from six months before the launch, were, in turn, taken up by the development team housed at CMS. But nobody anticipated the size and scope of the problems we experienced once the site was launched, as we've discussed repeatedly.

Since that time, experts have been working night and day to get it functioning. And that is where our focus is and should be right now.

The review that you cite and that has been reported on took place in the spring of 2013 and involved an outside management consulting firm. It was a qualitative review based on interviews with project stakeholders within the government and reviews of relevant planning documents. The purpose of the review was to describe how consumers would use the FFM -- the marketplaces, the federal marketplaces -- identify risks that could affect the consumer experience and provide strategies to mitigate those risks. The review was not a technical review of the website's functionality.

The review recommended certain proactive steps to mitigate risks and those recommendations were acted upon. CMS, HHS has a rundown, but a few examples include: one, establishing a streamlined decision-making process to address critical path issues as they arose, a suggestion which was implemented by the summer. CMS also created a centralized interagency governance process to support efficient decision-making around operations.

Two, requirements for the website should be finalized promptly. That recommendation was accepted and the website requirements were finalized in short order. And then, three, to address concerns raised in the review about states' preparedness, CMS developed and communicated new milestones and deadlines to state-based marketplaces.

Q So the President was not briefed on it?

MR. CARNEY: What I can tell you is that, as you might expect, McKinsey -- which was the firm, the outside firm that was contracted -- provided a briefing on the review and recommendations for senior officials at HHS, CMS and the White House. To ensure that the recommendations were being addressed, these officials were subsequently briefed on actions being taken to mitigate the risks identified in the review. The President received regular briefings on various aspects of implementing the ACA, including the recommendations from this review and the steps that CMS, HHS and others had taken to address those recommendations.

Q So officials from the White House were briefed?

MR. CARNEY: A variety of officials involved in the effort.

Q And then it did make it up to the President, you're saying?

MR. CARNEY: The President was briefed regularly on aspects of implementing the ACA, including the recommendations from this review and the steps that CMS and HHS were taking in response to those recommendations.

Q So this now suggests that as early as March, all the way up to the President, they at least knew there were problems. Why wasn't that followed up on, then? It was suggested.

MR. CARNEY: They were followed up on. That's what I just said, that --

Q How? The website turned out to be a disaster.

MR. CARNEY: Well, Ed, again because we're in the breaking news business, it turns out that today we've learned the website did not launch effectively.

Q But here we have the President was briefed as early as March, and yet we still had this, as you call it "breaking news" that the website is a disaster. How did nobody fix it between March and --

MR. CARNEY: The review, if you carefully look at it, made observations based on the interviews about problems that needed to be fixed. It made recommendations that HHS and CMS adopted to improve the site.

Q But did the President follow up and say, have these changes been made, I was briefed in March?

MR. CARNEY: Absolutely. The President -- Ed.

Q Yes, so he did follow up?

MR. CARNEY: The President, as we've said repeatedly, got regular briefings and was told that there were problems that were being addressed, and that upon launch, as I've said -- and I can point you to the transcripts -- there would be glitches, there would be problems, but that certainly we never expected -- he was certainly not told and nobody here was told, because there was not this expectation that the site would perform as

poorly as it did. And as he said to you last week, had he known that, he wouldn't have been touting the launch of the website, as he and I and others were in the run-up to October 1st.

Q What's the rationale to the American public about boots on the ground in Afghanistan until 2024? As a couple of these draft proposals between the United States and Afghanistan, a U.S. military presence in Afghanistan could be there until 2024. What do you tell the American public?

MR. CARNEY: Well, let's be clear. The war in Afghanistan will end next year, as the President has promised. The combat mission will be over.

What we have said for a long time now, coming out of Lisbon and the consultations with our NATO allies, is that we would potentially come to an agreement with Afghanistan to engage in counterterrorist operations and the training of Afghan troops, a very limited arrangement that would not have, as the President said in his speech, would not see American troops patrolling cities or mountains. It would be a very limited mission to assist Afghanistan in its counterterrorism operations and to assist in the training and equipping of Afghan troops.

That has been something that we've been discussing now for quite some time. The conversations that we've been having with the Afghan government around the bilateral security agreement have focused in part on these issues. And if an agreement is reached and it is approved, we would certainly look at what limited troop presence might be required to fulfill that mission -- counterterrorism and training and equipping of Afghan troops.

That is not the war that we've been engaged in now for more than a decade.

Q But you get the weariness that's out there. I mean, the idea that troops are in harm's way and --

MR. CARNEY: Well, but we've discussed -- remember, we talked about there was --

Q You talked about this -- your option before.

MR. CARNEY: Right. And what we've made clear is that every option was on the table and we are still in the process of reaching a final agreement here. But that agreement has to be acceptable to the United States for --

Q But you get that the public looks at this and just sits there and goes, I don't want to -- do you think the public --

MR. CARNEY: I think that when it comes to this President keeping his word and ending the war in Iraq, keeping his word and winding down and ending the war in Afghanistan, the public knows that he's keeping those commitments.

And we have been very clear since the NATO conference in Lisbon that there was the possibility of a small number of troops being focused on continued counterterrorism and training and equipping of Afghan forces, but that the combat mission, the war would end. You will not see U.S. troops patrolling mountains or cities in that circumstance, if an agreement is reached.

Q Do you think it's going to be more difficult to get the public to accept something like this now just given the weariness on --

MR. CARNEY: Again, I think that we have a dramatically reduced number of U.S. forces in harm's way than when this President took office. There are still men and women on the front lines in Afghanistan, and this President is very focused on making sure that the mission that he outlined with his national security team around our Afghanistan presence be the focus of their efforts and be acted on by our troops as we wind down the war in Afghanistan, in keeping with his commitment.

Q Quickly on health care -- is it fair to say that, given that there's -- let me put it this way -- can you confirm the reports that you're looking for other ways to deal with subsidies to insurance companies where the public, if they're eligible for subsidies they can bypass the website as -- is that definitely going to happen?

MR. CARNEY: You're talking about what's been defined as direct enrollment. As I said yesterday, and we've been saying and has reported for some time, direct enrollment has always been part of --

Q But usually with the subsidies, the assumption has been you still have to go through the website.

MR. CARNEY: There is no way to receive a tax credit without the website and the hub.

Q And you're still not -- you're not looking for an alternative way? Or are you --

MR. CARNEY: We're not looking -- we're simply looking to improve the avenues available that have been in existence from the beginning. And we are working with insurance companies to make that possible avenue where you can direct enroll -- i.e. you make a decision, perhaps after shopping online and getting a general sense of what the options are available to you, and then deciding I want to go with this particular insurance company and this plan, and then going to that insurer and saying this is what I want to do.

In order to get your tax credit, you still -- either the insurer on your behalf or you have to go through the hub. That still has to be done -- unless you want to directly enroll with a qualified plan and not even find out whether you're eligible for a subsidy. Perhaps your income is too high and you know you're not, so you might have decided I want this plan from this insurer, and you can go direct to that insurer and purchase that plan, that qualified plan without any interaction with the website.

Q Given the testimony on the Hill today about this issue, about being able to process payments to insurance companies, is it -- so the website on November 30th is not going to be able to do that? Is that why you would -- are all of these connected?

MR. CARNEY: I didn't follow all of the testimony. I would refer you to CMS and to the testimony about the progress in --

Q Is that why you're looking for -- but there isn't going to be an alternative way? If the website can't process subsidy payments to insurance companies, then how are you going to --

MR. CARNEY: That's an "if" that I don't know the answer -- whether that's the case, so I would refer you to the briefings at CMS about that.

What I can tell you is that Mr. Chao testified, as I understand it, today, to what he testified last week, which is that there is still a portion of the site that is being built.

Q It has to do with the -- this portion.

MR. CARNEY: The back end --

Q Yes.

MR. CARNEY: -- so that the enrollment part, with which we've had trouble is the one that has been -- that was launched and that is now undergoing substantial improvements. So in terms of the technical side of what that end of the website looks like, I'd refer you to CMS.

Q But can you say that's a working -- this website is not working if you can't process subsidy payments, is it? I mean, at that point, what's the point of the website if --- the whole point of it is to find out if you're eligible for these subsidies --

MR. CARNEY: But as I understand it -- and I would refer you to CMS for more details -- they have a time by which that needs to be built and they're in the process of that build.

Q They still think they're going to make it there?

MR. CARNEY: I would refer you to them. Again, he --

Q You guys haven't gotten this assured then.

MR. CARNEY: I'm not saying that. I'm just saying I haven't asked that question -- since the man testified in public today, I think I would refer you to his public testimony.

Major.

Q Let me just put three pieces of information together, this --

MR. CARNEY: Are they related? (Laughter.)

Q Yes, they're very much related, which you'll see in a moment. Chao's testimony today that you had this problem with this back-end part of the site needs to be finished. Jessica Sanford's story, which was -- she was

well-intentioned, the White House was probably well-intentioned, but there was a bug in the system, she got bad data. And in the Post this morning -- I'm not going to ask you about the other data about the President's credibility -- but there's 71 percent of that poll say -- so that's Republicans and Democrats and independents -- that the enrollment deadline should be extended just because these problems have proved, at least to the public's satisfaction, and because these other pieces of data suggest this isn't going to be ready and doable on the timeline originally envisioned.

Isn't pressure -- not just practical pressure, but now political pressure -- going to build on this White House to give serious consideration to extending the enrollment deadline so people can actually avail themselves of the Affordable Care Act as originally envisioned, because the original timeline is now simply not workable?

MR. CARNEY: Well, we're working under a timeline where we expect improvements to the website to have been put in place that will allow it to function effectively for the vast majority of users by the end of this month, by December 1st. And in the meantime, as has been reported, people are enrolling. And the improvements -- this is not a jump up at the end of the month, this is a steady rise in improvements. Those improvements have led to a more effective website and to improved enrollment, as we sort of roughly understand. Obviously we'll have data to release monthly when it's available.

But our focus is on fixing the website and getting it working, making sure that Americans are able to enroll either online or in person or through call centers, so that those who want to buy insurance and have it kick in on January 1st are able to do that. We are being very transparent about where we are in this process, about all the problems that we've had, about the software and hardware fixes that are being made, about the fact that there are elements of it that are still being built --

Q And isn't it possible that all these efforts may fall short and you may need to reconsider this issue?

MR. CARNEY: Well, I mean, you're asking me a hypothetical. What I'm saying is where we are today --

Q It's not exactly a hypothetical because the problems that you're dealing with are real, and we're trying to measure them and you're trying to deal with them. That's not a hypothetical.

MR. CARNEY: Well, no, but we're on track, we believe, to hit our mark of making the website functionality such that the vast majority of users will be able to navigate it successfully. And there will obviously be those users who might still have problems with it that are related to technology. They might still have -- they might choose not to go through that website because of the complexity of their situation or a general predisposition against making big purchases online. I mean, these are always things that you have to take into consideration, and that's why there are other methods by which people can enroll and shop.

So we're going to -- we provide these regular briefings at CMS. I get out here and answer questions about this, and others do. And we'll keep you apprised of our progress. We believe it's very important that the promise of the Affordable Care Act be fulfilled, and the promise is that millions of Americans will be able to --

Q Can't it be fulfilled even if you extend the enrollment?

MR. CARNEY: Well, but what I'm saying is we're focused on what we're doing to improve the website and what we're doing to get as many people enrolled as possible who want to be enrolled. And I have no new information to provide about the current deadlines except that we're working to meet them.

Q Okay. Senator Corker told us outside after the meeting that the senators came away with a much greater sense of the details of the negotiations. Is it fair to say the President and the Secretary of State conveyed more to them about what's on the actual negotiating table than has been discussed publicly?

MR. CARNEY: I think it's fair to say that. It's a two-hour meeting. So, yes.

Q Okay. And was there a general meeting of the minds on the timeline? It's clear now that there's not going to be an amendment to the defense authorization bill on this topic until after the Senate comes back from the Thanksgiving recess. Clearly this is a very important week for the negotiations. So do you feel you have reached a sort of meeting of the minds that this is not going to complicate conversations with the Iranians and the P5-plus-1?

MR. CARNEY: Well, I defer to the Senate and to the senators who were in the meeting. I did note the public comments of Senator Corker with regards to these specific issues, and we certainly appreciate that. It reflects the President's view that it would not be productive for Congress to act on new sanctions now because they should retain that potential for later, if necessary, to positively affect Iranian behavior.

Right now, we are where we are with the upcoming sessions in Geneva because of the sanctions regime that's been in place and the potential that Iran has decided -- or rather changed its calculus about how it views its nuclear program.

Q One thing that will come up before the Senate in the coming days on the defense authorization bill is the question of rewriting the military rules on sexual assault. The President has spoken about this forcefully on a

couple of occasions. And there was a lengthy statement of administration policy last night, and I may have missed it -- I tried to read it carefully

-- but where does the administration come down on the McCaskill versus Gillibrand amendment on how to deal with the accountability of commanders or a completely independent review that takes commanders out of the decision-making process on military sexual assault allegations?

MR. CARNEY: Well, thank you for the question. The statement of administration policy, as I understand it, was on the underlying bill, not on any potential amendments.

Q I figured as much. I just wanted to clarify.

MR. CARNEY: So on the issue of sexual assault in the military, the President does feel very strongly, as you know, having heard him discuss this. And we have been working with members of Congress on this issue. It is something, as I said, the President is very concerned about, and that's why he has directed Secretary Hagel and the rest of his team to address this issue aggressively to make sure that victims are being helped and that perpetrators are being held accountable.

But we're continuing to work with members of Congress. Beyond the statement of administration policy on the underlying bill, I don't have any more insight on potential amendments at this time. What I can tell you is that we consider this to be a very important issue.

Q So there is no position one way or the other on which is better, McCaskill or Gillibrand?

MR. CARNEY: Beyond what we put out on the underlying defense authorization bill, I can only tell you that we're working with members of Congress who are very concerned about this issue, as the President is.

Q Now, you may not know the answer to this, but I want to bring this up to you. As you -- I know you know this, but the President is one of 61 famous politicians, historians and others who have cited the Gettysburg Address for Ken Burns.

MR. CARNEY: Yes.

Q Now, there are two copies of that Gettysburg Address. One is called the Nicolay and one is called the Hay,

and both are in the Library of Congress. Neither of them include “under God,” which is the way the President read it. Many others included a reference to God in the Gettysburg Address. I’m just curious if you know why the President read it that way?

MR. CARNEY: I think he read the version of the address that Ken Burns provided. I think Ken Burns is a noted Civil War scholar.

Q Ken Burns provided it to him?

MR. CARNEY: Yes, that’s my understanding -- the Nicolay version, yes.

Q Just wanted to clarify.

Q Jay, would the President like to see a technical-fix bill to the health law pass Congress? And does last week’s executive action suggest that the White House believes it’s politically impossible right now?

MR. CARNEY: A technical fix on the issue of cancellations?

Q Or all kinds of -- the language -- all sorts of health experts say --

MR. CARNEY: Well, the President is -- that’s a very good question. The President has long said that he would welcome efforts by lawmakers of both parties that are sincere that are aimed at making improvements to the Affordable Care Act so that it more effectively delivers on its promise. And that’s how we view potential legislative action on this issue and on any issue.

What has certainly been the case thus far is that Republicans have, regrettably, even when, at least superficially, devising legislation to make improvements to the Affordable Care Act, have in conferences and even in public acknowledged that what they’re really engaging in is, as I think John Boehner said, targeted strikes aimed at torpedoing the whole Affordable Care Act.

And I mean, that’s -- we just have a difference of opinion about the underlying necessity of reforming our health care system. And we had a long campaign about this. We’ve had a Supreme Court decision about this.

And what remains true today is that those who want to do away with the Affordable Care Act are offering no alternative in its place. And in fact, any suggestion that we've seen in the House that Republicans should put forward a real reform alternative have been savaged by the most vocal and arguably powerful element of the Republican Party.

So what that leaves us with is trying to find those who want to engage in good-faith efforts to make legislative fixes that improve the bill. And perhaps there will be some in the Republican Party, as there are, of course, in the Democratic Party. In the meantime, we do what we can administratively to make the fixes that will help improve it, and we continue to have the broader debate about, even with a faulty website and with some of the other problems with enrollment, do we continue to implement the Affordable Care Act so that millions of Americans have access to quality health insurance, many for the first time, or do we go back to the past where insurance companies dictated whether or not if you had a sister -- twin sister with exactly the same health, she was going to have to pay double for the same policy.

We have very strong opinions about that debate, and have been engaged in it for years now, and it seems like we'll be engaged in it now for some time into the future.

Mark.

Q Jay, back to Iran.

MR. CARNEY: And then April.

Q The U.S. has always said through the course of these Iran negotiations that it shares intel with the Israelis, consults with the Israelis, sends officials to Jerusalem to brief the Israelis on the results of whatever round of negotiations has just finished. And yet here we are at a moment where there's this chasm of misunderstanding and disagreement between the U.S. and Israel on the wisdom of doing an interim deal, and Israeli officials have gone so far as to say they feel misled by the United States about the nature of this deal or possible deal.

I'm wondering what, in your view, accounts for this gulf between two close allies. Is the President worried that this has eroded trust in a way that may be hard to put together again? And then lastly, is there a concern that the ill will over this, the misunderstanding over this could bleed over into some of the President's other priorities in the region, notably a peace deal between the Israelis and the Palestinians?

MR. CARNEY: On our consultations with Israel over Iran, they are constant and broad. And in all cases, they start from the firm understanding by both sides that we share same goal -- to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

And we have provided our Israeli counterparts significant information about the potential first-phase agreement, as well as what that would mean in terms of halting progress of the Iranian program and rolling back aspects of it, while the P5-plus-1 and Iran pursue the potential for a comprehensive agreement. And we've made clear our view that it is in our and Israel's and all of our partners' best interest to reach a preliminary agreement that halts that progress and reverses aspects of it, rather than reach no preliminary agreement and continue to engage in potential comprehensive deal negotiations while Iran has no restrictions on its ability to pursue progress in its program. This is, in our view, very significant.

Now, the relief that's envisioned as part of this first phase is limited, it is reversible, and it leaves in place the comprehensive sanctions regime. In fact, sanctions continue to take effect and continue to be implemented throughout that period so that Iran continues to suffer from the sanctions regime up and until it can verifiably demonstrate to the international community that it is meeting its obligations and forsaking its nuclear weapons ambitions.

So we are having those discussions with all of our partners, including Israel. What is also a bedrock principle to every conversation we have is our unshakeable commitment to Israel's security -- a commitment that has been demonstrated by this President in concrete terms throughout his five years in office, a fact that has been recognized by the Prime Minister and other top Israeli officials over these years.

So having said all of that, it is absolutely understandable that Israel is skeptical of Iranian behavior. We all are, and have been. After all, that's why we're here. That's why we're in the situation that we're in. That's why the world has come together and punished Iran through the comprehensive sanctions regime. But as I said earlier, it is the President's view that the sanctions weren't put in place for the sake merely of sanctioning of Iran. They were put in place to see if we could change Iranian behavior, if we could change Tehran's calculus.

And we are now at a point where it is possible that the effect of the sanctions has been to bring about a change in behavior. We need to test it and see if that's possible, because it is incumbent upon the President of the United States to explore the possibility of resolving this issue diplomatically before trying to resolve it through other means, including military force.

Q In this case, it appears the Israelis are more skeptical of our behavior than the Iranians behavior. They're deeply skeptical of --

MR. CARNEY: Well, I certainly doubt that.

Q They're deeply skeptical, though, of the assumptions we're making in pursuing this deal and the likely outcome of that deal. And I guess my question is, how can there be such a gulf of misunderstanding after all the consultation that you described?

MR. CARNEY: What I can tell you is that we're in regular consultation with the Israelis and others. The P5-plus-1 are unified. The deal envisioned, if it is reached, will I think upon inspection demonstrate that there is a transparency involved that will ensure Iranian compliance; that halting progress on its program is very much a desirable outcome to a first stage of this agreement; that rolling back key aspects of it is very much a desirable outcome because it allows for essentially a pause in that progress while we explore the possibility of a comprehensive agreement with Tehran, with the P5-plus-1.

So we're consulting with Congress. We're consulting with our allies and partners. We will see if an agreement can be reached in this first phase. And then, obviously we will, if it is reached, be able to judge the details of it -- we, I mean collectively -- and then its implementation, including whether or not the relief that might be provided is, in fact, as we've said it is, limited and reversible, and whether or not Iran is complying, and that we have mechanisms in place to make sure that we can verify their compliance.

Q And one last thing -- spillover effect on the Israeli-Palestinian process? Any concern about that?

MR. CARNEY: I mean, these are both extremely challenging issues and have been for years, and we continue to work very closely with the Israelis and the Palestinians on an effort to make progress in what is a difficult, difficult problem. If these challenges were easily resolved, I'm sure they would have been resolved before we got here. And this President, this Secretary of State, the whole team is committed to pursuing U.S. national security interests, including our unshakeable commitment to Israel's defense in both cases.

April.

Q Jay, going back to the ACA website, Congressman Elijah Cummings, a friend of the President, said that the reason why the President's poll numbers are down is simply because of a website. He said, once that comes up, everything will be fine. But he said, in the meantime, what was really telling was the fact that when the President was standing here at the last press conference saying that his staff did not tell him -- and what do you say to Congressman Cummings, who says that there needs to be a shakeup within this administration because of such a major failure of the website?

MR. CARNEY: Well, there's no question the website has performed miserably upon launch, and that is why the President was none too happy about it and has made sure that teams are in place making improvements every day. That's not quite what the President said. He said that he was not told of any information that would suggest the website was going to perform as badly as it did. I think that is evident by all of the actions we

took publicly in the run-up to the website, the website launch.

When it comes to personnel matters, the President is focused on making sure everyone involved in this effort is working 24/7 to fix the problems, and fixing the problems not so that we can have a better functioning website as if that were the only goal -- the goal is to fix the problems so that we can make affordable, quality health insurance available to as many Americans as possible. So that's what we're focused on. I got this question yesterday. I mean, I think that the time for solving problems is now, and that's what we're focused on doing.

Q But this is a friend of the President's, a major voice on Capitol Hill in his own party. Are you listening?

MR. CARNEY: We always listen to Chairman Cummings. And I'm not aware of the specific comments that you're referring to, but I would simply say that he and others in Congress who are strong supporters of Obamacare and the Affordable Care Act share in the President's frustration and want as much as he does that the problems are fixed so that the promise of the Affordable Care Act can be realized.

Q And on another subject really fast, another subject -- the President was very vocal with the Trayvon Martin death. George Zimmerman has been given -- his bond has been set at \$9,000. He has to wear an electronic monitoring device. He can't leave the state for a domestic violence situation. Was the President aware of this yesterday, and what has he said about this, since he was so vocal before? And granted, each situation has nothing to do with each other, but this person has a pattern, it seems, of trouble with guns.

MR. CARNEY: I haven't had a discussion with him about that. And in terms of that specific incident, it's obviously one being handled by local law enforcement.

Roger.

Q Thanks. Secretary Sebelius -- is she still taking part in the daily briefings at the White House on the health care fix?

MR. CARNEY: Secretary Sebelius is very much a part of the team. I'm not sure that there are daily briefings involving the Secretary or have ever been daily briefings here at the White House. The Secretary is very much involved in the effort, though.

Q All right. Is she overseeing the fixes that are going on? Or is Zients sort of --

MR. CARNEY: She's the Secretary of HHS, of which CMS is a component. Jeff Zients was brought in to manage that effort, but he is doing so for CMS, and therefore for HHS.

Q She's still overseeing, then?

MR. CARNEY: Absolutely.

John, and then I've got to go.

Q No sooner than they got back from the White House, some senators released a statement, actually a letter to Secretary Kerry, on Iran, and they basically said sanctions on Iran should not be rolled back unless the Iranian nuclear program is rolled back rather than being frozen. Just wondering, is it viable to make a deal with the Iranians when Senators Menendez, the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Schumer -- another ally of the President's -- are saying that it's not?

MR. CARNEY: Well, again, I haven't seen, since I've been here, the statement that you mentioned. But the fact is the first phase does envision rolling back as well as halting progress, halting progress and rolling back key aspects. And we've talked about some of those aspects, including its enrichment capacity, its stockpile of enriched uranium, its ability to install advanced centrifuges, and the plutonium track at the Iraq reactor. So these are areas that are very concrete and significant. So when we talk about halting progress and rolling back, this would, if it comes to pass, be a very serious substantive agreement.

Also, as I mentioned earlier, the proposal we're discussing here does not roll back sanctions. It provides -- in fact, it explicitly leaves in place the sanctions regime and the structure that has upheld the sanctions regime. It provides limited temporary relief on a scale that is significantly lower than has been reported, and only in return for verifiable compliance with the obligations that Iran would make, should an agreement be reached.

So again, this is an administration that led the way to building the most effective, comprehensive and crippling set of sanctions in history precisely to test whether or not Iranian behavior could be changed through those sanctions. We are now at the point of seeing whether or not that can happen.

Our only interest in this is in resolving the fundamental question that is preventing Iran from acquiring a

nuclear weapon. It is far preferable to do that peacefully than to do it through other means, including military force. But at no point in this process has the President ever said he removes any option from the table. But it is his obligation as President and Commander-in-Chief to at least test whether or not there is a resolution available here that is verifiable and transparent, and that could reassure the international community -- the United States, Israel, and all of our allies and partners, and every country in the region -- that Iran has forsaken its nuclear weapons ambition. And that's what we're testing.

If Iran does not agree, if Iran does not comply, we will retain the capacity to reverse the limited relief that a first phase would provide and to increase sanctions. That is explicitly what we have been discussing with Congress -- that they should retain for maximum leverage the possibility of leveling new sanctions should they be necessary to respond to Iranian behavior. Right now, we're in the process of testing whether or not the opening that Iran has indicated is real.

Q So no concern about the viability to deal with Iran if senators are not on board with --

MR. CARNEY: Well, again, I think we had a very good discussion here at the White House. We heard a diversity of views. The Senate has, at least based on comments that were cited to me, indicated what it might do at least in the near term in terms of this issue. And in the meantime, we have negotiators headed to Geneva where they will test whether or not Tehran is serious, whether or not there is a potential here for resolving this peacefully. And if we are able to reach a first phase agreement then we can evaluate with some level of specificity what relief is provided, whether, as we said it would be, it is temporary and limited and reversible, and what concrete, verifiable actions Iran would have to take in order to meet its commitments.

Thanks, everybody.

END 2:40 P.M. EST

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From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Tue Nov 26 2013 15:19:38 EST
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
CC:
Subject: Fw: @PeteWilliamsNBC: Supreme Court agrees to take up challenge to Obamacare contraceptive mandate on religious freedom grounds. Most likely heard in late March.
Attachments: image001.jpg;image002.png;image003.png

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

D

From: Harris, Julian
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 03:16 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Rzeczkowski, Kristin
Subject: FW: @PeteWilliamsNBC: Supreme Court agrees to take up challenge to Obamacare contraceptive mandate on religious freedom grounds. Most likely heard in late March.

From: Simas, David M.
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 2:56 PM
To: Smith, Jamie; Lee, Jesse C.; Allen, Jessica; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: Re: @PeteWilliamsNBC: Supreme Court agrees to take up challenge to Obamacare contraceptive mandate on religious freedom grounds. Most likely heard in late March.

It's perfect.

From: Smith, Jamie
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 11:53 AM
To: Lee, Jesse C.; Allen, Jessica; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: @PeteWilliamsNBC: Supreme Court agrees to take up challenge to Obamacare contraceptive mandate on religious freedom grounds. Most likely heard in late March.

This is awesome.

From: Lee, Jesse C.
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 1:55 PM
To: Allen, Jessica; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: @PeteWilliamsNBC: Supreme Court agrees to take up challenge to Obamacare contraceptive mandate on religious freedom grounds. Most likely heard in late March.

Senator Patty Murray @PattyMurray3m

BIRTH CONTROL: Shouldn't be left up to bosses like Lumbergh. #SCOTUS #HandsOffMYBC
pic.twitter.com/tnWhc47aUx

From: Lee, Jesse C.
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 1:35 PM
To: Allen, Jessica; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: @PeteWilliamsNBC: Supreme Court agrees to take up challenge to Obamacare contraceptive mandate on religious freedom grounds. Most likely heard in late March.

1. Sabrina Siddiqui@SabrinaSiddiqui43s

Boehner on Hobby Lobby: "The administration's mandate is an attack on religious freedom, and I'm hopeful it will be reversed by the Court"

From: Lee, Jesse C.
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 1:34 PM
To: Allen, Jessica; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: @PeteWilliamsNBC: Supreme Court agrees to take up challenge to Obamacare contraceptive mandate on religious freedom grounds. Most likely heard in late March.

1. Chad Pergram@ChadPergram28s

Boehner on #SCOTUS & #Obamacare: Faith-based employers//should not be forced to provide services that contradict their faith.

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 1:34 PM
To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: @PeteWilliamsNBC: Supreme Court agrees to take up challenge to Obamacare contraceptive mandate on religious freedom grounds. Most likely heard in late March.

Chad Pergram @ChadPergram1m

Boehner on SCOTUS hrng challenges to ACA on religious grounds: I'm pleased the Supreme Court has decided to address this important issue.

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 12:51 PM
To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: @PeteWilliamsNBC: Supreme Court agrees to take up challenge to Obamacare contraceptive mandate on religious freedom grounds. Most likely heard in late March.

David Plouffe @davidplouffe1m

SCOTUS taking up contraception nightmare for GOP. Will be fascinating to watch the '16 contenders handle. NoVa, Jeff Co, I-4 women watching

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 12:34 PM
To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: @PeteWilliamsNBC: Supreme Court agrees to take up challenge to Obamacare contraceptive mandate on religious freedom grounds. Most likely heard in late March.

igorvolsky @igorvolsky36s

Obamacare contraception case could expand 1st Amendment rights for corporations, a concept the Supreme Court embraced in Citizens United

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 12:25 PM
To: Lee, Jesse C.; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: @PeteWilliamsNBC: Supreme Court agrees to take up challenge to Obamacare contraceptive mandate on religious freedom grounds. Most likely heard in late March.

Senator Patty Murray @PattyMurray 1m

[RT if you agree] BIRTH CONTROL: It's a woman's decision, not her boss's. #SCOTUS #HandsOffMyBC
pic.twitter.com/pBvU9dzFZs

igorvolsky @igorvolsky36s

Just two years after upholding Obamacare, Supreme Court to decide whether employers can deny birth control to women.

From: Lee, Jesse C.
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 12:22 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: @PeteWilliamsNBC: Supreme Court agrees to take up challenge to Obamacare contraceptive mandate on religious freedom grounds. Most likely heard in late March.

1. Senator Harry Reid @SenatorReid 12m

I hope the Court won't allow employers to end Obamacare's guarantee of free contraception coverage for women. pic.twitter.com/mW3TxWj1M

From: Lee, Jesse C.
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 12:17 PM

To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare

Subject: RE: @PeteWilliamsNBC: Supreme Court agrees to take up challenge to Obamacare contraceptive mandate on religious freedom grounds. Most likely heard in late March.

1. Cecile Richards@CecileRichards2m

BREAKING: #SCOTUS will hear Hobby Lobby v. Sebelius—a case that will determine whether bosses can refuse to cover employees' birth control.

1. UltraViolet@UltraViolet2m

Worried abt bosses deciding your birth control? Fear not. #SCOTUS will make your health care decisions instead

1. Laura Bassett@LEBassett7m

If corporations can decide not to cover b.c., "can they decide they don't want to cover vaccines or HIV medications?" http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/26/supreme-court-hobby-lobby_n_4343794.html ...

1. Lizz Winstead@lizzwinstead11m

Apparently, Hobby Lobby employs no sexual beings. Also #TheyNeedToGetAHobby

1. evale72@evale722m

Sup Ct should be great for Rs...another public airing of their desire to take away women's birth control is just what they need...

From: Lee, Jesse C.

Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 11:48 AM

To: DL-WHO-Press (b) (6); DL-WHO-Healthcare

Subject: @PeteWilliamsNBC: Supreme Court agrees to take up challenge to Obamacare contraceptive mandate on religious freedom grounds. Most likely heard in late March.

1. Pete Williams@PeteWilliamsNBC1m

Supreme Court agrees to take up challenge to Obamacare contraceptive mandate on religious freedom grounds. Most likely heard in late March.

From: Harris, Julian </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=harris, julian j.88f>
Sent: Tue Dec 03 2013 12:44:39 EST
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>;Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>;Cobert, Beth </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=cobert, beth f.551>;VanRoekel, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=steven_1_vanroekel>;Jordan, Joseph </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jordan, joseph g.158>;Reilly, Tom </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=thomasm.reilly54276557>;Martin, Kathryn </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kathrynmartin15107475>;Overstreet, Tyler J. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=tylerj.overstreet64046450>;Barnett, Patti </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=patti_a_barnett>
CC: Rzeczkowski, Kristin </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=rzeczkowski, kristin c.def>
Subject: FW: NPR-AllThingsConsidered: Could A Tech Giant Build A Better Health Exchange? Maybe Not
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

From: Lee, Jesse C.
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2013 12:43 PM
To: Allen, Jessica; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: NPR-AllThingsConsidered: Could A Tech Giant Build A Better Health Exchange? Maybe Not

1. Dylan Scott@dylanlscottnow

Good reminder from NPR that a huge tech company still botched Oregon's Obamacare website:
<http://www.npr.org/blogs/alltechconsidered/2013/12/02/248225524/could-a-tech-giant-build-a-better-health-exchange-maybe-not> ...

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2013 8:55 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: NPR-AllThingsConsidered: Could A Tech Giant Build A Better Health Exchange? Maybe Not

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/alltechconsidered/2013/12/02/248225524/could-a-tech-giant-build-a-better-health-exchange-maybe-not>

exchange-maybe-not

Could A Tech Giant Build A Better Health Exchange? Maybe Not

NPR // Steve Henn

AUDIO

Oregon has spent more than \$40 million to build its own online health care exchange. It gave that money to a Silicon Valley titan, Oracle, but the result has been a disaster of missed deadlines, a nonworking website and a state forced to process thousands of insurance applications on paper.

Some Oregon officials were sounding alarms about the tech company's work on the state's online health care exchange as early as last spring. Oracle was behind schedule and, worse, didn't seem able to offer an estimate of what it would take to get the state's online exchange up and running.

"It is the most maddening and frustrating position to be in, absolutely," says Liz Baxter, chairwoman of the board for Cover Oregon, the state's online exchange. "We have spent a lot of money to get something done — to get it done well — to serve the people in our state, and it is maddening that we can't seem to get over this last hump."

Falling Back On Paper Applications

Oregon had an ambitious goal: to create a place where anyone, from Medicaid recipients and small-business owners to people in the individual market, could go to shop for insurance. "In hindsight — which is always wonderful — we made decisions that made our system much more complicated to build," Baxter says.

Initially, Oracle promised it could get the job done. But by mid-May, the head of Cover Oregon, Rocky King, had written the company, pleading for "a simple calendar schedule ... to ascertain whether or not we will be able to deliver" a working exchange by Oct. 1.

Five months later, when Oregon's exchange was supposed to go live, the site still didn't work. And as recently as two weeks ago, the state had not yet managed to sign up a single person for private health insurance under the federal Affordable Care Act.

In desperation, Baxter says, Cover Oregon hired hundreds of temporary workers and cobbled together an application based on paper — currently the only way to apply.

"It's very easy try to envision you can automate a paper process," Baxter says. "[But] it's been very complex to take this ... complicated online system that we've been building and turn that into a paper process."

David Kline, an author and freelance journalist with a wife and two young children, is dealing with the fallout. A Portland resident, Kline is self-employed and eager to shop for new health insurance coverage on Oregon's exchange.

"It costs a lot of money to buy your own insurance," he says. "We spend about \$25,000 a year on insurance premiums, copays, unreimbursed expenses. That's a lot of money. Some people can live on that."

Kline quickly realized that he could buy better insurance for less on Oregon's new exchange, but signing up hasn't been easy. After realizing that the website was hopeless, Kline tried applying by paper. But he soon realized the paper application had flaws that made reporting an accurate income impossible. Then he wrote an op-ed — and was soon promised a fix — but says he hasn't seen one.

"I just downloaded the [new] application this morning ... it's the same application," he says.

Coming Down Past The Wire

Originally, Oregon had hoped that Kline and tens of thousands of others would be able to do all of this online. The state hired Oracle to make that possible and has paid the company \$43 million so far. But Oracle has missed deadline after deadline.

Kline is fed up with the delays for the rollout. "They told us Oct. 1, they told us Oct. 15, they told us Nov. 1, they told us Nov. 30," Kline says. "Come on!"

Oracle declined repeated requests from NPR to comment.

Now, Cover Oregon is telling its citizens who need insurance that they need to get their paper applications postmarked by Dec. 4 — this week — to get coverage by the beginning of 2014. They'll then need to finish the process and pick a plan by Dec. 15.

Oracle is now telling state officials that the website should be up and working by Dec. 16 — one day after the deadline.

King, the executive director of Cover Oregon, announced Monday that he will resign, citing health reasons. But there is little hope the state will get its money back from the tech company.

Baxter says there will be investigations into what went wrong and Oracle's responsibility. But for now, she says, she's trying to focus on Cover Oregon's mission. "We have tried very hard to [be] clear that our goal is about coverage."

From: Harris, Julian </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=harris, julian j.88f>
Sent: Thu Jan 02 2014 23:06:30 EST
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Reilly, Tom </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=thomasm.reilly54276557>; Martin, Kathryn </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kathrynmartin15107475>; Overstreet, Tyler J. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=tylerj.overstreet64046450>; Barnett, Patti </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=patti_a_barnett>
CC:
Subject: Fw: Positive ACA Coverage 1/2/14
Attachments: Positive ACA Coverage 1-2-14.docx

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

From: Beechem, Stephanie
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2014 07:42 PM
To: DL-WHO-ACA-CORE; Allen, Jessica
Subject: Positive ACA Coverage 1/2/14

See attached/below for an updated roundup of positive ACA coverage from the last two days. New additions are highlighted.

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Positive ACA Coverage

Table of Contents

General/Nationwide. 1

Arizona. 3

California. 3

Florida. 5

Georgia. 8

Illinois. 8

Kentucky. 10

Maryland. 10

Massachusetts. 11

Missouri 11

New Jersey. 11

New Mexico. 11

New York. 12

Ohio. 12

Pennsylvania. 13

Rhode Island. 13

Tennessee. 14

Virginia. 15

Wisconsin. 16

General/Nationwide

1/2/14: MSNBC: “Millions Of Americans Woke Up On January 1, 2014 With Health Insurance They Got Through Federal And State Insurance Exchanges Thanks To The Affordable Care Act. The Relatively Quiet First Day Is A Welcome Contrast To Three Months Ago...” “Millions of Americans woke up on January 1, 2014 with health insurance they got through federal and state insurance exchanges thanks to the Affordable Care Act. The relatively quiet first day is a welcome contrast to three months ago, when massive problems with Healthcare.gov, the online portal to the health insurance exchanges, threatened the law’s future and President Obama’s legacy. Officials touted improvements to the site as a reason for the drastic increase in enrollments for the month of December – 2.1 million through December 28 – but they also acknowledged that some people who signed up could have problems.” [MSNBC, 1/2/14]

1/2/14: New York Times: “Consumers Around The Country Began Using Coverage Provided By The New Health Care Law On Wednesday, The Same Day That Medicaid Expanded To Hundreds Of Thousands Of People In About Half The States.” “Consumers around the country began using coverage provided by the new health care law on Wednesday, the same day that Medicaid expanded to hundreds of thousands of people

in about half the states. Many provisions of the 2010 health care law offering new benefits and protections to consumers, including those with pre-existing conditions, also took effect.” [New York Times, 1/2/14]

1/1/14: NBC News: “...For People Like The Schulz Family Of Phoenix, Ariz., Rita Rizzo And Lou Vincent Of Akron, Ohio, And Joyce Moore Of Zionsville, Pa., [Today Is] The First Test Of Whether Obamacare Will Really Work. They All Say They’re Relieved And Excited To Finally Have New Access To Health Care...” “For the 2.1 million people who’ve signed up for health insurance under the new federal and state exchanges, Jan. 1 is when the rubber meets the road. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius called it ‘an exciting new day in health care’ as latest enrollment figures were released Tuesday. But for people like the Schulz family of Phoenix, Ariz., Rita Rizzo and Lou Vincent of Akron, Ohio, and Joyce Moore of Zionsville, Pa., it’s the first test of whether Obamacare will really work. They all say they’re relieved and excited to finally have new access to health care, and they hope that the rocky rollout of the exchanges under the Affordable Care Act will actually give way to the smooth delivery of vital medical services.” [NBC News, 1/1/14]

12/31/13: New York Times: “Starting Wednesday, Health Insurance Companies Can No Longer Deny Coverage To People With Pre-Existing Conditions And Cannot Charge Higher Premiums To Women Than To Men For The Same Coverage. In Most Cases, Insurers Must Provide A Standard Set Of Benefits Prescribed By Federal Law And Regulations. And They Cannot Set Dollar Limits On What They Spend On ‘Essential Health Benefits’ For A Policyholder.” “Millions of Americans will begin receiving health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act on Wednesday after years of contention and a rollout hobbled by delays and technical problems. The decisively new moment in the effort to overhaul the country’s health care system will test the law’s central premise: that extending coverage to far more Americans will improve the nation’s health and help many avoid crippling medical bills. Starting Wednesday, health insurance companies can no longer deny coverage to people with pre-existing conditions and cannot charge higher premiums to women than to men for the same coverage. In most cases, insurers must provide a standard set of benefits prescribed by federal law and regulations. And they cannot set dollar limits on what they spend on ‘essential health benefits’ for a policyholder.” [New York Times, 12/31/13]

12/30/13: Jimmy Williams, MSNBC: “...Under Obamacare I Will Now January 1st Be Able To Get Insurance. Now, That Notwithstanding, I Had To Apply Four Times On The Phone With An Obamacare Person From ACA Or Healthcare.Gov To Get My Application Filled Out And Filled Out Correctly. But That Being, I Got It. Finally I Got It. I Paid My First Due. It’s In. Good. And By The Way, I’m Now Paying \$400 Less Than I Was Paying Under COBRA.” “JIMMY WILLIAMS, MSNBC CONTRIBUTOR: I hate to do this, but I’m going to agree with him, Healthcare.gov. Not the implementation of Obamacare, not Obamacare or the Affordable Care Act which I love. Why? I’m uninsured. My cover ran out. Under the Republican plan -- wait, one Republican plan. There is no Republican plan. But under Obamacare I will now January 1st be able to get insurance. Now, that notwithstanding, I had to apply four times on the phone with an Obamacare person from ACA or healthcare.gov to get my application filled out and filled out correctly. But that being, I got it. Finally I got it. I paid my first due. It’s in. Good. And by the way, I’m now paying \$400 less than I was paying under COBRA. That’s a good thing. But the Web site was an absolute abject failure. They have fixed that. That is a good thing.” [MSNBC – Politics Nation, 12/30/13]

Arizona

1/2/14: New York Times: “Kathy Hornbach Of Tucson Is Not Wasting Any Time Before Using Her New Health Insurance Coverage, Which Took Effect On New Year’s Day. Ms. Hornbach, 57, Has An Appointment With A Cardiologist On Thursday For A Stress Test.” “Kathy Hornbach of Tucson is not wasting any time before using her new health insurance coverage, which took effect on New Year’s Day. Ms. Hornbach, 57, has an appointment with a cardiologist on Thursday for a stress test. ‘I’ve had some heart palpitations, and my mom’s side has a history of heart problems starting early,’ she said Wednesday in a telephone interview. ‘So it’s mostly just to double-check that everything is O.K.’ Ms. Hornbach, who has had breast cancer and retired early from the technology industry, said that insurance companies in Arizona had refused to cover her until about two years ago, when she got a policy with monthly premiums of \$285 and a deductible of \$5,500 a year. Last month, using the federal insurance exchange, she bought a midlevel silver plan with lower premiums and deductible. ‘It’s a better policy — lower out-of-pocket, more choice of doctors,’ she said. ‘This is a very happy day.’” [New York Times, 1/2/14]

1/1/14: NBC News: “For The Past Four Months, [The Shultz Family] Has Been Paying \$1,600 A Month For COBRA Benefits To Extend The Insurance Provided By Joseph Schulz’s Former Job As A Mortgage Broker. Now, However, With A Silver-Level Plan Through Health Net Of Arizona, They’ll Pay Just About \$700 A Month To Cover Themselves And Their Three Children, Ages 2, 7 And 10.” “Still, Rizzo’s optimism is shared by Claudia and Joseph Schulz [of Phoenix], who started trying to sign up for Obamacare on Oct. 1, the first morning the federally run Arizona exchange was open, and only succeeded in the last hours of an extended deadline on Christmas Eve. The pair quit their jobs in September to start an independent real estate business, putting them among some 1.5 million newly self-employed people projected to seek coverage under the ACA, according to a Georgetown University study. That left them frustrated and a little nervous about the repeated glitches and long delays of the sign-up process. But Claudia Schulz, 34, said she and her 37-year-old husband always expected it to work out eventually. ‘We weren’t happy that the website wasn’t working,’ said Claudia Schulz. ‘But we figured it’s the U.S. government. I’m sure they’ll fix the website.’ For the past four months, the couple has been paying \$1,600 a month for COBRA benefits to extend the insurance provided by Joseph Schulz’s former job as a mortgage broker. Now, however, with a silver-level plan through Health Net of Arizona, they’ll pay just about \$700 a month to cover themselves and their three children, ages 2, 7 and 10. There’s a \$3,000 deductible and \$12,000 maximum out-of-pocket payment per year. That’s more, certainly, than the \$420 they were paying through the employer-sponsored care through Joseph Schulz’s job, but it allows them to pursue their longtime dream of working for themselves, Claudia Schulz said. ‘We are very happy with our choice and so glad we had the ability to compare so many options and choose for ourselves,’ she said.” [NBC News, 1/1/14]

California

12/31/13: San Jose Mercury News: “Acting Under Provisions Of The New Federal Health Care Law, California's Department Of Health Care Services On Tuesday Said It Transferred More Than 630,000 Californians From The State's Low Income Health Program To Medi-Cal, The State's Health Program For The Very Poor.” “Acting under provisions of the new federal health care law, California's Department of Health Care Services on Tuesday said it transferred more than 630,000 Californians from the state's Low Income Health Program to Medi-Cal, the state's health program for the very poor. The new federal law, called the Affordable Care Act and also known as ‘Obamacare,’ offered states the ability to expand eligibility for

Medicaid, the federal health program for the poor, which is called Medi-Cal in California. The LIHP was established in 2010 through a \$10 billion federal grant to help states prepare for the Affordable Care Act. Beginning Wednesday, Medi-Cal will immediately begin serving the former LIHP members, a group comprised of uninsured, childless adults ages 19 to 64, and parent and caretaker relatives, all with incomes below 138 percent of the federal poverty level.” [San Jose Mercury News, 12/31/13]

12/29/13: CNN: Elaine Post... West Hills, Calif.... One Of The Things I Love About The Situation Now Is That I Feel Like I'm A Consumer. I Like That I Don't Have To Be At The Mercy Of Insurance Companies. I Feel Empowered. It's My Choice, Not Theirs To Choose Me.” “Name: Elaine Post, 64

Residence: West Hills, Calif.

Job: Writes training programs for businesses I signed up for a bronze plan with L.A. Care at \$461 a month. Although I don't qualify for a subsidy, it's \$272 less than I would pay if I continued on COBRA.

I decided I'm better off with a high-deductible (\$5,000) plan since I rarely have go to the doctor except for preventative care. I'd rather deal with the high deductible if I need it, rather than pay the extra money out of pocket every month for premiums. In November, I will go on Medicare. When I first got laid off, I tried to get private insurance through the big companies. They all rejected me outright or wanted to charge me really really high premiums for not very good insurance. I had what I thought were not very serious pre-existing conditions, but apparently they were enough to disqualify you. The whole process of shopping for insurance was nightmarish. I spent an hour and a half at least on the phone with people who interviewed me and asked me about every single detail about my health. It was very intrusive. Rather than try to sell me insurance, they were trying to not sell me insurance. One of the things I love about the situation now is that I feel like I'm a consumer. I like that I don't have to be at the mercy of insurance companies. I feel empowered. It's my choice, not theirs to choose me.” [CNN, 12/29/13]

12/28/13: Washington Post: “Adam Peterson’s Life Is About To Change. For The First Time In Years, He Is Planning To Do Things He Could Not Have Imagined. He Intends To Have Surgery To Remove His Gallbladder, An Operation He Needs To Avoid Another Trip To The Emergency Room. And He’s Looking Forward To Running A Marathon In Mid-January.... Peterson Is Among The Millions Of Uninsured Americans Who Are Benefiting From The Affordable Care Act....” “Adam Peterson’s life is about to change. For the first time in years, he is planning to do things he could not have imagined. He intends to have surgery to remove his gallbladder, an operation he needs to avoid another trip to the emergency room. And he’s looking forward to running a marathon in mid-January along the California coast without constant anxiety about what might happen if he gets injured. These plans are possible, says Peterson, who turned 50 this year and co-manages a financial services firm in Champaign, Ill., because of a piece of plastic the size of a credit card that arrived in the mail the other day: a health insurance card. Peterson is among the millions of uninsured Americans who are benefiting from the Affordable Care Act, the 2010 law that launched far-reaching changes to the U.S. health-care system and is President Obama’s premier domestic achievement.” [Washington Post, 12/28/13]

Florida

1/2/14: WSJ: "People Such As Carlos Gomez, A 55-Year-Old Part-Time Retail Clerk In Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Who Had Been Rejected By Insurers Because Of A Heart Disorder, Are Among The Law's Beneficiaries. Mr. Gomez Recently Signed Up For A Humana Inc. Plan That Will Cost Him \$150 A Month After Federal Subsidies." "People such as Carlos Gomez, a 55-year-old part-time retail clerk in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., who had been rejected by insurers because of a heart disorder, are among the law's beneficiaries. Mr. Gomez recently signed up for a Humana Inc. plan that will cost him \$150 a month after federal subsidies. As he and other customers with medical conditions gain coverage, they are upending insurers' traditional business model of charging riskier customers higher rates or denying them altogether, practices banned under the health law... Under the law, he is eligible for a \$402-a-month federal subsidy to help buy coverage, based on his income of about \$12,000 a year. Knowing he would use medical services, he chose a top-shelf Humana plan with a monthly premium of \$552 for a patient of his age, regardless of health. Like many patients, he is still waiting for Humana to send a bill, though the Louisville, Ky.-based insurer is giving its first wave of enrollees until Jan. 31 to pay their initial premiums." [WSJ, 1/2/14]

1/2/14: ABC News (Rough Transcript): "JON KARL: For Maggie Fernandez Of Miami, This Is A Big Day.

MAGGIE FERNANDEZ: I'm Looking At 2014 To Be The Year Of My Health.

KARL: The Dawn Of Obamacare Means Better Health Coverage, Money Saved, And A Chance To Make Her First Doctor's Appointment In Nearly A Year." "DIANE SAWYER: and next here tonight on 'world news,' we are in the beginning of a new era in health care in america, obamacare now in effect. as of tonight, more than 2 million americans have signed up. their stories are beginning to be told. abc's chief white house correspondent jonathan karl reports in.

JON KARL: for maggie fernandez of miami, this is a big day.

MAGGIE FERNANDEZ: i'm looking at 2014 to be the year of my health.

KARL: the dawn of obamacare means better health coverage, money saved, and a chance to make her first doctor's appointment in nearly a year. because she suffers from hypertension, fernandez couldn't get affordable health coverage last year. as of january 1st, insurance companies can no longer charge more for pre-existing conditions and she was able to find a plan she could afford, slashing her prescription drug bill.

FERNANDEZ: while i was uninsured, i was paying \$200 a month, but now with obamacare i will be paying \$20 a month. [ABC News (Rough Transcript), 1/2/14]

1/1/14: Associated Press: "Joshua Benson Stayed On His Parents' Insurance Until He Turned 26 Last Year. After That, Benson, Who Had His Pancreas Removed And Needs Daily Insulin For His Type 1 Diabetes, Struggled To Find Coverage... He Recently Enrolled In A Platinum Plan With No Deductible That Costs Him \$170 A Month And Even Covers His Endocrinologist." "More than 3 million young adults have health insurance thanks to the Affordable Care Act because they remained on their parents' health insurance, according to the feds. The law extended the age that children can stay on their parents' plan to 26. Joshua Benson stayed on his parents' insurance until he turned 26 last year. After that, Benson, who had his pancreas removed and needs daily insulin for his Type 1 diabetes, struggled to find coverage. He was either denied or quoted \$2,000 monthly premiums, said the South Florida resident, who works part-time as a grocery store cashier. He recently enrolled in a platinum plan with no deductible that costs him \$170 a month and even covers his endocrinologist. The federal government kicks in another \$200 a month." [Associated Press, 1/1/14]

12/30/13: Florida Today: “When I Was (Without Health Insurance), I Always Worried About Losing My House’ Because Of A Health Crisis, Frazer Said. [Bo] Frazer, 62, Said He Couldn’t Get Insurance — Even Under His Wife’s Plan Through Her Employer — Because Of Pre-Existing Conditions. Those Include A Mild Stroke He Suffered A Decade Ago And A Cardiac Condition That Led To A Heart Attack In March. But Those Obstacles Have Ended Because Part Of President Obama’s Signature Legislation Prohibits Companies From Denying Health Insurance Because Of Pre-Existing Conditions. “ “Melbourne’s Bo Frazer will wake up Wednesday morning with greater peace of mind. The professional fiddle player, a self-proclaimed struggling musician, will greet the day knowing he has health insurance for the first time in at least eight years, thanks to the Affordable Care Act. The law mandates most Americans to purchase insurance or pay penalties. ‘When I was (without health insurance), I always worried about losing my house’ because of a health crisis, Frazer said. Frazer, 62, said he couldn’t get insurance — even under his wife’s plan through her employer — because of pre-existing conditions. Those include a mild stroke he suffered a decade ago and a cardiac condition that led to a heart attack in March. But those obstacles have ended because part of President Obama’s signature legislation prohibits companies from denying health insurance because of pre-existing conditions. Frazer and his wife have selected a midlevel health plan. With government-issued subsidies, they are paying about \$70 a month, he said. He said a similar policy for only his wife through her employer was about \$500 a month. Frazer also took his time — as many federal, state and local officials had suggested — before trying to sign onto the website created under the ACA, healthcare.gov. ‘I wouldn’t want to go on it the first day because I was sure (the site) would crash,’ Frazer said. ‘It’s like freebeer.gov. Everyone was going to be on it and it was sure to crash.’ He said he waited until mid-November. That decision paid off. ‘I had a seamless experience,’ he said. ‘Being a (former) computer programmer . . . I wouldn’t give (the site) an A-plus, but I would give it an A’ for its effectiveness and ease of use. Frazer said he initially spent about 10 minutes to register and an additional 10 minutes a few weeks later to select a policy.” [Florida Today, 12/30/13]

12/29/13: CNN: “Karen Farrar...Naples, Fla....Having Insurance Means A Lot To Me....All Around, I Think Obamacare Is A Great Thing.” “Name: Karen Farrar, 60

Residence: Naples, Fla. Job: Administrative assistant I'm uninsurable because of pre-existing conditions: osteoporosis, high-blood pressure, which I've had for 30 years, and asthma. My husband is self-employed and I work for him. We were uninsured for quite a long time. We had insurance people in our house giving us quotes, but as soon as I started going down the list of what the problems were, they said "oh...oh...no." In Oct. 2012, I was enrolled in PCIP [the transitional Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan that was created by the Affordable Care Act]. Previously, I had very limited coverage through the state of Florida. The PCIP program is ending. My husband signed us up for Obamacare. He got through, no problems. There were a lot of choices. I was happy to see that. The premium will be about \$1,000 a month for the two of us. The new insurance will have a lower deductible and better coverage. The co-pays are lower. Having insurance means a lot to me. Because of the osteoporosis and asthma, I always end up in the doctor's office. Medication is expensive. When I was buying it outright, just the asthma medication was costing \$400 a month. I stopped using it. I just started not breathing very well. I didn't have any options. All around, I think Obamacare is a great thing.” [CNN, 12/29/13]

12/29/13: CNN: “Alan Meeks...Orlando, Fla...I Logged Into Healthcare.Gov And Looked At All The Options. Using The Site Was A Breeze....Now, I Don't Feel Like I'm Constrained. Health Benefits Is Not A Deciding Factor For Where I Work Anymore. It Gives Me More Freedom To Do What I Want

Professionally.” “Name: Alan Meeks, 45

Residence: Orlando, Fla. Job: Systems engineer... My last job had benefits, but required me to travel 75% of the time. What allowed me to take this job is the existence of the Affordable Care Act. The current company I work for is akin to contracting work. You are a little better paid, but you don't have any benefits. Both myself and my partner have pre-existing conditions. He has a heart condition and takes 14 drugs a day. I had a benign brain tumor and have to be checked with an MRI every two years. I logged into healthcare.gov and looked at all the options. Using the site was a breeze. We chose a platinum version. Together we'll be paying \$770 a month with zero deductible and a maximum out-of-pocket of \$2,000 for each of us. At my previous job, I was paying almost the same but the deductible was almost \$8,000. And all our doctors are in the plan. Now, I don't feel like I'm constrained. Health benefits is not a deciding factor for where I work anymore. It gives me more freedom to do what I want professionally.” [CNN, 12/29/13]

12/29/13: CNN: “Oristela Schwend... Plantation, Fla.... I Lost My Employer Coverage In 2012. I Tried To Get Individual Insurance And I Was Denied Right And Left. I Had Diverticulitis And Knee Issues. I Got Very Excited About Obamacare Because Finally I Would Have The Opportunity To Pay For My Own Insurance.” “Name: Oristela Schwend, 47 Residence: Plantation, Fla. Job: Accountant I lost my employer coverage in 2012. I tried to get individual insurance and I was denied right and left. I had diverticulitis and knee issues. I got very excited about Obamacare because finally I would have the opportunity to pay for my own insurance. I was willing to pay for insurance, they just didn't want me to. My husband applied on the website more than 10 times before he finally got through. I signed up for a Humana Gold plan for \$343.09 a month with a \$2,500 deductible. My husband signed up for a silver plan for \$388.27 a month, with a \$3,250 deductible. We've always had a high deductible so the Obamacare plans are not any worse. The prices were a little less than what we were paying through our employer, a small business. We won't know how good the insurance is until we start using the coverage. It can't be worse than not having insurance. I plan to start using the benefits in January to follow up on my knee issues. I have the beginning of arthritis. I haven't been able to manage my treatment because I haven't had insurance. And I was afraid to go to the doctor when I did have insurance because if I complained about a headache, then it was a pre-existing condition for something else.” [CNN, 12/29/13]

12/27/13: Allan Zullinger, Letter To The Editor: “I Am A 28-Year-Old Who Exercises Relentlessly And Diets Meticulously... A Few Weeks Ago, I Was Hit By A Car While Bicycling Home From Campus... After My Close Call, I Took An Hour Or So With My Mother And Enrolled In A Health Insurance Plan That Will Begin Covering Me Jan. 1.” “I am a 28-year-old who exercises relentlessly and diets meticulously. I attend Florida International University's (FIU) College of Law and I work at FIU's Health Law and Policy Clinic, which assists the underprivileged with services that include accessing public benefits and resolving unpaid medical debts. A few weeks ago, I was hit by a car while bicycling home from campus. Fortunately, I had only a bruised rib and a few cuts and scrapes, but if the scenario had played out differently, I could have ended up in the shoes of those I help: without insurance and with tens of thousands of dollars of unpaid bills for necessary emergency medical treatment. After my close call, I took an hour or so with my mother and enrolled in a health insurance plan that will begin covering me Jan. 1.” [Washington Post, 12/27/13]

Georgia

1/1/14: New York Times: “William Hannah Of Cleveland, Ga., Who Has Been Uninsured For About 20 Years, Said He Was Looking Forward To Using His New Coverage To See A Specialist For Lower Back

Problems And Numbness In His Limbs... ‘It’s Very Affordable To Me, Thanks To The Tax Credit,’ Said Mr. Hannah, 63, Who Said He Had Retired Early To Care For His Ailing Mother.” “William Hannah of Cleveland, Ga., who has been uninsured for about 20 years, said he was looking forward to using his new coverage to see a specialist for lower back problems and numbness in his limbs. But Mr. Hannah said he had canceled the first plan he signed up for, from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, after realizing it would not pay for treatment at the medical center closest to his home. He switched to a silver plan from Alliant Health Plans and qualified for a tax subsidy that will lower his premium costs to \$56 a month. ‘It’s very affordable to me, thanks to the tax credit,’ said Mr. Hannah, 63, who said he had retired early to care for his ailing mother. ‘On the other hand, there’s the limitation of what the insurance companies are actually paying for and what institutions they are paying for.’” [New York Times, 1/1/14]

Illinois

1/1/14: Chicago Sun-Times: “...Most People Who Qualified For Medicaid Said They’re Just Relieved To Have Coverage. Humboldt Park Resident Juzzane Brownlee, 42, Who Said She Has Been Uninsured For A Year, Doesn’t Get Sick Often, But Said It Was A Concern Not To Have Insurance. ‘I’m Looking Forward To See What It Will Actually Offer And How I Will Benefit.’” “Many of the people who qualified for Medicaid, thanks to the broader expansion of Medicaid made possible by the Affordable Care Act, said they had been uninsured before the change...But most people who qualified for Medicaid said they’re just relieved to have coverage. Humboldt Park resident Juzzane Brownlee, 42, who said she has been uninsured for a year, doesn’t get sick often, but said it was a concern not to have insurance. ‘I’m looking forward to see what it will actually offer and how I will benefit.’” [Chicago Sun-Times, 1/1/14]

1/1/14: Chicago Sun-Times: “The Affordable Care Act Forbids Insurers To Exclude Coverage Because Of Pre-Existing Conditions After 2014. Keith Moens, 61, Said Removing That Barrier From Getting Insurance For Him, His Wife And Their Son Would Have Been Enough Of A Help. Being Able To Find A New Affordable Insurance Plan With Tax Credits That The Moens And Their Son Qualified For Was An Added Bonus.” “Keith and Joyce Moens of Arlington Heights had been ‘flying without insurance since December 2011,’ because they said they couldn’t afford COBRA insurance after both lost their jobs in 2008. The same insurance plan they had when Joyce Moens, 55, was employed went from a premium of \$450 per month to \$2,000 per month on COBRA. And when they tried to enroll in COBRA, they were told it would cost \$12,000 for that first month, because of back pay they had to make. The Moens also couldn’t get any other insurers to cover them, because Joyce had been afflicted with West Nile virus in 2006 and also had thyroid problems, meaning she had ‘pre-existing conditions.’ The Affordable Care Act forbids insurers to exclude coverage because of pre-existing conditions after 2014. Keith Moens, 61, said removing that barrier from getting insurance for him, his wife and their son would have been enough of a help. Being able to find a new affordable insurance plan with tax credits that the Moens and their son qualified for was an added bonus. The Moens did not want it published how much they make or how much they’re paying for insurance, but noted that they meet the tax credit guidelines. ‘It’s a good plan. It’s got all that we need. And we’re ready to go. We’re just waiting for January to roll around,’ Keith said.” [Chicago Sun-Times, 1/1/14]

12/31/13: Chicago Daily Herald: “After Two Stressful Years Without Health Insurance, Arlington Heights Residents Keith And Joyce Moens Went On Healthcare.Gov And Could Hardly Believe Their Eyes. There, On The Computer Screen, Were Five Insurance Plans They Were Eligible For And Could Afford, Thanks To The New Federal Health Care Law... The Moens Will Be Among Thousands Of Suburban Residents Who, Starting Wednesday, Will Have Health Insurance As A Result Of The New Federal Act.” “After two stressful

years without health insurance, Arlington Heights residents Keith and Joyce Moens went on healthcare.gov and could hardly believe their eyes. There, on the computer screen, were five insurance plans they were eligible for and could afford, thanks to the new federal health care law. ‘We just looked at each other, and we looked back at the screen, and it’s like we saw the light at the end of the tunnel,’ Joyce said. ‘I started to cry.’ The Moens will be among thousands of suburban residents who, starting Wednesday, will have health insurance as a result of the new federal act... The Moens chose a Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO that will cost roughly \$300 a month and will cover them and their youngest son, a 19-year-old college student. The plan has high co-pays and a \$10,000-per-person deductible, but it’s an amount they said they can live with if one of them is hospitalized or gets sick.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 12/31/13]

12/28/13: Washington Post: “For Adam Peterson, Awaiting Gallbladder Surgery In Illinois, The Dark Tunnel Without Insurance Began About Six Years Ago, When He Decided To Forgo Health Coverage Because He Needed The Cash To Set Up His Financial Services Business.... Peterson Said, Contemplating His Insurance Coverage, Which Begins On New Year’s Day. ‘More, It Just Allows Me To Live A Normal Life With One Less Worry.’” “For Adam Peterson, awaiting gallbladder surgery in Illinois, the dark tunnel without insurance began about six years ago, when he decided to forgo health coverage because he needed the cash to set up his financial services business. The cost of that decision hit home in March, when the emergency surgery to remove a gallstone cost him \$27,000. When he went to HealthCare.gov this fall, the online system at first balked at verifying his identity — an essential step. It took a few calls to a help line before anyone called back. But just before Thanksgiving, he managed to enroll in a top-tier plan with a monthly premium of \$475. ‘I do not feel that it gives me the freedom to do reckless things,’ Peterson said, contemplating his insurance coverage, which begins on New Year’s Day. ‘More, it just allows me to live a normal life with one less worry.’” [Washington Post, 12/28/13]

Kentucky

1/1/14: The Journal-Times: “Despite The Dire Predictions Of Certain Politicians And Others, More Than 800 Carter County Residents Are Among Nearly 5,000 Area Residents Signed Up For New Federally-Mandated Health Care Starting Today, Jan. 1... In Something Of A Surprise, The Kentucky Statistics Show Nearly 40 Percent Of Those Enrolling Are 35 Or Younger.” “Despite the dire predictions of certain politicians and others, more than 800 Carter County residents are among nearly 5,000 area residents signed up for new federally-mandated health care starting today, Jan. 1. In statistics compiled through Dec. 22, Carter and its six contiguous counties had 4,875 persons enroll in expanded Medicaid or purchase private health insurance, with or without the federal subsidy. Statewide, it was reported that 100,096 Kentuckians were on the rolls by Dec. 22. That figure is expected to rise through the March 31 deadline for coverage in 2014... In something of a surprise, the Kentucky statistics show nearly 40 percent of those enrolling are 35 or younger.” [The Journal-Times (KY), 1/1/14]

Maryland

1/2/14: Baltimore Sun: “Cyrus Nusum Of Baltimore Has Asthma And Was Counting Down The Days Until Her New Medicaid Insurance Kicked In... She Said She Believes She Will Cost The Medical System Less

By Managing Her Chronic Condition Rather Than Racking Up Big Emergency Room Bills.” “Vincent DeMarco, president of the advocacy group Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative, said he's heard about lives saved and improved from patients who already got coverage. And he hears from those relieved that they will soon be able to visit a doctor and fill prescriptions. Cyrus Nusum of Baltimore has asthma and was counting down the days until her new Medicaid insurance kicked in. Nusum qualified for the expanded program after being laid off from her job for a company that offered managed-care plans to Medicaid patients. She quickly landed a new job at a small medical clinic but was not offered health insurance immediately. She was already familiar with Medicaid and its expansion because of her line of work, so she enrolled herself and her college-age son. ‘In my old job, my life revolved around helping people get the most out of their Medicaid benefits,’ Nusum said. ‘I saw a lot of people who would go to the emergency room for routine things. I don't want to be one of those people, because that strains the whole system.’ She said she believes she will cost the medical system less by managing her chronic condition rather than racking up big emergency room bills.” [Baltimore Sun, 1/2/14]

Massachusetts

1/1/14: Boston Globe: “Anne Mahon Was Able To Buy An Unsubsidized Plan Through The Connector This Week, After Hours Of Frustration With The Website. The Real Estate Agent From Belmont Said The Connector Plan Saved Her Several Hundred Dollars A Month, Compared With The COBRA Plan Offered By Her Husband’s Former Employer.” “Anne Mahon was able to buy an unsubsidized plan through the Connector this week, after hours of frustration with the website. The real estate agent from Belmont said the Connector plan saved her several hundred dollars a month, compared with the COBRA plan offered by her husband’s former employer. ‘The online experience is frustrating, but the opportunity to call and talk to somebody that can help you through it, [makes it] so easy,’ she said.” [Boston Globe, 1/1/14]

Missouri

12/31/13: New York Times: “‘I Feel A Huge Sense Of Relief,’ Said Katie R. Norvell, 33, A Music Therapist In St. Louis, Who Has Been Uninsured For Three And A Half Years And Has A Pre-Existing Gynecological Condition, Endometriosis... ‘With Coverage,’ She Said, ‘I Can Be My Best Self. Health Insurance Won’t Control My Job Choices.’” “‘I feel a huge sense of relief,’ said Katie R. Norvell, 33, a music therapist in St. Louis, who has been uninsured for three and a half years and has a pre-existing gynecological condition, endometriosis. She signed up Dec. 22 for a midlevel silver plan offered by Coventry Health Care, owned by Aetna, and has already begun making doctor’s appointments. ‘With coverage,’ she said, ‘I can be my best self. Health insurance won’t control my job choices.’” [New York Times, 12/31/13]

New Jersey

1/1/14: New York Times: “Ana Yngelmo, A 37-Year-Old Immigration Lawyer In Kearny, N.J., Said She Would Use Her New Insurance To Start Seeing A Primary Care Doctor And To Get Her First Mammogram.

Ms. Yngelmo, Who Said She Had Been Uninsured For 16 Months, Chose A Platinum Plan With Generous Coverage And No Deductible.” “Ana Yngelmo, a 37-year-old immigration lawyer in Kearny, N.J., said she would use her new insurance to start seeing a primary care doctor and to get her first mammogram. Ms. Yngelmo, who said she had been uninsured for 16 months, chose a platinum plan with generous coverage and no deductible. She qualified for a tax-credit subsidy that will lower her monthly premium to \$350 — still expensive, she said, but worth it for peace of mind. ‘For me, insurance is about those tragic situations where you need some terrible surgery or get cancer,’ said Ms. Yngelmo, who recently started her own law practice. ‘I just want to make sure that in those situations, I can go to whichever doctor I want and it will be covered.’” [New York Times, 1/1/14]

New Mexico

1/1/14: Las Cruces Sun-News: “Cristi Moreno Robles Has A Back Injury That Used To Leave Her Without Health Care Coverage Or Paying As Much As \$1,200 Per Month For Insurance. Jan. 1, That Changes... Moreno Robles Will Now Pay \$200 Per Month Under A Plan Offered Through The Federal Exchange.” “Cristi Moreno Robles has a back injury that used to leave her without health care coverage or paying as much as \$1,200 per month for insurance. Jan. 1, that changes. The Affordable Care Act's major benefits take effect Jan. 1, including patient protections and coverage for those who purchased insurance through state and federal exchanges by Dec. 24 -- provided buyers pay their first monthly bill by Jan. 10. Moreno Robles will now pay \$200 per month under a plan offered through the federal exchange. ‘I'm so excited to not have to be a self-pay, stay home sick or fear illness,’ she said.” [Las Cruces Sun-News, 1/1/14]

New York

12/31/13: Newsday: “The New York State Department Of Health Announced That As Of Monday, 241,522 New Yorkers Had Enrolled On The State's Exchange, NY State Of Health, With A 22 Percent Increase From Dec. 23 To Dec. 30.” “People signing up for health insurance spurred a last-minute surge in enrollment figures on the New York and federal exchanges. The New York State Department of Health announced that as of Monday, 241,522 New Yorkers had enrolled on the state's exchange, NY State of Health, with a 22 percent increase from Dec. 23 to Dec. 30. U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Tuesday that as of Dec. 28 more than 2.1 million had enrolled through state-based or federal exchanges for private plans, with more than half on the federal exchange. She said an additional 3.9 million had signed up for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program, although some of those were renewals.” [Newsday, 12/31/13]

Ohio

1/1/14: NBC News: “Rita Rizzo And Lou Vincent Of Akron, Ohio, Say They're Making Appointments With New Doctors Now That They Have Affordable Coverage On A Federal Health Exchange. But Now That She And Vincent, 64, Are Covered By A New Caresource Silver-Level Plan Under The Federal Exchange, He's

Insured For The First Time In Years After Being Denied By Dozens Of Private Plans Because He Has High Blood Pressure And Diabetes.” “...for people like the Schulz family of Phoenix, Ariz., Rita Rizzo and Lou Vincent of Akron, Ohio, and Joyce Moore of Zionsville, Pa., [today is] the first test of whether Obamacare will really work. They all say they’re relieved and excited to finally have new access to health care, and they hope that the rocky rollout of the exchanges under the Affordable Care Act will actually give way to the smooth delivery of vital medical services. ‘I’ve been afraid for the last three years to get preventive care, because if they found something, I couldn’t afford to treat it,’ said Rizzo, 59, who runs a management training business with her husband. ‘I haven’t had any blood work in three years and my right hip is starting to give out.’ Rita Rizzo and Lou Vincent of Akron, Ohio, say they’re making appointments with new doctors now that they have affordable coverage on a federal health exchange. But now that she and Vincent, 64, are covered by a new CareSource silver-level plan under the federal exchange, he’s insured for the first time in years after being denied by dozens of private plans because he has high blood pressure and diabetes. And Rizzo said they’ll pay \$184 a month, with a \$2,000 deductible and a maximum of \$3,400 out of pocket, far less than the \$400 a month and \$6,000 deductible they were paying for her alone with a private plan. ‘The coverage is wonderful,’ said Rizzo. ‘We’ll get prescription coverage. Right now, his prescriptions alone are \$170 a month.’” [NBC News, 1/1/14]

12/29/13: CNN: “Bob Weber...Hamilton, Ohio...I Chose A Platinum Plan With A \$1,000 Deductible. The Process Was Painless. I Applied Online And Had No Issues At All. It Was Not Difficult To Navigate Or To Find The Policies That Would Fit.” “Name: Bob Weber, 58

Residence: Hamilton, Ohio

Job: Visiting part-time professor

After not having any health insurance for over 16 years, I am pleased at the prospect of starting 2014 with insurance. With my income, I didn't have the ability to pursue buying my own health insurance. Businesses are trying purposely not to have budget lines that have benefit-eligible in it. When you are over 50, you are pretty much up a creek. The Affordable Care Act for me is reasonable enough that with the tax break, the premium ended up being in the range of \$136 a month. I chose a platinum plan with a \$1,000 deductible. The process was painless. I applied online and had no issues at all. It was not difficult to navigate or to find the policies that would fit. I don't know how it's going to be when I start using the insurance. The jury is still out. My first concern was being able to find a doctor that was close. I did find a doctor 10 minutes away. I am diabetic. I've been doing pretty well. But as you age, you start to have more issues that go with it. I have a minor surgery procedure that I've put off for years and testing that I just couldn't afford. What the future holds is the problem. You can't roll the dice with no insurance for as many years as I did it. I know that.” [CNN, 12/29/13]

Pennsylvania

1/1/14: NBC News: “‘I Was Expecting It To Be Canceled. The Idea That You Can Keep Your Plan Was Never An Option For Me,’ Said [Joyce] Moore, 58, Who Runs Her Own Retirement And Estate Planning Business. ‘That Was Fine With Me Because My Plan Was Awful.’ ... ‘Under My New Plan, The Premium Is \$100 Less A Month And The Out-Of-Pocket Is \$4,750 Less Per Year.’” “Joyce Moore, a Pennsylvania financial planner, is pleased, too, even though she was among at least 4 million people whose private insurance policies were canceled, sparking criticisms of President Barack Obama’s early promises that people

who liked their plans could keep their plans. An estimated 11 million to 19 million people previously got insurance through the private insurance market. That's dwarfed by the 149 million people who get insurance through an employer and another 97 million who get government coverage through Medicare, Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program or CHIP. 'I was expecting it to be canceled. The idea that you can keep your plan was never an option for me,' said Moore, 58, who runs her own retirement and estate planning business. 'That was fine with me because my plan was awful.' Under the old plan, Moore paid a \$550 monthly premium and had a limit of \$8,500 a year for out-of-pocket costs — for one person. 'If you had to have surgery that year, you'd have to have \$10,000 set aside just for medical bills,' said Moore, who signed up for a silver-level plan with provider Geisinger. 'Under my new plan, the premium is \$100 less a month and the out-of-pocket is \$4,750 less per year.'" [NBC News, 1/1/14]

Rhode Island

12/31/13: WPRI: "Healthsource RI Enrolled 9,803 Individuals In Private Health Insurance Plans From Oct. 1 To Dec. 28... That's More Than Triple The 2,649 Who Had Enrolled As Of The End Of November And An Increase Of 4,334 Since Dec. 14." "Rhode Island's new Obamacare insurance marketplace, HealthSource RI, says enrollment in private health plans has surged this month ahead of Tuesday's deadline for individuals to sign up if they want to be covered on New Year's Day. HealthSource RI enrolled 9,803 individuals in private health insurance plans from Oct. 1 to Dec. 28, though not all of them have paid their first premiums, according to preliminary figures it released Tuesday. That's more than triple the 2,649 who had enrolled as of the end of November and an increase of 4,334 since Dec. 14." [WPRI, 12/31/13]

Tennessee

12/28/13: Washington Post: "Paying Toward His Own Insurance, He Said, Gives Him 'A Certain Dignity,' A Feeling That He Is Not 'One Of The Takers.' The Next Day, He Called The Doctor's Office. His Appointment For A Physical Is Jan. 2. 'I'm Feeling Surprisingly Moved By All Of This,' [Alan] Munstock Said. 'This Finally Seems Real. And I'm Thinking That Maybe All The Talk And The Promises And The Messy Politics Can Actually Lead To Something Good After All.'" "This core mission has sometimes been obscured by the political and legal disputes that have dogged and, in important ways, altered the law. Strong research links having health insurance and being healthy. Having a health plan does not guarantee that a good doctor is within reach when a patient needs one. But insurance matters. Dan Munstock knows this. A 62-year-old retiree in Greenville, Tenn., he hasn't had insurance since he left his job as a crisis counselor in Miami six years ago. He lives on Social Security income of less than \$15,000 a year. Although he does not know of any major ailments, he would like a checkup because, he said, 'you can seem fine until the day you drop over with something.' Like thousands of other Americans, Munstock ran into technical problems with the federal Web site before managing to pick a health plan Dec. 1. He qualified for a federal subsidy to help him afford the insurance, so he has to pay just \$87.57 a month toward his premium. After his welcome packet from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee arrived in the mail, Munstock was so eager to finish the process of enrolling and getting an insurance card that he picked up the phone to pay the first premium instead of using the mail. 'It felt really good,' he said. Paying toward his own insurance, he said, gives him 'a certain dignity,' a feeling that he is not 'one of the takers.' The next day, he called the doctor's office. His appointment for a physical is Jan. 2. 'I'm feeling surprisingly moved by all of this,' Munstock said. 'This finally seems real. And I'm thinking that maybe all the talk and the promises and the messy politics can actually lead to

something good after all.” [Washington Post, 12/28/13]

12/28/13: Washington Post: “[Emily] Wright Also Needs Surgery For Endometriosis, A Painful Gynecological Condition That Has Already Required Her To Have Two Operations. Constant Pain Makes It Difficult For Her To Work Delivering Pizzas And Attend East Tennessee State University....Enrolling Through The Federal Exchange, She Qualified For A Federal Subsidy And Picked A Top-Tier Plan That Will Cost Her \$125 A Month....‘It Feels Like The Light At The End Of The Long Dark Tunnel.’” “...Emily Wright has been worrying about the mole on her back. The suspicious mole is on a mental list of ‘little things’ that Wright, 28, of Johnson City, Tenn., said she wants to get checked out. Recurring joint pain in a foot and knee are also on the list. So are her frequently swollen glands. Wright also needs surgery for endometriosis, a painful gynecological condition that has already required her to have two operations. Constant pain makes it difficult for her to work delivering pizzas and attend East Tennessee State University, where she hopes to get a history degree in May. Enrolling through the federal exchange, she qualified for a federal subsidy and picked a top-tier plan that will cost her \$125 a month. The soonest appointment she could get with an obstetrics-gynecology practice, the first step before surgery, is Jan. 17. ‘I am excited. I am ready,’ she said. ‘It feels like the light at the end of the long dark tunnel.’” [Washington Post, 12/28/13]

Virginia

12/30/13: CNN: “ATHENA JONES: People Like Lauren Reisig, A 27-Year-Old Marketing Director From McLean, Virginia Who Suffers From Crohn's Disease. She Enrolled With The Help Of A Government Call Center After Running Into Trouble On The Web Site. Starting January 1st, Her Premium Is Dropping From There Are \$1,300 A Month To \$400.

LAUREN REISIG: It Gives Me The Option To Possibly Finally Move Out Of My Parent's House At Age 27.” “ATHENA JONES, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Good morning, Michaela. Health officials say this welcome surge was possible because the federal exchange, healthcare.gov, is now working a lot better after that disastrous rollout in October. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

JONES (voice-over): Healthcare.gov may be finally be hitting its stride. Health officials say more than 1.1 million people enrolled in health plans through the federal exchange between October 1st and December 24th with a nearly a million of those coming this month alone.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It changes my life.

ATHENA JONES: People like Lauren Reisig, a 27-year-old marketing director from McLean, Virginia who suffers from Crohn's disease. She enrolled with the help of a government call center after running into trouble on the web site. Starting January 1st, her premium is dropping from there are \$1,300 a month to \$400.

LAUREN REISIG, ENROLLED IN HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN: It gives me the option to possibly finally move out of my parent's house at age 27.” [CNN, 12/30/13]

12/29/13: Roanoke Times: “Next Year, Nathan Auldridge Will Be As Much A Cancer Survivor As He Has Been For The Past Eight Years. There Will Be A Difference, Though, One That He Calls Life-Changing. Because Of His Pre-Existing Condition, Auldridge Has Been Paying \$483 A Month For Health Insurance That Only Starts To Help With His Medical Bills After He Meets A \$5,000 Deductible. Under A Different

Plan That Takes Effect On The First Day Of The New Year — And The First Day Of His New Life — Auldridge Will Pay Just \$111 A Month And Have A Deductible Of \$1,750.” “Next year, Nathan Auldridge will be as much a cancer survivor as he has been for the past eight years. There will be a difference, though, one that he calls life-changing. Because of his pre-existing condition, Auldridge has been paying \$483 a month for health insurance that only starts to help with his medical bills after he meets a \$5,000 deductible. Under a different plan that takes effect on the first day of the new year — and the first day of his new life — Auldridge will pay just \$111 a month and have a deductible of \$1,750. The reason, the 30-year-old from Salem says, is a provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that prohibits insurance companies from charging more or denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions. ‘It has freed me from a weight, a chain, a prison of costs that were astronomical, especially considering my low income level,’ said Auldridge, who makes about \$20,000 a year working with people with autism.” [Roanoke Times, 12/29/13]

Wisconsin

12/31/13: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: “The Federal Health Care Law Has Already Identified Tens Of Thousands Of Wisconsin Residents Eligible For State Badgercare Plus Health Care, With Some Potentially Receiving Coverage As Early As Wednesday As Key Parts Of Obamacare Take Effect...32,000 People [Have Been] Identified So Far As Being Eligible To Receive Badgercare.” “The federal health care law has already identified tens of thousands of Wisconsin residents eligible for state BadgerCare Plus health care, with some potentially receiving coverage as early as Wednesday as key parts of Obamacare take effect. In a letter Monday to federal officials, state Medicaid director Brett Davis said the Wisconsin Department of Health Services wrote last week to these 32,000 people identified so far as being eligible to receive BadgerCare. This first wave of applicants for state coverage — a 4% bump to the BadgerCare program and a sharp increase over referral figures from the end of November — gives a new look at the effects the federal law will have for both the uninsured and taxpayers in the state.” [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/31/13]

Positive ACA Coverage

Table of Contents

General/Nationwide.....	1
Arizona.....	3
California.....	3
Florida.....	5
Georgia.....	8
Illinois.....	8
Kentucky.....	10
Maryland.....	10
Massachusetts.....	11
Missouri.....	11
New Jersey.....	11
New Mexico.....	11
New York.....	12
Ohio.....	12
Pennsylvania.....	13
Rhode Island.....	13
Tennessee.....	14
Virginia.....	15
Wisconsin.....	16

General/Nationwide

1/2/14: MSNBC: “Millions Of Americans Woke Up On January 1, 2014 With Health Insurance They Got Through Federal And State Insurance Exchanges Thanks To The Affordable Care Act. The Relatively Quiet First Day Is A Welcome Contrast To Three Months Ago...” “Millions of Americans woke up on January 1, 2014 with health insurance they got through federal and state insurance exchanges thanks to the Affordable Care Act. The relatively quiet first day is a welcome contrast to three months ago, when massive problems with Healthcare.gov, the online portal to the health insurance exchanges, threatened the law’s future and President Obama’s legacy. Officials touted improvements to the site as a reason for the drastic increase in enrollments for the month of December – 2.1 million through December 28 but they also acknowledged that some people who signed up could have problems.” [MSNBC, 1/2/14]

1/2/14: New York Times: “Consumers Around The Country Began Using Coverage Provided By The New Health Care Law On Wednesday, The Same Day That Medicaid Expanded To Hundreds Of Thousands Of People In About Half The States.” “Consumers around the country began using coverage provided by the new health care law on Wednesday, the same day that Medicaid expanded to hundreds of thousands of people in about half the states. Many provisions of the 2010 health care law offering new benefits and protections to consumers, including those with pre-existing conditions, also took effect.” [New York Times, 1/2/14]

1/1/14: NBC News: “...For People Like The Schulz Family Of Phoenix, Ariz., Rita Rizzo And Lou Vincent Of Akron, Ohio, And Joyce Moore Of Zionsville, Pa., [Today Is] The First Test Of Whether Obamacare Will Really Work. They All Say They’re Relieved And Excited To Finally Have New Access To Health Care...” “For the 2.1 million people who’ve signed up for health insurance under the new federal and state exchanges, Jan. 1 is when the rubber meets the road. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius called it ‘an exciting new day in health care’ as latest enrollment figures were released Tuesday. But for people like the Schulz family of Phoenix, Ariz., Rita Rizzo and Lou Vincent of Akron, Ohio, and Joyce Moore of Zionsville, Pa., it’s the first test of whether Obamacare will really work. They all say they’re relieved and excited to finally have new access to health care, and they hope that the rocky rollout of the exchanges under the Affordable Care Act will actually give way to the smooth delivery of vital medical services.” [NBC News, 1/1/14]

12/31/13: New York Times: “Starting Wednesday, Health Insurance Companies Can No Longer Deny Coverage To People With Pre-Existing Conditions And Cannot Charge Higher Premiums To Women Than To Men For The Same Coverage. In Most Cases, Insurers Must Provide A Standard Set Of Benefits Prescribed By Federal Law And Regulations. And They Cannot Set Dollar Limits On What They Spend On ‘Essential Health Benefits’ For A Policyholder.” “Millions of Americans will begin receiving health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act on Wednesday after years of contention and a rollout hobbled by delays and technical problems. The decisively new moment in the effort to overhaul the country’s health care system will test the law’s central premise: that extending coverage to far more Americans will improve the nation’s health and help many avoid crippling medical bills. Starting Wednesday, health insurance companies can no longer deny coverage to people with pre-existing conditions and cannot charge higher premiums to women than to men for the same coverage. In most cases, insurers must provide a standard set of benefits prescribed by federal law and regulations. And they cannot set dollar limits on what they spend on ‘essential health benefits’ for a policyholder.” [New York Times, 12/31/13]

12/30/13: Jimmy Williams, MSNBC: “...Under Obamacare I Will Now January 1st Be Able To Get Insurance. Now, That Notwithstanding, I Had To Apply Four Times On The Phone With An Obamacare Person From ACA Or Healthcare.Gov To Get My Application Filled Out And Filled Out Correctly. But That Being, I Got It. Finally I Got It. I Paid My First Due. It’s In. Good. And By The Way, I’m Now Paying \$400 Less Than I Was Paying Under COBRA.” “JIMMY WILLIAMS, MSNBC CONTRIBUTOR: I hate to do this, but I’m going to agree with him, Healthcare.gov. Not the implementation of Obamacare, not Obamacare or the Affordable Care Act which I love. Why? I’m uninsured. My cover ran out. Under the Republican plan -- wait, one Republican plan. There is no Republican plan. But under Obamacare I will now January 1st be able to get insurance. Now, that notwithstanding, I had to apply four times on the phone with an Obamacare person from ACA or healthcare.gov to get my application filled out and filled out correctly. But that being, I got it. Finally I got it. I paid my first due. It’s in. Good. And by the way, I’m now paying \$400 less than I was paying under COBRA. That’s a good thing. But the Web site was an absolute abject failure. They have fixed that. That is a good thing.” [MSNBC – Politics Nation, 12/30/13]

Arizona

1/2/14: New York Times: “Kathy Hornbach Of Tucson Is Not Wasting Any Time Before Using Her New Health Insurance Coverage, Which Took Effect On New Year’s Day. Ms. Hornbach, 57, Has An Appointment With A Cardiologist On Thursday For A Stress Test.”

“Kathy Hornbach of Tucson is not wasting any time before using her new health insurance coverage, which took effect on New Year’s Day. Ms. Hornbach, 57, has an appointment with a cardiologist on Thursday for a stress test. ‘I’ve had some heart palpitations, and my mom’s side has a history of heart problems starting early,’ she said Wednesday in a telephone interview. ‘So it’s mostly just to double-check that everything is O.K.’ Ms. Hornbach, who has had breast cancer and retired early from the technology industry, said that insurance companies in Arizona had refused to cover her until about two years ago, when she got a policy with monthly premiums of \$285 and a deductible of \$5,500 a year. Last month, using the federal insurance exchange, she bought a midlevel silver plan with lower premiums and deductible. ‘It’s a better policy — lower out-of-pocket, more choice of doctors,’ she said. ‘This is a very happy day.’” [New York Times, 1/2/14]

1/1/14: NBC News: “For The Past Four Months, [The Shultz Family] Has Been Paying \$1,600 A Month For COBRA Benefits To Extend The Insurance Provided By Joseph Schulz’s Former Job As A Mortgage Broker. Now, However, With A Silver-Level Plan Through Health Net Of Arizona, They’ll Pay Just About \$700 A Month To Cover Themselves And Their Three Children, Ages 2, 7 And 10.” “Still, Rizzo’s optimism is shared by Claudia and Joseph Schulz [of Phoenix], who started trying to sign up for Obamacare on Oct. 1, the first morning the federally run Arizona exchange was open, and only succeeded in the last hours of an extended deadline on Christmas Eve. The pair quit their jobs in September to start an independent real estate business, putting them among some 1.5 million newly self-employed people projected to seek coverage under the ACA, according to a Georgetown University study. That left them frustrated and a little nervous about the repeated glitches and long delays of the sign-up process. But Claudia Schulz, 34, said she and her 37-year-old husband always expected it to work out eventually. ‘We weren’t happy that the website wasn’t working,’ said Claudia Schulz. ‘But we figured it’s the U.S. government. I’m sure they’ll fix the website.’ For the past four months, the couple has been paying \$1,600 a month for COBRA benefits to extend the insurance provided by Joseph Schulz’s former job as a mortgage broker. Now, however, with a silver-level plan through Health Net of Arizona, they’ll pay just about \$700 a month to cover themselves and their three children, ages 2, 7 and 10. There’s a \$3,000 deductible and \$12,000 maximum out-of-pocket payment per year. That’s more, certainly, than the \$420 they were paying through the employer-sponsored care through Joseph Schulz’s job, but it allows them to pursue their longtime dream of working for themselves, Claudia Schulz said. ‘We are very happy with our choice and so glad we had the ability to compare so many options and choose for ourselves,’ she said.” [NBC News, 1/1/14]

California

12/31/13: San Jose Mercury News: “Acting Under Provisions Of The New Federal Health Care Law, California's Department Of Health Care Services On Tuesday Said It Transferred More Than 630,000 Californians From The State's Low Income Health Program To Medi-Cal, The State's Health Program For The Very Poor.” “Acting under provisions of the new federal health care law, California's Department of Health Care Services

on Tuesday said it transferred more than 630,000 Californians from the state's Low Income Health Program to Medi-Cal, the state's health program for the very poor. The new federal law, called the Affordable Care Act and also known as 'Obamacare,' offered states the ability to expand eligibility for Medicaid, the federal health program for the poor, which is called Medi-Cal in California. The LIHP was established in 2010 through a \$10 billion federal grant to help states prepare for the Affordable Care Act. Beginning Wednesday, Medi-Cal will immediately begin serving the former LIHP members, a group comprised of uninsured, childless adults ages 19 to 64, and parent and caretaker relatives, all with incomes below 138 percent of the federal poverty level." [San Jose Mercury News, 12/31/13]

12/29/13: CNN: Elaine Post...West Hills, Calif....One Of The Things I Love About The Situation Now Is That I Feel Like I'm A Consumer. I Like That I Don't Have To Be At The Mercy Of Insurance Companies. I Feel Empowered. It's My Choice, Not Theirs To Choose Me." "Name: Elaine Post, 64

Residence: West Hills, Calif.

Job: Writes training programs for businesses I signed up for a bronze plan with L.A. Care at \$461 a month. Although I don't qualify for a subsidy, it's \$272 less than I would pay if I continued on COBRA.

I decided I'm better off with a high-deductible (\$5,000) plan since I rarely have go to the doctor except for preventative care. I'd rather deal with the high deductible if I need it, rather than pay the extra money out of pocket every month for premiums. In November, I will go on Medicare. When I first got laid off, I tried to get private insurance through the big companies. They all rejected me outright or wanted to charge me really really high premiums for not very good insurance. I had what I thought were not very serious pre-existing conditions, but apparently they were enough to disqualify you. The whole process of shopping for insurance was nightmarish. I spent an hour and a half at least on the phone with people who interviewed me and asked me about every single detail about my health. It was very intrusive. Rather than try to sell me insurance, they were trying to not sell me insurance. One of the things I love about the situation now is that I feel like I'm a consumer. I like that I don't have to be at the mercy of insurance companies. I feel empowered. It's my choice, not theirs to choose me." [CNN, 12/29/13]

12/28/13: Washington Post: "Adam Peterson's Life Is About To Change. For The First Time In Years, He Is Planning To Do Things He Could Not Have Imagined. He Intends To Have Surgery To Remove His Gallbladder, An Operation He Needs To Avoid Another Trip To The Emergency Room. And He's Looking Forward To Running A Marathon In Mid-January.... Peterson Is Among The Millions Of Uninsured Americans Who Are Benefiting From The Affordable Care Act...." "Adam Peterson's life is about to change. For the first time in years, he is planning to do things he could not have imagined. He intends to have surgery to remove his gallbladder, an operation he needs to avoid another trip to the emergency room. And he's looking forward to running a marathon in mid-January along the California coast without constant anxiety about what might happen if he gets injured. These plans are possible, says Peterson, who turned 50 this year and co-manages a financial services firm in Champaign, Ill., because of a piece of plastic the size of a credit card that arrived in the mail the other day: a health insurance card. Peterson is among the millions of uninsured Americans who are benefiting from the Affordable Care Act, the 2010 law that launched far-reaching changes to the U.S.

health-care system and is President Obama's premier domestic achievement." [Washington Post, 12/28/13]

Florida

1/2/14: WSJ: "People Such As Carlos Gomez, A 55-Year-Old Part-Time Retail Clerk In Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Who Had Been Rejected By Insurers Because Of A Heart Disorder, Are Among The Law's Beneficiaries. Mr. Gomez Recently Signed Up For A Humana Inc. Plan That Will Cost Him \$150 A Month After Federal Subsidies." "People such as Carlos Gomez, a 55-year-old part-time retail clerk in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., who had been rejected by insurers because of a heart disorder, are among the law's beneficiaries. Mr. Gomez recently signed up for a Humana Inc. plan that will cost him \$150 a month after federal subsidies. As he and other customers with medical conditions gain coverage, they are upending insurers' traditional business model of charging riskier customers higher rates or denying them altogether, practices banned under the health law. . . Under the law, he is eligible for a \$402-a-month federal subsidy to help buy coverage, based on his income of about \$12,000 a year. Knowing he would use medical services, he chose a top-shelf Humana plan with a monthly premium of \$552 for a patient of his age, regardless of health. Like many patients, he is still waiting for Humana to send a bill, though the Louisville, Ky.-based insurer is giving its first wave of enrollees until Jan. 31 to pay their initial premiums." [WSJ, 1/2/14]

1/2/14: ABC News (Rough Transcript): "JON KARL: For Maggie Fernandez Of Miami, This Is A Big Day.

MAGGIE FERNANDEZ: I'm Looking At 2014 To Be The Year Of My Health.

KARL: The Dawn Of Obamacare Means Better Health Coverage, Money Saved, And A Chance To Make Her First Doctor's Appointment In Nearly A Year." "DIANE SAWYER: and next here tonight on 'world news,' we are in the beginning of a new era in health care in america, obamacare now in effect. as of tonight, more than 2 million americans have signed up. their stories are beginning to be told. abc's chief white house correspondent jonathan karl reports in.

JON KARL: for maggie fernandez of miami, this is a big day.

MAGGIE FERNANDEZ: i'm looking at 2014 to be the year of my health.

KARL: the dawn of obamacare means better health coverage, money saved, and a chance to make her first doctor's appointment in nearly a year. because she suffers from hypertension, fernandez couldn't get affordable health coverage last year. as of january 1st, insurance companies can no longer charge more for pre- existing conditions and she was able to find a plan she could afford, slashing her prescription drug bill.

FERNANDEZ: while i was uninsured, i was paying \$200 a month, but now with obamacare i will be paying \$20 a month. [ABC News (Rough Transcript), 1/2/14]

1/1/14: Associated Press: "Joshua Benson Stayed On His Parents' Insurance Until He Turned 26 Last Year. After That, Benson, Who Had His Pancreas Removed And Needs Daily Insulin For His Type 1 Diabetes, Struggled To Find Coverage... He Recently Enrolled In A Platinum Plan With No Deductible That Costs Him \$170 A Month And Even Covers His Endocrinologist." "More than 3 million young adults have health insurance thanks to the Affordable Care Act because they remained on their parents' health insurance, according to

the feds. The law extended the age that children can stay on their parents' plan to 26. Joshua Benson stayed on his parents' insurance until he turned 26 last year. After that, Benson, who had his pancreas removed and needs daily insulin for his Type 1 diabetes, struggled to find coverage. He was either denied or quoted \$2,000 monthly premiums, said the South Florida resident, who works part-time as a grocery store cashier. He recently enrolled in a platinum plan with no deductible that costs him \$170 a month and even covers his endocrinologist. The federal government kicks in another \$200 a month.” [Associated Press, 1/1/14]

12/30/13: Florida Today: “When I Was (Without Health Insurance), I Always Worried About Losing My House’ Because Of A Health Crisis, Frazer Said. [Bo] Frazer, 62, Said He Couldn’t Get Insurance — Even Under His Wife’s Plan Through Her Employer — Because Of Pre-Existing Conditions. Those Include A Mild Stroke He Suffered A Decade Ago And A Cardiac Condition That Led To A Heart Attack In March. But Those Obstacles Have Ended Because Part Of President Obama’s Signature Legislation Prohibits Companies From Denying Health Insurance Because Of Pre-Existing Conditions. “

“Melbourne’s Bo Frazer will wake up Wednesday morning with greater peace of mind. The professional fiddle player, a self-proclaimed struggling musician, will greet the day knowing he has health insurance for the first time in at least eight years, thanks to the Affordable Care Act. The law mandates most Americans to purchase insurance or pay penalties. ‘When I was (without health insurance), I always worried about losing my house’ because of a health crisis, Frazer said. Frazer, 62, said he couldn’t get insurance — even under his wife’s plan through her employer — because of pre-existing conditions. Those include a mild stroke he suffered a decade ago and a cardiac condition that led to a heart attack in March. But those obstacles have ended because part of President Obama’s signature legislation prohibits companies from denying health insurance because of pre-existing conditions. Frazer and his wife have selected a midlevel health plan. With government-issued subsidies, they are paying about \$70 a month, he said. He said a similar policy for only his wife through her employer was about \$500 a month. Frazer also took his time — as many federal, state and local officials had suggested — before trying to sign onto the website created under the ACA, healthcare.gov. ‘I wouldn’t want to go on it the first day because I was sure (the site) would crash,’ Frazer said. ‘It’s like freebeer.gov. Everyone was going to be on it and it was sure to crash.’ He said he waited until mid-November. That decision paid off. ‘I had a seamless experience,’ he said. ‘Being a (former) computer programmer . . . I wouldn’t give (the site) an A-plus, but I would give it an A’ for its effectiveness and ease of use. Frazer said he initially spent about 10 minutes to register and an additional 10 minutes a few weeks later to select a policy.” [Florida Today, 12/30/13]

12/29/13: CNN: “Karen Farrar...Naples, Fla....Having Insurance Means A Lot To Me....All Around, I Think Obamacare Is A Great Thing.” “Name: Karen Farrar, 60 Residence: Naples, Fla. Job: Administrative assistant I’m uninsurable because of pre-existing conditions: osteoporosis, high-blood pressure, which I’ve had for 30 years, and asthma. My husband is self-employed and I work for him. We were uninsured for quite a long time. We had insurance people in our house giving us quotes, but as soon as I started going down the list of what the problems were, they said “oh...oh...no.” In Oct. 2012, I was enrolled in PCIP [the transitional Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan that was created by the Affordable Care Act]. Previously, I had very limited coverage through the state of Florida. The PCIP program is ending. My husband signed us up for Obamacare. He got through, no problems. There were a lot

of choices. I was happy to see that. The premium will be about \$1,000 a month for the two of us. The new insurance will have a lower deductible and better coverage. The co-pays are lower. Having insurance means a lot to me. Because of the osteoporosis and asthma, I always end up in the doctor's office. Medication is expensive. When I was buying it outright, just the asthma medication was costing \$400 a month. I stopped using it. I just started not breathing very well. I didn't have any options. All around, I think Obamacare is a great thing.” [CNN, 12/29/13]

12/29/13: CNN: “Alan Meeks...Orlando, Fla...I Logged Into Healthcare.Gov And Looked At All The Options. Using The Site Was A Breeze....Now, I Don't Feel Like I'm Constrained. Health Benefits Is Not A Deciding Factor For Where I Work Anymore. It Gives Me More Freedom To Do What I Want Professionally.” “Name: Alan Meeks, 45 Residence: Orlando, Fla. Job: Systems engineer...My last job had benefits, but required me to travel 75% of the time. What allowed me to take this job is the existence of the Affordable Care Act. The current company I work for is akin to contracting work. You are a little better paid, but you don't have any benefits. Both myself and my partner have pre-existing conditions. He has a heart condition and takes 14 drugs a day. I had a benign brain tumor and have to be checked with an MRI every two years. I logged into healthcare.gov and looked at all the options. Using the site was a breeze. We chose a platinum version. Together we'll be paying \$770 a month with zero deductible and a maximum out-of-pocket of \$2,000 for each of us. At my previous job, I was paying almost the same but the deductible was almost \$8,000. And all our doctors are in the plan. Now, I don't feel like I'm constrained. Health benefits is not a deciding factor for where I work anymore. It gives me more freedom to do what I want professionally.” [CNN, 12/29/13]

12/29/13: CNN: “Oristela Schwend...Plantation, Fla....I Lost My Employer Coverage In 2012. I Tried To Get Individual Insurance And I Was Denied Right And Left. I Had Diverticulitis And Knee Issues. I Got Very Excited About Obamacare Because Finally I Would Have The Opportunity To Pay For My Own Insurance.” “Name: Oristela Schwend, 47 Residence: Plantation, Fla. Job: Accountant I lost my employer coverage in 2012. I tried to get individual insurance and I was denied right and left. I had diverticulitis and knee issues. I got very excited about Obamacare because finally I would have the opportunity to pay for my own insurance. I was willing to pay for insurance, they just didn't want me to. My husband applied on the website more than 10 times before he finally got through. I signed up for a Humana Gold plan for \$343.09 a month with a \$2,500 deductible. My husband signed up for a silver plan for \$388.27 a month, with a \$3,250 deductible. We've always had a high deductible so the Obamacare plans are not any worse. The prices were a little less than what we were paying through our employer, a small business. We won't know how good the insurance is until we start using the coverage. It can't be worse than not having insurance. I plan to start using the benefits in January to follow up on my knee issues. I have the beginning of arthritis. I haven't been able to manage my treatment because I haven't had insurance. And I was afraid to go to the doctor when I did have insurance because if I complained about a headache, then it was a pre-existing condition for something else.” [CNN, 12/29/13]

12/27/13: Allan Zullinger, Letter To The Editor: “I Am A 28-Year-Old Who Exercises Relentlessly And Diets Meticulously... A Few Weeks Ago, I Was Hit By A Car While Bicycling Home From Campus... After My Close Call, I Took An Hour Or So With My

Mother And Enrolled In A Health Insurance Plan That Will Begin Covering Me Jan. 1.” “I am a 28-year-old who exercises relentlessly and diets meticulously. I attend Florida International University’s (FIU) College of Law and I work at FIU’s Health Law and Policy Clinic, which assists the underprivileged with services that include accessing public benefits and resolving unpaid medical debts. A few weeks ago, I was hit by a car while bicycling home from campus. Fortunately, I had only a bruised rib and a few cuts and scrapes, but if the scenario had played out differently, I could have ended up in the shoes of those I help: without insurance and with tens of thousands of dollars of unpaid bills for necessary emergency medical treatment. After my close call, I took an hour or so with my mother and enrolled in a health insurance plan that will begin covering me Jan. 1.” [Washington Post, 12/27/13]

Georgia

1/1/14: New York Times: “William Hannah Of Cleveland, Ga., Who Has Been Uninsured For About 20 Years, Said He Was Looking Forward To Using His New Coverage To See A Specialist For Lower Back Problems And Numbness In His Limbs...‘It’s Very Affordable To Me, Thanks To The Tax Credit,’ Said Mr. Hannah, 63, Who Said He Had Retired Early To Care For His Ailing Mother.” “William Hannah of Cleveland, Ga., who has been uninsured for about 20 years, said he was looking forward to using his new coverage to see a specialist for lower back problems and numbness in his limbs. But Mr. Hannah said he had canceled the first plan he signed up for, from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, after realizing it would not pay for treatment at the medical center closest to his home. He switched to a silver plan from Alliant Health Plans and qualified for a tax subsidy that will lower his premium costs to \$56 a month. ‘It’s very affordable to me, thanks to the tax credit,’ said Mr. Hannah, 63, who said he had retired early to care for his ailing mother. ‘On the other hand, there’s the limitation of what the insurance companies are actually paying for and what institutions they are paying for.’” [New York Times, 1/1/14]

Illinois

1/1/14: Chicago Sun-Times: “...Most People Who Qualified For Medicaid Said They’re Just Relieved To Have Coverage. Humboldt Park Resident Juzzane Brownlee, 42, Who Said She Has Been Uninsured For A Year, Doesn’t Get Sick Often, But Said It Was A Concern Not To Have Insurance. ‘I’m Looking Forward To See What It Will Actually Offer And How I Will Benefit.’” “Many of the people who qualified for Medicaid, thanks to the broader expansion of Medicaid made possible by the Affordable Care Act, said they had been uninsured before the change...But most people who qualified for Medicaid said they’re just relieved to have coverage. Humboldt Park resident Juzzane Brownlee, 42, who said she has been uninsured for a year, doesn’t get sick often, but said it was a concern not to have insurance. ‘I’m looking forward to see what it will actually offer and how I will benefit.’” [Chicago Sun-Times, 1/1/14]

1/1/14: Chicago Sun-Times: “The Affordable Care Act Forbids Insurers To Exclude Coverage Because Of Pre-Existing Conditions After 2014. Keith Moens, 61, Said Removing That Barrier From Getting Insurance For Him, His Wife And Their Son Would Have Been Enough Of A Help. Being Able To Find A New Affordable Insurance Plan With Tax

Credits That The Moens And Their Son Qualified For Was An Added Bonus.” “Keith and Joyce Moens of Arlington Heights had been ‘flying without insurance since December 2011,’ because they said they couldn’t afford COBRA insurance after both lost their jobs in 2008. The same insurance plan they had when Joyce Moens, 55, was employed went from a premium of \$450 per month to \$2,000 per month on COBRA. And when they tried to enroll in COBRA, they were told it would cost \$12,000 for that first month, because of back pay they had to make. The Moens also couldn’t get any other insurers to cover them, because Joyce had been afflicted with West Nile virus in 2006 and also had thyroid problems, meaning she had ‘pre-existing conditions.’ The Affordable Care Act forbids insurers to exclude coverage because of pre-existing conditions after 2014. Keith Moens, 61, said removing that barrier from getting insurance for him, his wife and their son would have been enough of a help. Being able to find a new affordable insurance plan with tax credits that the Moens and their son qualified for was an added bonus. The Moens did not want it published how much they make or how much they’re paying for insurance, but noted that they meet the tax credit guidelines. ‘It’s a good plan. It’s got all that we need. And we’re ready to go. We’re just waiting for January to roll around,’ Keith said.” [Chicago Sun-Times, 1/1/14]

12/31/13: Chicago Daily Herald: “After Two Stressful Years Without Health Insurance, Arlington Heights Residents Keith And Joyce Moens Went On Healthcare.Gov And Could Hardly Believe Their Eyes. There, On The Computer Screen, Were Five Insurance Plans They Were Eligible For And Could Afford, Thanks To The New Federal Health Care Law... The Moens Will Be Among Thousands Of Suburban Residents Who, Starting Wednesday, Will Have Health Insurance As A Result Of The New Federal Act.” “After two stressful years without health insurance, Arlington Heights residents Keith and Joyce Moens went on healthcare.gov and could hardly believe their eyes. There, on the computer screen, were five insurance plans they were eligible for and could afford, thanks to the new federal health care law. ‘We just looked at each other, and we looked back at the screen, and it’s like we saw the light at the end of the tunnel,’ Joyce said. ‘I started to cry.’ The Moens will be among thousands of suburban residents who, starting Wednesday, will have health insurance as a result of the new federal act... The Moens chose a Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO that will cost roughly \$300 a month and will cover them and their youngest son, a 19-year-old college student. The plan has high co-pays and a \$10,000-per-person deductible, but it’s an amount they said they can live with if one of them is hospitalized or gets sick.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 12/31/13]

12/28/13: Washington Post: “For Adam Peterson, Awaiting Gallbladder Surgery In Illinois, The Dark Tunnel Without Insurance Began About Six Years Ago, When He Decided To Forgo Health Coverage Because He Needed The Cash To Set Up His Financial Services Business.... Peterson Said, Contemplating His Insurance Coverage, Which Begins On New Year’s Day. ‘More, It Just Allows Me To Live A Normal Life With One Less Worry.’” “For Adam Peterson, awaiting gallbladder surgery in Illinois, the dark tunnel without insurance began about six years ago, when he decided to forgo health coverage because he needed the cash to set up his financial services business. The cost of that decision hit home in March, when the emergency surgery to remove a gallstone cost him \$27,000. When he went to HealthCare.gov this fall, the online system at first balked at verifying his identity — an essential step. It took a few calls to a help line before anyone called back. But just before Thanksgiving, he managed to enroll in a top-tier plan with a monthly premium of \$475. ‘I do not feel that it

gives me the freedom to do reckless things,' Peterson said, contemplating his insurance coverage, which begins on New Year's Day. 'More, it just allows me to live a normal life with one less worry.' [Washington Post, 12/28/13]

Kentucky

1/1/14: The Journal-Times: "Despite The Dire Predictions Of Certain Politicians And Others, More Than 800 Carter County Residents Are Among Nearly 5,000 Area Residents Signed Up For New Federally-Mandated Health Care Starting Today, Jan. 1... In Something Of A Surprise, The Kentucky Statistics Show Nearly 40 Percent Of Those Enrolling Are 35 Or Younger." "Despite the dire predictions of certain politicians and others, more than 800 Carter County residents are among nearly 5,000 area residents signed up for new federally-mandated health care starting today, Jan. 1. In statistics compiled through Dec. 22, Carter and its six contiguous counties had 4,875 persons enroll in expanded Medicaid or purchase private health insurance, with or without the federal subsidy. Statewide, it was reported that 100,096 Kentuckians were on the rolls by Dec. 22. That figure is expected to rise through the March 31 deadline for coverage in 2014... In something of a surprise, the Kentucky statistics show nearly 40 percent of those enrolling are 35 or younger." [The Journal-Times (KY), 1/1/14]

Maryland

1/2/14: Baltimore Sun: "Cyrus Nusum Of Baltimore Has Asthma And Was Counting Down The Days Until Her New Medicaid Insurance Kicked In... She Said She Believes She Will Cost The Medical System Less By Managing Her Chronic Condition Rather Than Racking Up Big Emergency Room Bills." "Vincent DeMarco, president of the advocacy group Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative, said he's heard about lives saved and improved from patients who already got coverage. And he hears from those relieved that they will soon be able to visit a doctor and fill prescriptions. Cyrus Nusum of Baltimore has asthma and was counting down the days until her new Medicaid insurance kicked in. Nusum qualified for the expanded program after being laid off from her job for a company that offered managed-care plans to Medicaid patients. She quickly landed a new job at a small medical clinic but was not offered health insurance immediately. She was already familiar with Medicaid and its expansion because of her line of work, so she enrolled herself and her college-age son. 'In my old job, my life revolved around helping people get the most out of their Medicaid benefits,' Nusum said. 'I saw a lot of people who would go to the emergency room for routine things. I don't want to be one of those people, because that strains the whole system.' She said she believes she will cost the medical system less by managing her chronic condition rather than racking up big emergency room bills." [Baltimore Sun, 1/2/14]

Massachusetts

1/1/14: Boston Globe: "Anne Mahon Was Able To Buy An Unsubsidized Plan Through The Connector This Week, After Hours Of Frustration With The Website. The Real Estate Agent From Belmont Said The Connector Plan Saved Her Several Hundred Dollars A Month, Compared With The COBRA Plan Offered By Her Husband's Former Employer."

“Anne Mahon was able to buy an unsubsidized plan through the Connector this week, after hours of frustration with the website. The real estate agent from Belmont said the Connector plan saved her several hundred dollars a month, compared with the COBRA plan offered by her husband’s former employer. ‘The online experience is frustrating, but the opportunity to call and talk to somebody that can help you through it, [makes it] so easy,’ she said.” [Boston Globe, 1/1/14]

Missouri

12/31/13: New York Times: “‘I Feel A Huge Sense Of Relief,’ Said Katie R. Norvell, 33, A Music Therapist In St. Louis, Who Has Been Uninsured For Three And A Half Years And Has A Pre-Existing Gynecological Condition, Endometriosis...‘With Coverage,’ She Said, ‘I Can Be My Best Self. Health Insurance Won’t Control My Job Choices.’” “‘I feel a huge sense of relief,’ said Katie R. Norvell, 33, a music therapist in St. Louis, who has been uninsured for three and a half years and has a pre-existing gynecological condition, endometriosis. She signed up Dec. 22 for a midlevel silver plan offered by Coventry Health Care, owned by Aetna, and has already begun making doctor’s appointments. ‘With coverage,’ she said, ‘I can be my best self. Health insurance won’t control my job choices.’” [New York Times, 12/31/13]

New Jersey

1/1/14: New York Times: “Ana Yngelmo, A 37-Year-Old Immigration Lawyer In Kearny, N.J., Said She Would Use Her New Insurance To Start Seeing A Primary Care Doctor And To Get Her First Mammogram. Ms. Yngelmo, Who Said She Had Been Uninsured For 16 Months, Chose A Platinum Plan With Generous Coverage And No Deductible.” “Ana Yngelmo, a 37-year-old immigration lawyer in Kearny, N.J., said she would use her new insurance to start seeing a primary care doctor and to get her first mammogram. Ms. Yngelmo, who said she had been uninsured for 16 months, chose a platinum plan with generous coverage and no deductible. She qualified for a tax-credit subsidy that will lower her monthly premium to \$350 — still expensive, she said, but worth it for peace of mind. ‘For me, insurance is about those tragic situations where you need some terrible surgery or get cancer,’ said Ms. Yngelmo, who recently started her own law practice. ‘I just want to make sure that in those situations, I can go to whichever doctor I want and it will be covered.’” [New York Times, 1/1/14]

New Mexico

1/1/14: Las Cruces Sun-News: “Cristi Moreno Robles Has A Back Injury That Used To Leave Her Without Health Care Coverage Or Paying As Much As \$1,200 Per Month For Insurance. Jan. 1, That Changes... Moreno Robles Will Now Pay \$200 Per Month Under A Plan Offered Through The Federal Exchange.” “Cristi Moreno Robles has a back injury that used to leave her without health care coverage or paying as much as \$1,200 per month for insurance. Jan. 1, that changes. The Affordable Care Act’s major benefits take effect Jan. 1, including patient protections and coverage for those who purchased insurance through state and federal exchanges by Dec. 24 -- provided buyers pay their first monthly bill by Jan. 10. Moreno Robles will now pay \$200 per month under a plan offered through the federal exchange. ‘I’m so excited to not have to be a self-pay, stay home sick or fear illness,’ she said.” [Las Cruces Sun-News, 1/1/14]

New York

12/31/13: Newsday: “The New York State Department Of Health Announced That As Of Monday, 241,522 New Yorkers Had Enrolled On The State's Exchange, NY State Of Health, With A 22 Percent Increase From Dec. 23 To Dec. 30.” “People signing up for health insurance spurred a last-minute surge in enrollment figures on the New York and federal exchanges. The New York State Department of Health announced that as of Monday, 241,522 New Yorkers had enrolled on the state's exchange, NY State of Health, with a 22 percent increase from Dec. 23 to Dec. 30. U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Tuesday that as of Dec. 28 more than 2.1 million had enrolled through state-based or federal exchanges for private plans, with more than half on the federal exchange. She said an additional 3.9 million had signed up for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program, although some of those were renewals.” [Newsday, 12/31/13]

Ohio

1/1/14: NBC News: “Rita Rizzo And Lou Vincent Of Akron, Ohio, Say They're Making Appointments With New Doctors Now That They Have Affordable Coverage On A Federal Health Exchange. But Now That She And Vincent, 64, Are Covered By A New CareSource Silver-Level Plan Under The Federal Exchange, He's Insured For The First Time In Years After Being Denied By Dozens Of Private Plans Because He Has High Blood Pressure And Diabetes.” “...for people like the Schulz family of Phoenix, Ariz., Rita Rizzo and Lou Vincent of Akron, Ohio, and Joyce Moore of Zionsville, Pa., [today is] the first test of whether Obamacare will really work. They all say they're relieved and excited to finally have new access to health care, and they hope that the rocky rollout of the exchanges under the Affordable Care Act will actually give way to the smooth delivery of vital medical services. ‘I've been afraid for the last three years to get preventive care, because if they found something, I couldn't afford to treat it,’ said Rizzo, 59, who runs a management training business with her husband. ‘I haven't had any blood work in three years and my right hip is starting to give out.’ Rita Rizzo and Lou Vincent of Akron, Ohio, say they're making appointments with new doctors now that they have affordable coverage on a federal health exchange. But now that she and Vincent, 64, are covered by a new CareSource silver-level plan under the federal exchange, he's insured for the first time in years after being denied by dozens of private plans because he has high blood pressure and diabetes. And Rizzo said they'll pay \$184 a month, with a \$2,000 deductible and a maximum of \$3,400 out of pocket, far less than the \$400 a month and \$6,000 deductible they were paying for her alone with a private plan. ‘The coverage is wonderful,’ said Rizzo. ‘We'll get prescription coverage. Right now, his prescriptions alone are \$170 a month.’” [NBC News, 1/1/14]

12/29/13: CNN: “Bob Weber...Hamilton, Ohio....I Chose A Platinum Plan With A \$1,000 Deductible. The Process Was Painless. I Applied Online And Had No Issues At All. It Was Not Difficult To Navigate Or To Find The Policies That Would Fit.” “Name: Bob Weber, 58
Residence: Hamilton, Ohio

Job: Visiting part-time professor

After not having any health insurance for over 16 years, I am pleased at the prospect of starting 2014 with insurance. With my income, I didn't have the ability to pursue buying my own health

insurance. Businesses are trying purposely not to have budget lines that have benefit-eligible in it. When you are over 50, you are pretty much up a creek. The Affordable Care Act for me is reasonable enough that with the tax break, the premium ended up being in the range of \$136 a month. I chose a platinum plan with a \$1,000 deductible. The process was painless. I applied online and had no issues at all. It was not difficult to navigate or to find the policies that would fit. I don't know how it's going to be when I start using the insurance. The jury is still out. My first concern was being able to find a doctor that was close. I did find a doctor 10 minutes away. I am diabetic. I've been doing pretty well. But as you age, you start to have more issues that go with it. I have a minor surgery procedure that I've put off for years and testing that I just couldn't afford. What the future holds is the problem. You can't roll the dice with no insurance for as many years as I did it. I know that." [CNN, 12/29/13]

Pennsylvania

1/1/14: NBC News: “‘I Was Expecting It To Be Canceled. The Idea That You Can Keep Your Plan Was Never An Option For Me,’ Said [Joyce] Moore, 58, Who Runs Her Own Retirement And Estate Planning Business. ‘That Was Fine With Me Because My Plan Was Awful.’ ... ‘Under My New Plan, The Premium Is \$100 Less A Month And The Out-Of-Pocket Is \$4,750 Less Per Year.’” “Joyce Moore, a Pennsylvania financial planner, is pleased, too, even though she was among at least 4 million people whose private insurance policies were canceled, sparking criticisms of President Barack Obama’s early promises that people who liked their plans could keep their plans. An estimated 11 million to 19 million people previously got insurance through the private insurance market. That’s dwarfed by the 149 million people who get insurance through an employer and another 97 million who get government coverage through Medicare, Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program or CHIP. ‘I was expecting it to be canceled. The idea that you can keep your plan was never an option for me,’ said Moore, 58, who runs her own retirement and estate planning business. ‘That was fine with me because my plan was awful.’ Under the old plan, Moore paid a \$550 monthly premium and had a limit of \$8,500 a year for out-of-pocket costs — for one person. ‘If you had to have surgery that year, you’d have to have \$10,000 set aside just for medical bills,’ said Moore, who signed up for a silver-level plan with provider Geisinger. ‘Under my new plan, the premium is \$100 less a month and the out-of-pocket is \$4,750 less per year.’” [NBC News, 1/1/14]

Rhode Island

12/31/13: WPRI: “Healthsource RI Enrolled 9,803 Individuals In Private Health Insurance Plans From Oct. 1 To Dec. 28... That’s More Than Triple The 2,649 Who Had Enrolled As Of The End Of November And An Increase Of 4,334 Since Dec. 14.” “Rhode Island’s new Obamacare insurance marketplace, HealthSource RI, says enrollment in private health plans has surged this month ahead of Tuesday’s deadline for individuals to sign up if they want to be covered on New Year’s Day. HealthSource RI enrolled 9,803 individuals in private health insurance plans from Oct. 1 to Dec. 28, though not all of them have paid their first premiums, according to preliminary figures it released Tuesday. That’s more than triple the 2,649 who had enrolled as of the end of November and an increase of 4,334 since Dec. 14.” [WPRI, 12/31/13]

Tennessee

12/28/13: Washington Post: “Paying Toward His Own Insurance, He Said, Gives Him ‘A Certain Dignity,’ A Feeling That He Is Not ‘One Of The Takers.’ The Next Day, He Called The Doctor’s Office. His Appointment For A Physical Is Jan. 2. ‘I’m Feeling Surprisingly Moved By All Of This,’ [Alan] Munstock Said. ‘This Finally Seems Real. And I’m Thinking That Maybe All The Talk And The Promises And The Messy Politics Can Actually Lead To Something Good After All.’” “This core mission has sometimes been obscured by the political and legal disputes that have dogged and, in important ways, altered the law. Strong research links having health insurance and being healthy. Having a health plan does not guarantee that a good doctor is within reach when a patient needs one. But insurance matters. Dan Munstock knows this. A 62-year-old retiree in Greenville, Tenn., he hasn’t had insurance since he left his job as a crisis counselor in Miami six years ago. He lives on Social Security income of less than \$15,000 a year. Although he does not know of any major ailments, he would like a checkup because, he said, ‘you can seem fine until the day you drop over with something.’ Like thousands of other Americans, Munstock ran into technical problems with the federal Web site before managing to pick a health plan Dec. 1. He qualified for a federal subsidy to help him afford the insurance, so he has to pay just \$87.57 a month toward his premium. After his welcome packet from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee arrived in the mail, Munstock was so eager to finish the process of enrolling and getting an insurance card that he picked up the phone to pay the first premium instead of using the mail. ‘It felt really good,’ he said. Paying toward his own insurance, he said, gives him ‘a certain dignity,’ a feeling that he is not ‘one of the takers.’ The next day, he called the doctor’s office. His appointment for a physical is Jan. 2. ‘I’m feeling surprisingly moved by all of this,’ Munstock said. ‘This finally seems real. And I’m thinking that maybe all the talk and the promises and the messy politics can actually lead to something good after all.’” [Washington Post, [12/28/13](#)]

12/28/13: Washington Post: “[Emily] Wright Also Needs Surgery For Endometriosis, A Painful Gynecological Condition That Has Already Required Her To Have Two Operations. Constant Pain Makes It Difficult For Her To Work Delivering Pizzas And Attend East Tennessee State University....Enrolling Through The Federal Exchange, She Qualified For A Federal Subsidy And Picked A Top-Tier Plan That Will Cost Her \$125 A Month.....‘It Feels Like The Light At The End Of The Long Dark Tunnel.’” “...Emily Wright has been worrying about the mole on her back. The suspicious mole is on a mental list of ‘little things’ that Wright, 28, of Johnson City, Tenn., said she wants to get checked out. Recurring joint pain in a foot and knee are also on the list. So are her frequently swollen glands. Wright also needs surgery for endometriosis, a painful gynecological condition that has already required her to have two operations. Constant pain makes it difficult for her to work delivering pizzas and attend East Tennessee State University, where she hopes to get a history degree in May. Enrolling through the federal exchange, she qualified for a federal subsidy and picked a top-tier plan that will cost her \$125 a month. The soonest appointment she could get with an obstetrics-gynecology practice, the first step before surgery, is Jan. 17. ‘I am excited. I am ready,’ she said. ‘It feels like the light at the end of the long dark tunnel.’” [Washington Post, [12/28/13](#)]

Virginia

12/30/13: CNN: “ATHENA JONES: People Like Lauren Reisig, A 27-Year-Old Marketing Director From McLean, Virginia Who Suffers From Crohn's Disease. She Enrolled With The Help Of A Government Call Center After Running Into Trouble On The Web Site. Starting January 1st, Her Premium Is Dropping From There Are \$1,300 A Month To \$400. LAUREN REISIG: It Gives Me The Option To Possibly Finally Move Out Of My Parent's House At Age 27.” “ATHENA JONES, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Good morning, Michaela. Health officials say this welcome surge was possible because the federal exchange, healthcare.gov, is now working a lot better after that disastrous rollout in October. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

JONES (voice-over): Healthcare.gov may be finally be hitting its stride. Health officials say more than 1.1 million people enrolled in health plans through the federal exchange between October 1st and December 24th with a nearly a million of those coming this month alone.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It changes my life.

ATHENA JONES: People like Lauren Reisig, a 27-year-old marketing director from McLean, Virginia who suffers from Crohn's disease. She enrolled with the help of a government call center after running into trouble on the web site. Starting January 1st, her premium is dropping from there are \$1,300 a month to \$400.

LAUREN REISIG, ENROLLED IN HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN: It gives me the option to possibly finally move out of my parent's house at age 27.” [CNN, 12/30/13]

12/29/13: Roanoke Times: “Next Year, Nathan Auldridge Will Be As Much A Cancer Survivor As He Has Been For The Past Eight Years. There Will Be A Difference, Though, One That He Calls Life-Changing. Because Of His Pre-Existing Condition, Auldridge Has Been Paying \$483 A Month For Health Insurance That Only Starts To Help With His Medical Bills After He Meets A \$5,000 Deductible. Under A Different Plan That Takes Effect On The First Day Of The New Year — And The First Day Of His New Life — Auldridge Will Pay Just \$111 A Month And Have A Deductible Of \$1,750.” “Next year, Nathan Auldridge will be as much a cancer survivor as he has been for the past eight years. There will be a difference, though, one that he calls life-changing. Because of his pre-existing condition, Auldridge has been paying \$483 a month for health insurance that only starts to help with his medical bills after he meets a \$5,000 deductible. Under a different plan that takes effect on the first day of the new year — and the first day of his new life — Auldridge will pay just \$111 a month and have a deductible of \$1,750. The reason, the 30-year-old from Salem says, is a provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that prohibits insurance companies from charging more or denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions. ‘It has freed me from a weight, a chain, a prison of costs that were astronomical, especially considering my low income level,’ said Auldridge, who makes about \$20,000 a year working with people with autism.” [Roanoke Times, 12/29/13]

Wisconsin

12/31/13: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: “The Federal Health Care Law Has Already Identified Tens Of Thousands Of Wisconsin Residents Eligible For State Badgercare Plus Health Care, With Some Potentially Receiving Coverage As Early As Wednesday As Key Parts Of Obamacare Take Effect...32,000 People [Have Been] Identified So Far As Being Eligible To Receive Badgercare.” “The federal health care law has already identified tens of

thousands of Wisconsin residents eligible for state BadgerCare Plus health care, with some potentially receiving coverage as early as Wednesday as key parts of Obamacare take effect. In a letter Monday to federal officials, state Medicaid director Brett Davis said the Wisconsin Department of Health Services wrote last week to these 32,000 people identified so far as being eligible to receive BadgerCare. This first wave of applicants for state coverage — a 4% bump to the BadgerCare program and a sharp increase over referral figures from the end of November — gives a new look at the effects the federal law will have for both the uninsured and taxpayers in the state.” [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/31/13]

From: Harris, Julian </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=harris, julian j.88f>
Sent: Sat Jan 04 2014 09:21:45 EST
Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Reilly, Tom </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=thomasm.reilly54276557>; Barnett, Patti </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=patti_a_barnett>; Martin, Kathryn </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kathrynmartin15107475>; Overstreet, Tyler J. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=tylerj.overstreet64046450>; Cobert, Beth </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=cobert, beth f.551>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>; Washington, Geovette </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=washington, geovette e.6dd>
To:
CC:
Subject: Fw: Reuters: Early days of Obamacare bring trickle, not flood, of patients
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

In the case of another CareConnect customer, last month her doctor arranged for her to have surgery for recently diagnosed endometrial cancer as soon as possible. The insurer approved it in December, before her coverage even kicked in, the surgery was successfully performed on January 2, and the woman was discharged from the hospital on Friday.

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Saturday, January 04, 2014 08:44 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: Reuters: Early days of Obamacare bring trickle, not flood, of patients

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/01/04/us-usa-health-obamacare-idUSBREA0305G20140104>

Early days of Obamacare bring trickle, not flood, of patients

Reuters // SHARON BEGLEY AND LEWIS KRAUSKOPF

Jan 4

(Reuters) - U.S. medical providers are seeing only a trickle of patients newly insured under President Barack Obama's healthcare law, as insurers, hospitals and doctors try to work out any hitches in coverage.

More than 2 million people have signed up for new private health plans that took effect on Wednesday under the Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare. While some of those consumers were already lining up doctor visits last month, early reports from providers and an online medical booking service show the demand for care has been modest so far.

Within the Obama administration, officials fear a surge of patients in the coming weeks could spotlight cases where consumers who signed up for insurance can't immediately get care due to technical failures on the government's HealthCare.gov enrollment website.

Already on Friday, Senate Republicans opposed to the law seized on scattered media reports of a handful of people having difficulty confirming their new insurance policies, feeding into a narrative of Obamacare's harms that is expected to intensify ahead of Congressional elections in November.

Central Ohio Primary Care, a 250-physician practice, is holding off on filing claims for patients who say they bought plans through the HealthCare.gov exchange, said Chief Executive Officer Dr. William Wulf.

The delay will allow insurers more time to confirm membership information and avert any erroneous claim denials, Wulf said.

Such a grace period "surely is not desirable long term," he said, but the number of patients with Obamacare plans has so far been low and represents only a small fraction of the practice's patients.

"What we're doing is we're seeing the patients, trusting they are in fact going to pay for insurance and just not sending a bill yet," Wulf said.

Contrary to fears that Obamacare enrollees would be sicker than other Americans, with serious and expensive pent-up medical needs, so far they are not much different from other Americans, according to data from ZocDoc, a six-year-old closely held company that allows patients to find a doctor who accepts their insurance and make an appointment online.

Obamacare consumers "started booking appointments the last two weeks of December for January appointments," said ZocDoc founder and Chief Operating Officer Dr. Oliver Kharraz. "The vast majority of these were for preventive care, not acute care where people indicated they had an existing illness, which accounted for only 7 percent of searches."

That mirrors the behavior of ZocDoc's previously insured users. ZocDoc says the site gets just over 5 million unique visitors each month who are searching doctors' ratings and reviews as well as making appointments.

As many as 7 million people are expected to sign up for the new health plans, which include government subsidies for lower-income households, by the time 2014 enrollment ends on March 31.

PENT-UP DEMAND

Of course, some newly insured people were anxious to get care almost as soon as the last strains of Auld Lang Syne petered out.

One customer of North Shore-LIJ CareConnect, a new insurer selling plans on the New York State of Health marketplace, went to its customer center last month, paid cash for a policy, "and asked if he could now schedule his son's gastric bypass," said Chief Executive Officer Alan Murray.

In the case of another CareConnect customer, last month her doctor arranged for her to have surgery for recently diagnosed endometrial cancer as soon as possible. The insurer approved it in December, before her coverage even kicked in, the surgery was successfully performed on January 2, and the woman was discharged from the hospital on Friday.

Insurers also heard from unusually high numbers of new customers anxious to confirm their coverage.

On January 1, Philadelphia-based Independence Blue Cross received eight times as many calls as a typical New Year's Day from consumers most commonly seeking to confirm that they were indeed covered, said Brian Lobley, senior vice president of marketing and consumer business.

"We haven't seen any systemic issues" of Independence's newest members having trouble confirming their policies, he said.

Because medical practices often do not file insurance claims daily, he added, it is too early to draw any conclusions about use of medical services with the new plans.

On ZocDoc, people with Obamacare insurance searched most frequently for primary care physicians, accounting for more than half of all searches, said Kharraz, followed by obstetricians/gynecologists and dermatologists. That is identical to the most-searched-for categories for people with non-Obamacare coverage, he said.

Hospitals expect Obamacare to bring them more paying patients and reduce the amount of uncompensated care they provide, but have not seen a surge yet.

"We continue to expect an uptick in volume, but we don't think it's anything beyond what most hospitals are prepared to handle," said Jeff Goldman, vice president of coverage policy for the American Hospital Association

Pharmacists are not reporting a surge in demand either. "At this time, activity is fairly typical of what we experience each year when insurance changes take effect," said Walgreen Co spokeswoman Markeisha Marshall. "Nonetheless, we anticipate a surge of activity next week."

(Editing by Michele Gershberg and Lisa Shumaker)

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Wed Jan 08 2014 13:57:40 EST
To: Cain, Emily </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=cain, emily e.8be>
CC:
Subject: RE: FY14 appropriations press coverage
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Thanks Emily. This is helpful. Sylvia

From: Cain, Emily
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2014 7:07 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Shlossman, Amy; Vorhaus, Dave; O'Connor, Devin; Sarri, Kristen; Menter, Jessica; Berman, Lindsey R.
Cc: FN-OMB-Communications Office
Subject: FY14 appropriations press coverage

Below is the latest coverage on the FY14 appropriations process. Most of the coverage is focused on comments from Senator Mikulski this afternoon indicating that it's unlikely the 12 bills will be announced tomorrow, which has led to speculation that a stopgap funding bill may be necessary.

Thank you – Emily

<http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/budget/194686-stopgap-spending-bill-looms-as-talks-on-omnibus-drag>

Stopgap looking more likely

The Hill

It appeared increasingly likely Tuesday that Congress will need to approve a stopgap spending bill in order to prevent a government shutdown after Jan. 15. Despite progress by negotiators on a \$1 trillion omnibus spending package for fiscal 2014, Democrats and Republicans remain at odds on several issues, including funding for ObamaCare and the Dodd-Frank financial reform law.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_BUDGET_BATTLE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Lawmakers put finishing touches on spending bill

Associated Press

Funding for implementing the new health care law and other sticking points remain, but negotiators reported significant progress Tuesday on a \$1.1 trillion spending bill to fund the government through September. "We are looking at narrowing the differences, looking at ... how we can compromise without capitulation on both sides," said Senate Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski, D-Md. After a meeting of the four principal negotiators - the top Democrats and Republicans on the House and Senate Appropriations committees - Mikulski was cautiously optimistic of reaching agreement on the massive bill later this week in hopes of a vote next week.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/01/07/us-usa-fiscal-idUSBREA061D920140107>

U.S. spending bill negotiations may take until weekend: Mikulski

Reuters

Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill may need a few more days to resolve differences over a \$1 trillion U.S. spending bill, a top Democratic lawmaker said on Tuesday, pushing passage by Congress up against a government shutdown deadline next week. Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski told reporters that her hope to unveil the bill funding thousands of government projects and programs on Wednesday was "a fading dream" amid the unresolved disputes.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/print/2014-01-07/congress-nears-deal-on-obamacare-part-of-spending-measure.html>

Congress Nears Deal on Obamacare Part of Spending Measure

Bloomberg

U.S. Senate and House negotiators are nearing agreement to fund implementation of the Affordable Care Act to the end of fiscal 2014, said Senator Tom Harkin. Funding for the 2010 health-care law is one of the final sticking points in talks on a spending bill to finance the U.S. government through Sept. 30, said Harkin, an Iowa Democrat and chairman of the panel that sets spending for the Department of Health and Human Services. Current funding runs out Jan. 15.

<http://www.cq.com/doc/news-4403306?wr=RDIYTIRja3lSajZtajlvc0VFUWloUQ>

WGDB: Mikulski» Warns Appropriators May Need 'a Little Bit More Time' for Omnibus

CQ Roll Call

Subcommittee chairmen may be known as cardinals in appropriations parlance, but Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Barbara A. Mikulski called Tuesday's meeting of the Democratic and Republican spending chiefs on both sides of the Rotunda a "conversation" rather than a "conclave." The Maryland Democrat left a

meeting of the top four leaders of the congressional spending panels Tuesday afternoon sounding optimistic about getting an omnibus finished soon and averting a shutdown, but she conceded negotiators may need a short reprieve from the current deadline.

<http://www.cq.com/doc/news-4403298?wr=RDlYTIRja3lSajZtajlvc0VFUWloUQ>

Appropriators Keep Defense Cuts Close to the Vest

CQ Roll Call

House and Senate Defense appropriators have been closely holding a secret, at the core of which lies the fate of hundreds of Pentagon programs facing billions of dollars in reductions from fiscal 2014 plans. With the allocations for all 12 Appropriations subcommittees set to be revealed as early as this week, the Defense panels will soon reveal how they plan to cut their oversized spending bills to match the spending cap set by last month's budget resolution (H J Res 59).

<http://www.cq.com/doc/hbnews-4403266?wr=RDlYTIRja3lSajZtajlvc0VFUWloUQ>

Labor-HHS Bill Remains Controversial, But Still in Contention for Fiscal 2014 Package

CQ Roll Call

Appropriators continued to work Tuesday on a Labor-HHS-Education bill, trying to overcome remaining hurdles to agreeing on a House-Senate version of the measure. A fiscal 2014 Labor-HHS-Education bill for many months has been considered a long shot, as the House never unveiled its version of the measure and the Senate draft (S 1284) failed to get any GOP support at its July markup. Even so, senior appropriators and staffers on Tuesday said that the goal remains completing a fiscal 2014 omnibus, a measure that would contain newly written versions of all twelve annual spending bills.

FULL STORIES

<http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/budget/194686-stopgap-spending-bill-looms-as-talks-on-omnibus-drag>

Stopgap looking more likely

The Hill // Erik Wasson

5:36 PM

It appeared increasingly likely Tuesday that Congress will need to approve a stopgap spending bill in order to prevent a government shutdown after Jan. 15.

Despite progress by negotiators on a \$1 trillion omnibus spending package for fiscal 2014, Democrats and Republicans remain at odds on several issues, including funding for ObamaCare and the Dodd-Frank financial reform law.

Leaders of the House and Senate appropriations panels had hoped to announce a deal on the 12-part omnibus measure Wednesday, but now they are unlikely to do so.

“That’s a fading dream,” Senate Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) said.

Mikulski met Tuesday with House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.). Afterward, she said a deal could be announced as late as this weekend, leaving the House and Senate virtually no time to pass the bill by Jan. 15 under regular procedures.

“An omnibus is big. It’s over \$1 trillion. It’s over 134 riders,” she added. “You have two houses, you have parties within the parties, this is really complicated ... This is not a linear process, it’s more like an amoeba.”

Lawmakers had hoped that the two-year budget deal negotiated by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and approved by Congress in December would allow appropriators to iron out their differences and move a spending bill forward.

Republicans in particular want to avoid another government shutdown, which damaged the party's image badly in October.

The omnibus bill fleshes out the \$1.012 trillion top-line budget number from December’s deal. It splits the difference between the \$1.058 trillion Senate level and the \$967 billion House total.

Rogers on Tuesday was slightly more upbeat after meeting with Mikulski and said the country does not need to fear a repeat of the 16-day government shutdown.

"I think we're making really good progress. I'm optimistic," Rogers said, adding that "roughly" six of 12 parts of the bill are done.

"We'll see how things go," he said of the possibility of a stopgap measure.

The six parts "virtually" done, according to Senate Appropriations Committee Democratic chief of staff Chuck Keiffer, are the Defense; Agriculture; Transportation and Housing and Urban Development; Military Construction and Veterans Affairs; Legislative Branch; and Commerce, Justice and Science bills.

Mikulski said that her first principle is avoiding a yearlong stopgap bill, her second principle is protecting national security and her third is targeted spending for job creation such as in the transportation measure.

She appeared to open the door to including at least some conservative riders in the bill, saying she is working to limit their number.

"Our subcommittee chairmen have really done 90 percent of the work," she said. "We are now at 10 percent, but this last 10 percent is the hardest, like in any negotiation."

Funding for Dodd-Frank remains a difficult issue, Mikulski said.

The House has sought to deny the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission millions of dollars in new funding to implement the law.

On ObamaCare, the issue that led to the shutdown, Mikulski signaled appropriators may argue that the omnibus is not the best place to solve the hot-button dispute over the law.

"I think ObamaCare will be unresolved for a long time. It's how we can resolve some of the issues in the bill," she said.

Earlier in the day, Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), who chairs a subcommittee overseeing health spending, told reporters both sides should be able to agree on an ObamaCare compromise.

"We are working our way through it. There are ways of getting things done if people agree to be reasonable," Harkin said.

Harkin's bill contains some of the most contentious issues, along with that governing the Environmental Protection Agency.

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_BUDGET_BATTLE?
SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_BUDGET_BATTLE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)

Lawmakers put finishing touches on spending bill

Associated Press // Andrew Taylor

5:39 PM

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Funding for implementing the new health care law and other sticking points remain, but negotiators reported significant progress Tuesday on a \$1.1 trillion spending bill to fund the government through September.

"We are looking at narrowing the differences, looking at ... how we can compromise without capitulation on both sides," said Senate Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski, D-Md. After a meeting of the four principal negotiators - the top Democrats and Republicans on the House and Senate Appropriations committees - Mikulski was cautiously optimistic of reaching agreement on the massive bill later this week in hopes of a vote next week.

"Our subcommittee chairmen have really done 90 percent of the work. We are now at 10 percent, but this last 10 percent, like in any negotiation, is the toughest," Mikulski said. A top aide accompanying Mikulski back to her office told reporters that the budgets for the Pentagon and the Commerce, Justice, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, Veterans Affairs and Transportation departments are "virtually wrapped up."

But the two sides remain at odds over funding to implement so-called Obamacare and a 2010 overhaul of financial regulations, and they're still sorting through more than 130 policy items known as "riders" in Washington-speak, many of which are backed by conservatives seeking to derail Obama administration

environmental and labor regulations.

Among the differences is giving the administration flexibility to certify that Egypt qualifies for U.S. military aid despite a law that bans such assistance after coups, said Sen. Lindsey Graham, the top Republican on the foreign aid panel.

The most controversial riders are likely to be jettisoned to the dismay of conservatives, many of whom will vote against the bill anyway over its funding of Obamacare. The issue sparked a 16-day partial shutdown of the government at the hands of House conservatives that GOP leaders are loath to repeat.

"I'm hopeful we'll work something out where neither side is very happy, but we'll work it out and Obamacare will continue to be implemented," said Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, responsible for a massive section of the measure funding the Labor and Health and Human Services departments. Harkin said another hang-up includes differences over funding to implement the new health care law and GOP-sought provisions to effectively block several union-friendly decisions by the National Labor Relations Board, including a 2011 change that made it more difficult for anti-union workers to petition to decertify a union.

Harkin predicted Democrats will carry the day in annual fights over abortion, which include a GOP-sought ban on federal funding for Planned Parenthood.

The goal is to finish writing the mammoth measure this week in anticipation of House and Senate votes before a Jan. 15 deadline to avert another government shutdown, but as a practical matter Congress still will likely have to pass a temporary funding measure to keep the government running after midnight next Wednesday.

The omnibus spending bill follows up on the budget pact negotiated by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray, D-Wash., as the anticlimax to a 16-day partial government shutdown in October. A fresh battle over increasing the so-called debt limit looms next month, however, even as the threat of a second government shutdown fades.

The measure includes everything from fighting the spread of the Asian carp into the Great Lakes, ordering new F-35 fighter planes and funding health research to fighting wildfires, sending aid to Israel and Egypt and helping local governments build sewer systems. War funding will be essentially frozen at current levels while domestic programs will be funded at \$492 billion - slightly above 2013 levels before a 5 percent mandatory across-the-board cut.

Supporters of the military are grateful for relief from another \$20 billion round of automatic cuts in defense spending. The Pentagon's core budget will remain essentially flat at \$520 billion, with just a \$2 billion increase over the 2013 levels that caused furloughs, harmed readiness and slowed weapons procurement.

The negotiations promise to produce a foot-tall omnibus spending measure for the 2014 budget year that began in October that'll total about \$1.1 trillion after \$86 billion or so in war funding is tacked on to \$1.012 trillion for core agency operations.

That's \$25 billion above fiscal 2013, when automatic spending cuts slashed \$64 billion from a massive appropriations bill that passed in March. But it is \$45 billion higher than what would have been available had the budget talks fallen apart and forced a second full year of the mandatory cuts.

This appropriated spending in 2014 will be more than \$30 billion below what was originally contemplated for 2013 and \$46 billion below levels contemplated in the 2011 budget deal.

One source of relief is Afghanistan war funding, which is exempt from the overall budget cap and can be used as a piggy bank to beef up Pentagon spending. The administration requested \$79 billion in May but House Republicans added \$6 billion when moving the Pentagon's budget through the Appropriations Committee, though the increase was cut back by a floor vote. Negotiators are moving toward the more generous original House figure.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/01/07/us-usa-fiscal-idUSBREA061D920140107>

U.S. spending bill negotiations may take until weekend: Mikulski

Reuters // David Lawder

6:32 PM

(Reuters) - Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill may need a few more days to resolve differences over a \$1 trillion U.S. spending bill, a top Democratic lawmaker said on Tuesday, pushing passage by Congress up against a government shutdown deadline next week.

Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski told reporters that her hope to unveil the bill funding

thousands of government projects and programs on Wednesday was "a fading dream" amid the unresolved disputes.

After meeting with the top Republicans and Democrats on the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations committees, she said that the "omnibus" spending measure may take until the weekend to complete.

That would allow little time to secure passage in the House and Senate by January 15, when current government funding runs out. Without a new spending bill or a stop-gap funding measure known as a continuing resolution, the government faces a potential repeat of the shutdown that hit federal agencies in October.

"Our first principle is that we get it done. We do not want a continuing resolution," Mikulski said.

The spending bill is needed to implement a two-year budget deal that was passed in December to ease some of the automatic "sequester" spending cuts by providing an additional \$45 billion in fiscal 2014 spending on military and domestic programs.

FROM MISSILES TO HEAD START

The omnibus measure combines all 12 of the normal spending bills - each covering different program areas - and the appropriations committees are negotiating over thousands of individual budget line-items - ranging from missile systems to the Head Start pre-school programs for the poor.

While half of the spending bills are largely settled, negotiators are still trying to limit the number of policy provisions known as "riders" that are inserted into the bill.

Among these are Republican efforts to restrict abortions and prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating carbon emissions, according to congressional aides.

Mikulski, a Democrat from Maryland, said there were also unresolved issues surrounding the funding of financial regulatory efforts created by the Dodd-Frank financial reform law.

Republican efforts to deny funds to implement Obamacare health reforms are also unresolved.

"I'm against Obamacare. We're trying to undo it and kill it - defund it and stop it in its tracks," said Senator Thad Cochran, a Mississippi Republican on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Senator Tom Harkin, an Iowa Democrat on the panel who chairs the subcommittee overseeing health and labor issues, said he believed negotiators were close to a solution that could provide additional funds for the health reforms, although less than the amount requested by the Obama administration.

"Stay tuned. We're working this issue in a way that will be acceptable to both sides," Harkin said.

A Senate Democratic aide said the spending bills that are largely completed include those covering defense, military construction, the Veterans Administration, commerce, justice and science agencies, the legislative branch of government, transportation and housing.

These measures are traditionally less controversial than some others.

That leaves the more difficult bills, including labor, health and human services, the State Department and foreign operations, energy and water, the interior and the environment.

Mikulski said she believed that the bill was 90 percent completed, but it would be difficult to reach consensus on the remaining 10 percent.

"An omnibus is big. It's a trillion dollars, 134 riders and it carries the priorities of the nation," she added.

(Reporting by David Lawder and Susan Cornwell; Editing by Fred Barbash and Jan Paschal)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/print/2014-01-07/congress-nears-deal-on-obamacare-part-of-spending-measure.html>

Congress Nears Deal on Obamacare Part of Spending Measure

Bloomberg // Derek Wallbank and Kathleen Hunter

Jan 7, 2014

U.S. Senate and House negotiators are nearing agreement to fund implementation of the Affordable Care Act to the end of fiscal 2014, said Senator Tom Harkin.

Funding for the 2010 health-care law is one of the final sticking points in talks on a spending bill to finance the U.S. government through Sept. 30, said Harkin, an Iowa Democrat and chairman of the panel that sets spending for the Department of Health and Human Services. Current funding runs out Jan. 15.

“We’re hopefully about to make a breakthrough on appropriations,” Harkin told reporters today before going to a meeting with House Appropriations Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski of Maryland. “I find that there’s a lot of impetus to do that.”

Harkin said “a couple of” sticking points remained. “Hopefully in the next day or two or three those will get resolved,” he said.

Republican efforts to block President Barack Obama’s health-care law were at the center of a dispute that caused a 16-day government shutdown in October. A renewed debate over funding for the law would complicate efforts to keep almost all government operations running past the end of current funding.

House and Senate appropriations leaders today held their first face-to-face negotiations since lawmakers returned to the Capitol from a holiday break.

Appropriators want to complete the bill in the next few days, “but we will have a better run on where we are after we meet,” Senator Richard Shelby, the top Senate Republican in the talks, told reporters.

Reduce Differences

Staff members worked during the holiday break to pare down differences between the Republican-controlled House and Democratic-run Senate. While there's less appetite among congressional Republicans now to force a shutdown over Obamacare, Republicans remain deeply opposed to the law.

Since Republicans took control of the House three years ago, the government has been funded almost exclusively through a series of stopgap spending measures.

Funding of HHS has been politically contentious. In 2007, three years before the health law and when Democrats controlled both chambers of Congress, President George W. Bush vetoed a funding measure for HHS, education and labor. He said it provided too much money and was loaded with special-interest items.

EPA Funding

Lawmakers must decide whether to include House-proposed restrictions that would block Environmental Protection Agency regulations opposed by the coal and agriculture industries.

They also are considering how to balance the Defense Department's need for weapons systems against troop levels, and whether to allow military aid to Egypt after its military deposed former president Mohamed Mursi.

The interior, environment and related agencies portion, which includes EPA funding, is in "conceptually" good shape, said Senator Jack Reed, the Rhode Island Democrat who leads that subcommittee panel.

Senator Susan Collins, a Maine Republican, said the section she works most closely on, funding for transportation and housing programs, is essentially finished.

Committee leaders "have to bless our work," she said, "but we're finished with our recommendations."

Defense funding remains a sticking point, Collins said. One reason is that negotiators must cut between \$25 billion and \$30 billion even though lawmakers' budget deal late last year provided some relief from automatic spending cuts.

Defense cuts could affect government contractors, including Lockheed Martin Corp. (LMT), Boeing Co. (BA) and General Dynamics Corp. (GD), the top three federal contractors for 2012. The top customer for each of the top 10 federal contractors was a unit of the Department of Defense, according to a Bloomberg compilation of contracting records.

Shelby said Republicans and Democrats had “made a lot of progress” on the defense provisions.

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To contact the editor responsible for this story: Jodi Schneider at jschneider50@bloomberg.net

<http://www.cq.com/doc/news-4403306?wr=RDIYTIRja3lSajZtajlvc0VFUWloUQ>

WGDB: Mikulski» Warns Appropriators May Need 'a Little Bit More Time' for Omnibus

By Niels Lesniewski

Subcommittee chairmen may be known as cardinals in appropriations parlance, but Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Barbara A. Mikulski called Tuesday’s meeting of the Democratic and Republican spending chiefs on both sides of the Rotunda a “conversation” rather than a “conclave.”

The Maryland Democrat left a meeting of the top four leaders of the congressional spending panels Tuesday afternoon sounding optimistic about getting an omnibus finished soon and averting a shutdown, but she conceded negotiators may need a short reprieve from the current deadline.

“So, there’s no white smoke like we have a bill, however . . . we’ve narrowed our choices,” Mikulski said, indicating that the principals and staff are upbeat about the chances of getting an agreement.

“Our subcommittee chairmen have really done 90 percent of the work. We are now at 10 percent, but this last 10 percent, like in any negotiation is the toughest,” Mikulski said.

Mikulski noted the “very difficult timetable” handed to the appropriators, who had less than a month between enactment of the bipartisan budget agreement hashed out between House Budget Chairman Paul D. Ryan, R-Wis., and Senate Budget Chairwoman Patty Murray, D-Wash.

“Our first job is to try to see what we can get done in the time allocated. I think there is a strong sense that we want to have this done next week and come as close to the CR as possible,” Mikulski said. The current stopgap appropriations measure will expire on Jan. 15.

“That may take some flexibility in terms of a little bit more time, but we’re not sure yet,” she said.

As of Tuesday afternoon, Mikulski said that six bills were essentially completed. That list now includes the Defense measure. Mikulski said of the possibility of announcing a deal on Wednesday “a fading dream,” adding it was possible the agreement could come over the weekend.

“An omnibus is big. It’s a trillion dollars, and it’s over 134 riders,” Mikulski said. “It’s not like we’re doing one bill at a time.”

“This is not a linear process. It’s more like an amoeba,” she added.

<http://www.cq.com/doc/news-4403298?wr=RDIYTIRja3lSajZtajlvc0VFUWloUQ>

Appropriators Keep Defense Cuts Close to the Vest

By Frank Oliveri, CQ Roll Call

House and Senate Defense appropriators have been closely holding a secret, at the core of which lies the fate of hundreds of Pentagon programs facing billions of dollars in reductions from fiscal 2014 plans.

With the allocations for all 12 Appropriations subcommittees set to be revealed as early as this week, the

Defense panels will soon reveal how they plan to cut their oversized spending bills to match the spending cap set by last month's budget resolution (H J Res 59).

Working in secret, appropriators have been racing to finalize a compromise \$1.012 trillion omnibus before the government runs out of money Jan. 15. Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Barbara A. Mikulski, D-Md., said Tuesday that the panels have agreed on the compromise Defense and Military Construction-VA spending measures, but they won't meet their goal of finalizing an overall deal and sharing it with Senate and House leaders by Wednesday.

Some of the tradeoffs will be painful for lawmakers. Appropriators need to reduce total defense-related spending by about \$25.4 billion from the levels in House-passed bills, and \$31.7 billion from the levels in the companion Senate measures.

Story Photo

Frelinghuysen is the new chairman of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. (Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call File Photo)

Slightly less than 95 percent of the \$520.5 billion in defense spending for fiscal 2014, resides with the Defense subcommittees, or somewhere in the neighborhood of \$490 billion, according to senior congressional aides. While an enormous amount of money by any standard, that figure would still be \$22 billion less than the House voted for the defense spending bill (HR 2397) earlier this year.

"I know our defense guys were not happy," a House GOP lawmaker said of the defense spending reductions. "It's tough on Rodney [Frelinghuysen, R-N.J., the new chairman of the Defense Appropriations panel] to walk into this situation. It was unavoidable. If you were to keep the overall number low, you are going to have to do some things."

The lawmaker, who wished to remain anonymous because of a gag order placed on lawmakers and staffers as they work through the complex package, noted that leaders plan to mount a "blitzkrieg" to push the bill through while limiting opposition from lawmakers and lobbyists alike.

Most of the work is complete and there were "a lot of negotiations over the holidays, none of the cardinals know much beyond their own top line and issues in their field," the lawmaker said. "The minute it spills beyond the Appropriations committee, it makes problems within the conference."

'Real Money'

Nowhere is the pressure greater than in Defense, which touches virtually every congressional district either directly or indirectly.

After running drills for months, panel staff are expected to use a scalpel, rather than an ax, to find the reductions needed.

One senior House aide and a senior Senate Appropriations aide suggested the easiest place to find reductions would be in operations and maintenance accounts.

Further, “there is usually money to pull out of personnel and health, just due to chronic under-execution,” the Senate aide said. “For us — we put it all on the table and see where we can get to by doing the least amount of damage.”

The aide added, “A lot of time, we end up cutting 500 to 600 (or more) separate line items in small amounts that eventually add up to real money. That’s something that no one really seems to grasp.”

Still, others suggested the panel would prefer not hitting the operations and maintenance accounts too hard because the military already faces significant readiness challenges after the fiscal 2013 sequestration.

Jim Dyer, who worked as a GOP staffer on the House Appropriations Committee for 26 years, said he would not rule out cutting operations and maintenance funding entirely, because it is the spending account with the greatest flexibility and the smallest constituency base in the Pentagon, on Capitol Hill and in industry.

“I’m not dismissive of doing that again, because it works and because these readiness accounts are important and cash flow varies and they can move money around,” Dyer said.

Because the war-fighting funds are separate from the base defense budget, the Appropriations panels may attempt to offload some base-budget money into the war-related Overseas Contingency Operations account.

This has been successfully done in prior years in an effort to alleviate the strain on the budget as resources for defense have declined, Dyer said.

He stressed that because personnel and benefits are consuming a greater portion of the budget and there is no great willingness on Capitol Hill to target those accounts, particularly after the budget agreement already cut retiree pensions, lawmakers would be forced to turn to research and development and modernization accounts.

The downside there, Dyer said, is that there are a host of multiyear procurement programs that could be undermined by cuts. Further, each of those programs has influential constituencies that likely would resist cuts.

“Congress has repeatedly forced on the Pentagon more and better multiyear advanced planning activities, so when you rip the stuffing out of these accounts, you are not doing yourself any favors,” Dyer said. “They would be walking away from what they have tried to get them to do for a long time.”

Dyer said appropriators likely would look at troubled programs to find savings. Further, they may seek to delay programs on the drawing board, and possibly end others.

“I wouldn’t rule out terminations,” he said.

Lobbyists Stand Back

Several defense lobbyists said there would have been little to gain by scrambling to influence the panel’s choices.

One longtime lobbyist noted that with Congress facing such a tight deadline, the committees did their “conference at lightning speed.” The lobbyist emphasized that at this late date, “a lot of this is out of our control. Staff has no time to deal with industry and lobbyists.”

Indeed, “we are not as active as we ordinarily would be. Mostly we use email or personal offices asking to intercede for us,” the lobbyist continued.

Many lobbyists are busy reassuring clients that they have spent all year laying groundwork to defend key priorities.

But in the face of an extraordinary gag order, little information is available.

Indeed, House Appropriations Chairman Harold Rogers, R-Ky., waited until this week to share with his subcommittee chairmen and ranking members the allocations each of their colleagues have been given.

“Leadership did not want to run the risk of a second shutdown or [continuing resolution] crisis,” the GOP lawmaker said.

<http://www.cq.com/doc/hbnews-4403266?wr=RDIYTIRja3lSajZtajlvc0VFUWloUQ>

Labor-HHS Bill Remains Controversial, But Still in Contention for Fiscal 2014 Package

By Kerry Young, Associate CQ HealthBeat Editor

Appropriators continued to work Tuesday on a Labor-HHS-Education bill, trying to overcome remaining hurdles to agreeing on a House-Senate version of the measure.

A fiscal 2014 Labor-HHS-Education bill for many months has been considered a long shot, as the House never unveiled its version of the measure and the Senate draft (S 1284) failed to get any GOP support at its July markup. Even so, senior appropriators and staffers on Tuesday said that the goal remains completing a fiscal 2014 omnibus, a measure that would contain newly written versions of all twelve annual spending bills.

“We haven’t yet” finished the omnibus, Richard C. Shelby of Alabama, ranking Republican on the Senate Appropriations, said on Tuesday. “But, we are working toward that goal.” The current fiscal 2014 continuing resolution (PL 113-46) expires on Jan. 15. Aides in the House already are talking of a potential short-term CR that might be used to allow the Appropriations Committee to complete work on their wrap-up measure, expected to be unveiled Friday.

On Tuesday afternoon, Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Barbara A. Mikulski, D-Md., said that she had reached a compromise with House appropriators on the Agriculture bill, which funds the Food and Drug Administration.

Earlier in the day, Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, the chairman of the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations

Subcommittee, said he was still working to block controversial policy provisions, known as riders, from the compromise version of his Labor-HHS-Education spending bill. He told reporters the implementation of the 2010 health overhaul (PL 111-148, PL 111-152) continues to prove a thorny issue for the GOP, while Democrats have their own objections to Republican proposals.

For his part, Harkin expressed optimism he could pull off the improbable. “We’re 90 percent of the way there.” But appropriators need to design the fiscal 2014 package to attract significant Democratic support, while not fanning strong GOP opposition. Any measure as sweeping as the fiscal 2014 spending package will be almost certainly lose some potential backers, as decisions made in writing the bill may work against particular and often parochial interests of lawmakers.

Tamar Hallerman contributed to this report.

Emily Cain | THE WHITE HOUSE

Press Secretary, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

@OMBPress | WhiteHouse.gov/OMB

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From: Brundage, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>
Sent: Wed Jan 15 2014 14:03:22 EST
To: Palmieri, Jennifer </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=palmieri, jennifer.m.cd6>; Beirne Fallon, Katie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=fallon, katherine.b.311>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian.c.ad5>; Asen, Jonathan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jonathanasen37271556>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia.m.801>; Canegallo, Kristie A. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=canegallo, kristie.a.068>
CC:
Subject: RE: flagging WSJ query on IMF issue
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Palmieri, Jennifer
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 2:02 PM
To: Beirne Fallon, Katie; Deese, Brian C.; Brundage, Amy; Asen, Jonathan; Burwell, Sylvia; Canegallo, Kristie A.
Subject: RE: flagging WSJ query on IMF issue

(b) (5)

From: Beirne Fallon, Katie
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 2:02 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Brundage, Amy; Asen, Jonathan; Burwell, Sylvia; Canegallo, Kristie A.
Cc: Palmieri, Jennifer
Subject: Re: flagging WSJ query on IMF issue

(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 01:59 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Asen, Jonathan; Burwell, Sylvia; Canegallo, Kristie A.
Cc: Palmieri, Jennifer

Subject: Re: flagging WSJ query on IMF issue

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 12:20 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Beirne Fallon, Katie; Asen, Jonathan; Deese, Brian C.; Burwell, Sylvia; Canegallo, Kristie A.
Cc: Palmieri, Jennifer
Subject: flagging WSJ query on IMF issue

(b) (5)

From: (b) (6) (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 12:17 PM
To: Brundage, Amy
Cc: Natalie.Earnest (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Amy - Ian Talley/WSJ on IMF quota

Hi Amy,

Ian Talley from the Wall Street Journal called today.

He has from a GOP Hill source that in exchange for the IMF reforms the GOP was asking the WH to “give on Obamacare and IRS stuff”. He asked if we would confirm.

Ian also interviewed Rep. Campbell (unclear if he was the source or not for the above), and Ian plans to publish at least a blog post on that interview and the rumor probably tomorrow.

Wanted to give you a heads up and see how we want to engage on this.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

From: Beirne Fallon, Katie </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=fallon, katherine b.311>
Sent: Thu Jan 16 2014 14:50:24 EST
To: Brundage, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Asen, Jonathan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jonathanasen37271556>; Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Canegallo, Kristie A. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=canegallo, kristie a.068>; Pfeiffer, Dan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dpfeiffer>
CC: Palmieri, Jennifer </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=palmieri, jennifer m.cd6>
Subject: RE: flagging WSJ query on IMF issue
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2014 2:33 PM
To: Beirne Fallon, Katie; Deese, Brian C.; Asen, Jonathan; Burwell, Sylvia; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Pfeiffer, Dan
Cc: Palmieri, Jennifer
Subject: RE: flagging WSJ query on IMF issue

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Beirne Fallon, Katie
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 2:02 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Brundage, Amy; Asen, Jonathan; Burwell, Sylvia; Canegallo, Kristie A.
Cc: Palmieri, Jennifer

Subject: Re: flagging WSJ query on IMF issue

(b) (5)

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 01:59 PM
To: Brundage, Amy; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Asen, Jonathan; Burwell, Sylvia; Canegallo, Kristie A.
Cc: Palmieri, Jennifer
Subject: Re: flagging WSJ query on IMF issue

(b) (5)

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Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 12:20 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Beirne Fallon, Katie; Asen, Jonathan; Deese, Brian C.; Burwell, Sylvia; Canegallo, Kristie A.
Cc: Palmieri, Jennifer
Subject: flagging WSJ query on IMF issue

(b) (5)

From: (b) (6) (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 12:17 PM
To: Brundage, Amy
Cc: Natalie.Earnest (b) (6); (b) (6)
Subject: Amy - Ian Talley/WSJ on IMF quota

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Ian Talley from the Wall Street Journal called today.

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publish at least a blog post on that interview and the rumor probably tomorrow.

Wanted to give you a heads up and see how we want to engage on this.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

From: Harris, Julian </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=harris, julian j.88f>
Sent: Thu Jan 16 2014 22:23:21 EST
Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>;Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>;Kosiak, Steve </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=stevekosiak53218748>;Washington, Geovette </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=washington, geovette e.6dd>;Berger, Sam </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=samuel_k._berger>;Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>;Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>;Cobert, Beth </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=cobert, beth f.551>;Reilly, Tom </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=thomasm.reilly54276557>;Martin, Kathryn </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kathrynmartin15107475>;Barnett, Patti </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=patti_a_barnett>
To:
CC:
Subject: Fw: UPDATED: Positive ACA Coverage
Attachments: Positive ACA Coverage 1-16-14.docx
Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Encouraging news from insurers reports at JP Morgan conference.

From: Beechem, Stephanie
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2014 08:08 PM
To: DL-WHO-ACA-CORE; Allen, Jessica
Subject: UPDATED: Positive ACA Coverage

See attached for an updated doc of positive ACA coverage, which now includes many new state-level enrollment numbers as well as validators on insurers and demographics. Newly added content is highlighted.

--

Positive ACA Coverage

Table of Contents

General/Nationwide. 2

Alabama. 11

Arizona. 12

Arkansas. 13

California. 13

Colorado. 16

Florida. 17

Georgia. 22

Idaho. 23

Illinois. 23

Indiana. 26

Iowa. 26

Kentucky. 26

Maine. 27

Maryland. 27

Massachusetts. 27

Minnesota. 28

Missouri 28

Montana. 29

Nevada. 29

New Jersey. 30

New Mexico. 30

New York. 31

North Carolina. 31

Ohio. 32

Oregon. 33

Pennsylvania. 34

Rhode Island. 35

Tennessee. 36

Texas. 38

Utah. 38

Virginia. 39

Washington State. 40

Wisconsin. 40

General/Nationwide

1/15/14: Reuters: "The Late-December Surge That Pushed Enrollment In Private Health Insurance Plans Under Obamacare Past 2.1 Million People Continued Into 2014, Officials Of Several State-Run Insurance Marketplaces Said On Wednesday." "The late-December surge that pushed enrollment in private health insurance plans under Obamacare past 2.1 million people continued into 2014, officials of several state-run insurance marketplaces said on Wednesday. It was encouraging news for White House hopes of signing up 7 million Americans by March 31, the deadline for 2014 coverage under President Barack Obama's healthcare law." [Reuters, 1/15/14]

1/15/14: Brian Beutler, Salon: "Healthcare.Gov's December Enrollment Surge Didn't Make Up For All Of That Lost Time, But The Surge Itself Indicates The Effective Outage Didn't Undermine Demand For Insurance... They Might Still Fall Short Of Their Goals, But Not Nearly Far Enough To Threaten The Integrity Of The System." "Healthcare.gov's December enrollment surge didn't make up for all of that lost time, but the surge itself indicates the effective outage didn't undermine demand for insurance. Taken together it stands to reason the administration and reform allies won't have a hard time reaching willing consumers, and that those customers will be overrepresented by younger people. They might still fall short of their goals, but not nearly far enough to threaten the integrity of the system. If Obamacare faced the real threat of collapse, insurers would probably be panicked. But at an industry conference in New York on Tuesday, executives were cautiously optimistic about enrollment totals and composition, and much more optimistic that the exchanges are real growth opportunities and will be functioning profit centers in the years ahead." [Salon.com, 1/15/14]

1/15/14: Sarah Kliff, Washington Post: "'We Believe That Over Time, A Lot Of These Bumps Will Work Themselves Out,' Joe Swedish, President Of Wellpoint, The Country's Second-Largest Health Plan, Said In An Interview With The Washington Post.' We Have Always Expected It To Have A Sort Of Lumpiness To It, The Rollout. It's Certainly Become More Lumpy Than One Would Have Predicted [But] Over Time, This Will Work Out.'" "Obamacare's troubled rollout hasn't scared insurers out of the marketplace. Instead, speaking to thousands of health-care investors gathered in San Francisco, plan executives describe the Affordable Care Act as, at worst, a fixable mess and, at best, a major growth opportunity. The executives' commentary was a reminder that the health-care industry doesn't set its watch by the election cycles which dominate Washington. They expected Obamacare to be a bit of a mess in 2014 -- but they're in it for the long haul. 'We believe that over time, a lot of these bumps will work themselves out,' Joe Swedish, president of Wellpoint, the country's second-largest health plan, said in an interview with The Washington Post.' We have always expected it to have a sort of lumpiness to it, the rollout. It's certainly become more lumpy than one would have predicted [but] over time, this will work out.'" [Washington Post, 1/15/14]

1/15/14: Washington Examiner: "President Obama's Health Care Law May Have Gotten Off To A Rocky Start, But Executives Of Major Private Health Insurance Companies Are Informing Investors That They're Still Betting On The Program In The Long Run." "President Obama's health care law may have gotten off to

a rocky start, but executives of major private health insurance companies are informing investors that they're still betting on the program in the long run. Speaking at a health care conference sponsored by JPMorgan this week, insurers indicated that that they viewed the 2014 implementation of the health care law as a learning opportunity. Over time, the health care law's expansion of Medicaid and creation of government-run insurance exchanges promises to funnel hundreds of billions of dollars of taxpayer money into the insurance industry. And insurers don't want to miss out on the opportunity.” [Washington Examiner, 1/15/14]

* 1/15/14: Washington Examiner: “Wellpoint Inc. CEO Joseph Swedish On Tuesday Predicted That, ‘The Rollout Of Public Exchanges And The Expansion Of Medicaid Under The Affordable Care Act Will Accelerate Enrollment Growth Opportunities In The Years Ahead.’” “WellPoint Inc. CEO Joseph Swedish on Tuesday predicted that, ‘The rollout of public exchanges and the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act will accelerate enrollment growth opportunities in the years ahead.’ Through its subsidiary Amerigroup, WellPoint helps manage some state Medicaid programs. ‘We believe our 2014 investments, positioning and operational experience will drive growth in 2015 and beyond as functionality of the exchanges improves and people become more familiar with the process and subsidies,’ he said... He said it was ‘encouraging’ that the pace of signups had accelerated in December and said the company expected a similar bump ahead of the March 31 deadline to purchase coverage and avoid the individual mandate penalty. Swedish said the company was continuing to assess the effects of the health care law. ‘Despite the near-term uncertainty, we believe exchanges will be growing as a big part of the market over time,’ he said. ‘We are more focused on the end game of the exchanges than the twists and turns in the near term.’” [Washington Examiner, 1/15/14]

* 1/15/14: Washington Examiner: “Cigna CEO David Cordani Delivered A Similar Message To The Conference Tuesday. Though Early Enrollment In The Exchanges And The Mix Of Healthy And Sick Beneficiaries ‘Is Not What Everybody Anticipated, I Would Underscore This May Present An Attractive Long-Term Opportunity,’ He Insisted.” “Cigna CEO David Cordani delivered a similar message to the conference Tuesday. Though early enrollment in the exchanges and the mix of healthy and sick beneficiaries ‘is not what everybody anticipated, I would underscore this may present an attractive long-term opportunity,’ he insisted. He said Cigna had made a decision early on to only participate in a limited number of markets as implementation began, and ended up offering plans on the exchanges of five states.” [Washington Examiner, 1/15/14]

* 1/15/14: Washington Examiner: “Jay Gellert, The CEO Of Health Net, A Managed Care Company That Has A Medicaid Business And A Large Presence In The California Insurance Market, Was Extremely Bullish On The Law. ‘We’re All In In The ACA,’ Gellert Said. ‘We’re All In And We’re Happy We Are.’” “Jay Gellert, the CEO of Health Net, a managed care company that has a Medicaid business and a large presence in the California insurance market, was extremely bullish on the law. ‘We’re all in in the ACA,’ Gellert said. ‘We’re all in and we’re happy we are.’ He said of the health care industry: ‘The business is going to be increasingly government driven ... the commercial-to-government ratio is going to change dramatically over the next two or three years.’” [Washington Examiner, 1/15/14]

1/14/14: Kaiser Health News: “Health Law Adds Coverage For Services Needed By People With Developmental Disabilities.” “A little remarked upon requirement in the health law expands treatments for people with cerebral palsy, autism and other developmental disabilities. But some advocates and policy

experts are concerned that insurers may find ways to sidestep the new requirement. The health law requires that individual and small group plans sold on or off the health insurance marketplaces cover 10 essential health benefits, including ‘rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices.’” [Kaiser Health News, 1/14/14]

1/13/14: Larry Levitt, Kaiser Family Foundation: “These Enrollment Figures Are Encouraging For This Stage In The Process, Especially With All The Early Systems Problems They Experienced... We're At Half-Time In The Open Enrollment Period, And I Would Expect Larger Numbers Of Young People To Enroll In The Second Half.” “These enrollment figures are encouraging for this stage in the process, especially with all the early systems problems they experienced,’ said Larry Leavitt of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. ‘We're at half-time in the open enrollment period, and I would expect larger numbers of young people to enroll in the second half.’ Senior administration officials said that younger adult enrollment surged eight-fold in December when HealthCare.gov was working relatively smoothly for the 36 states it serves. They expect the number to grow strongly in the remaining three months as the government ramps up its public outreach campaign.” [Reuters, 1/13/14]

1/13/14: Timothy Jost: “‘It's Pretty Impressive,’ Said Washington And Lee University Health Law Professor Timothy Jost About That [79%] Subsidy-Eligibility Rate... ‘You Want People Who Are Eligible For Subsidies, Because Those Are The Most Likely To Be The [Currently] Uninsured,’ Said Jost. He Said There Is Good Reason To Believe That Those People Are, On Average, More Likely To Be Healthy, Which Could Help Keep Down Future Insurance Rates On The Exchanges.” “‘It's pretty impressive,’ said Washington and Lee University health law professor Timothy Jost about that subsidy-eligibility rate, which was right were officials had originally projected it would be. ‘You want people who are eligible for subsidies, because those are the most likely to be the [currently] uninsured,’ said Jost. He said there is good reason to believe that those people are, on average, more likely to be healthy, which could help keep down future insurance rates on the exchanges.” [CNBC, 1/13/14]

1/13/14: Philip Bump, The Atlantic: “As The Washington Post Notes, The Slow Rate Of Enrollment By Young People Mirrors What Massachusetts Saw When It Unveiled Its Similar Health Care Program.” “As The Washington Post notes, the slow rate of enrollment by young people mirrors what Massachusetts saw when it unveiled its similar health care program. What's really remarkable, given the past few months, is that federal and state exchanges are nearly even in terms of cumulative enrollment. [The Atlantic, 1/13/14]

1/13/14: USA Today: “Aaron Smith, Co-Founder Of The Young Invincibles, A Group That Works To Enroll Young People In The Exchanges, Said The Ultimate Goal Is That 37% To 40% Of Enrollees Would Be Younger Than 35. ‘I Think Where We're At Now Shows That We're On Track For That,’ He Said. ‘We Saw Huge Numbers In December, Compared To The Previous Months.’” “Aaron Smith, co-founder of the Young Invincibles, a group that works to enroll young people in the exchanges, said the ultimate goal is that 37% to 40% of enrollees would be younger than 35. ‘I think where we're at now shows that we're on track for that,’ he said. ‘We saw huge numbers in December, compared to the previous months.’” [USA Today, 1/13/14]

1/10/14: Jonathan Cohn, The New Republic: “Another Obamacare Lesson From Massachusetts.” “Thanks to

analysis from Jonathan Gruber, the MIT economist who was an architect of both the Massachusetts and federal reforms, we know that enrollment was slow to get rolling in Massachusetts—and that, relatively speaking, healthy people came into the system late. Now Gruber has done a new analysis, breaking down enrollment specifically by age, and provided it to the New Republic... The graph above tells the story. Over the course of the first year, the proportion of young people (in this case, ages 19 to 34) who had obtained health coverage through the Massachusetts insurance exchange grew. In other words, they were more likely to sign up late. The precise figures don't mean a lot, in part because the Massachusetts analogy is hardly perfect. John Sexton of Breitbart (yes, that Breitbart) has written about some of the key distinctions. But the trend is pretty clear—and, according to Gruber, it provides some important lessons. ‘These data aren't 100 percent predictive for every state, most importantly because of differences across states in the share of the potential market that is young,’ Gruber says. ‘But these facts highlight two things. First, you don't need a huge/majority share of enrollees to be young for markets to function well. Second, the young tend to wait to sign up until closer to the deadline.’ [The New Republic, 1/10/14]

1/9/14: New York Times: “Long-Awaited Improvements In Insurance Coverage For Mental Conditions And Addictions Are Expected To Become More Widely Available This Year As A Result Of Two Major Steps That The Obama Administration Has Taken.” “Long-awaited improvements in insurance coverage for mental conditions and addictions are expected to become more widely available this year as a result of two major steps that the Obama administration has taken. The president’s signature Affordable Care Act includes mental health care and substance abuse treatment among its 10 ‘essential’ benefits, which means plans sold on the public health care exchanges must include coverage. In addition, rules to fully carry out an older law — the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 — were issued in November, after a long delay. The parity law says that when health insurance plans provide coverage for mental ailments, it must be comparable to coverage for physical ailments. For instance, plans cannot set higher deductibles or charge higher co-payments for mental health visits than for medical visits, and cannot set more restrictive limits on the number of visits allowed. The new parity rules apply to most health plans and are effective beginning July 1, although many plans will not have to comply until January of next year.” [New York Times, 1/9/14]

1/9/14: CNBC: “Chances For Keeping Insurance Premiums Down And Getting Many More People Enrolled Under New Affordable Care Act Policies This Year Are Looking Good, According To A New Survey.” “Chances for keeping insurance premiums down and getting many more people enrolled under new Affordable Care Act policies this year are looking good, according to a new survey. The survey found that about 1 in 4 adults visited an Obamacare exchange by the end of December. And more significantly, the vast majority of those who visited and are potentially eligible for coverage there—a total of 77 percent of those surveyed—reported being in either excellent, very good or good health, according to a statistical snapshot taken by the Commonwealth Fund. And they were not disproportionately old as has been the case in the limited demographic data released by the Obamacare health exchanges to date. In fact, 41 percent of the exchange visitors were 19- to 34-years-old, tracking their share of the general population of people eligible for coverage via the exchanges in either private plans or Medicaid, according to the Commonwealth Fund.” [CNBC, 1/9/14]

1/9/14: The Atlantic: “Eight Years After Its Rocky Rollout And Deep Public Skepticism, The Medicare Part D Plan Is Widely Popular. I Have No Idea If That Will Be The Case With Obamacare... What I Do Know Is That There Are Going To Be A Whole Lot Of Winners Under The Affordable Care Act.” “Eight years after its rocky rollout and deep public skepticism, the Medicare Part D plan is widely popular. I have no idea if that will be the case with Obamacare—and if achieving popularity takes any length of time, the political damage,

in this November election and maybe even in 2016, will already have been done. What I do know is that there are going to be a whole lot of winners under the Affordable Care Act, and a smaller number, but still a significant one, of losers or those caught up in the inevitable upheaval to the healthcare system. And I know if your only legislative or policy plan for 2014, in the face of a sluggish economy, a crisis of long-term unemployment, and a host of other short and long-term problems facing the country, is to bet on the spectacular failure of the healthcare plan, you deserve the public contempt your Congress is receiving.” [The Atlantic, 1/9/14]

1/8/14: Harold Meyerson, Washington Post: “Despite The Treasured Right-Wing Talking Points, It’s Increasingly Clear That Obamacare Is A Success. Moreover, In Places Where Obamacare Is Not Succeeding, It’s Also Clear That The Right Wing Is To Blame.” “Despite the treasured right-wing talking points, it’s increasingly clear that Obamacare is a success. Moreover, in places where Obamacare is not succeeding, it’s also clear that the right wing is to blame. Well, it’s clear to any who look at the state-by-state numbers of the newly insured. A whole lot of Americans will have to look, however, for the program’s success to redound to Democrats’ advantage.’ ... The conservative argument that the ACA is a disaster is true only when it’s a self-fulfilling prophecy: Most of the negative consequences that right-wingers have warned against have occurred only in those places where right-wingers have subverted implementation of the law. What supporters of the ACA must keep in mind, however, is that Americans who live in states where implementation has been stymied may continue to see the act as a failure and continue to blame President Obama and his party. Only by publicizing the act’s manifest success in states where it has been implemented can supporters begin to change the public’s verdict.” [Washington Post, 1/8/14]

1/6/14: L.A. Times: “Soaring Healthcare Spending — Which Helped Pave The Way For President Obama’s Health Law — Continued To Moderate In 2012, The Fourth Year Of A Historic Slowdown In How Much The Nation Pays For Medical Treatment, According To A New Government Report.” “Soaring healthcare spending — which helped pave the way for President Obama’s health law — continued to moderate in 2012, the fourth year of a historic slowdown in how much the nation pays for medical treatment, according to a new government report. Overall spending on healthcare grew annually at less than 4% in 2012, less than half the rate of a decade ago, independent economists at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services concluded. And for only the third time in the last 15 years, health spending rose more slowly than the overall economy. That meant that healthcare shrank from 17.3% of the U.S. economy in 2011 to 17.2% in 2012.” [L.A. Times, 1/6/14]

1/6/14: Healthcare.Org: “For Months, Health Reform’s Opponents Have Been Feasting On Tales Of Obamacare’s Innocent Victims... Trouble Is, Many Of Those Stories Just Aren’t True.” “For months, health reform’s opponents have been feasting on tales of Obamacare’s innocent victims – Americans who lost their insurance because it doesn’t comply with the ACA’s regulations, and now have to shell out more than they can afford – or go without coverage. Trouble is, many of those stories just aren’t true.” [Healthcare.org, 1/6/14]

1/6/14: Barbara Streisand, Guest Column: “Why The Health Care Law Will Make Our Nation More Secure.” “The law is particularly important to American women. Formerly, a healthy young woman could legally be charged premiums 150 percent higher than a young man of the same age and health. Pregnancy was considered a ‘pre-existing condition’ commonly used to deny coverage for some women. Under early

provisions of the ACA however, 45 million women started receiving preventative services from both private insurance and Medicare. These services included prenatal care and well-baby visits, as well as mammograms, cervical cancer screenings, flu shots and domestic violence screenings. The improvements in prescription drug coverage under Medicare saved 2 million women \$1.2 billion in 2011 alone. And over 1 million uninsured, young adult women were able to receive coverage through their parents.” [Huffington Post, 1/6/14]

1/6/14: Atlanta Journal-Constitution: “One Thing’s For Sure When It Comes To The Impact Of The Affordable Care Act: Health Care And Related Industries Are Going To Be On A Hiring Spree In The Years To Come To Meet The Demands Of The Law.” “One thing’s for sure when it comes to the impact of the Affordable Care Act: Health care and related industries are going to be on a hiring spree in the years to come to meet the demands of the law. While critics say the law will cause companies to cut jobs or work hours so they will not be penalized for not offering health care coverage – actions that are already under way based on anecdotal reports - other observers say the law will create scores of jobs. Health care providers will need more nurse practitioners and physician assistants, and companies that are required to offer insurance to employees will need more human resources staffers to keep track of their compliance. Experts also expect more jobs for computer programmers and other information technology professionals, customer service representatives, insurance agents, and wellness and fitness coaches.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 1/6/14]

1/3/14: U.S. News & World Report: “The Big Number In The News This Week Was 1.1 Million – The Number Of People Who Signed Up For Health Insurance Through Obamacare's Federal Insurance Marketplace This Year... Nevertheless, That 1.1 Million Figure Dramatically Understates What The Affordable Care Act Has Already Accomplished.” “The big number in the news this week was 1.1 million – the number of people who signed up for health insurance through Obamacare's federal insurance marketplace this year. This is an important figure, especially given the fact that it stood at little more than 100,000 at the end of November. Nevertheless, that 1.1 million figure dramatically understates what the Affordable Care Act has already accomplished... Start with the 1.1 million who have gotten care through the federal website. If you layer on the number of enrollees who have gotten coverage through state-run exchanges that number tops 2.1 million, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius announced Tuesday. Then throw in the 3.9 million people who have gotten health coverage under Obamacare's Medicaid expansion. Oh and don't forget about the young adults under 26 who are still covered by their parents' health insurance plans thanks to the Affordable Care Act. A year-and-a-half ago, the Department of Health and Human Services put the number at 3.1 million but an August study by the Commonwealth Fund, a private foundation that focuses on health policy research, estimated that the figure had reached 7.8 million. Total those numbers and you get a minimum of 9 million Americans covered through Obamacare and a maximum of nearly 14 million.” [U.S. News & World Report, 1/3/14]

1/3/14: Eugene Robinson, Washington Post: “Now That The Fight Over Obamacare Is History, Perhaps Everyone Can Finally Focus On Making The Program Work The Way It Was Designed. Or, Preferably, Better.” “Now that the fight over Obamacare is history, perhaps everyone can finally focus on making the program work the way it was designed. Or, preferably, better. The fight is history, you realize. Done. Finito. Yesterday’s news. Any existential threat to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) ended with the popping of champagne corks as the new year arrived. That was when an estimated 6 million uninsured Americans received coverage through expanded Medicaid eligibility or the federal and state health insurance exchanges. Obamacare is now a fait accompli; nobody is going to take this coverage away. There may be more huffing, puffing and symbolic attempts at repeal by Republicans in Congress. There may be continued resistance and

sabotage by Republican governors and GOP-controlled state legislatures. But the whole context has changed.” [Washington Post, 1/3/14]

1/3/14: Robert Reich, Former Secretary Of Labor, Clinton Administration: “Of Course There Will Be Problems Implementing The Affordable Care Act. But If We’re Determined To Create A System That’s Cheaper And More Effective At Keeping Americans Healthy Than The One We Have Now – And, In Truth, We Have No Choice – We Have Every Chance Of Succeeding.” “If the past is any guide, some fixes will probably be necessary – but so what? Our current healthcare system is the real disaster — the most expensive and least effective among all developed countries, according to Bloomberg’s recent ranking. We’d be collectively insane if we didn’t try to overhaul it. But we won’t get it perfect immediately. What needs fixing can be fixed. And over time we can learn how to do it better... Of course there will be problems implementing the Affordable Care Act. But if we’re determined to create a system that’s cheaper and more effective at keeping Americans healthy than the one we have now – and, in truth, we have no choice – we have every chance of succeeding.” [Christian Science Monitor, 1/3/14]

1/3/14: Timothy Jost: “Whatever Disruptions The ACA May Cause In Coming Months, It Moves Us Toward More Comprehensive And Affordable Coverage For Low- And Middle-Income And Sicker Americans. The Alternatives Proposed By House Republicans Would Be Very Disruptive, And Unsurprisingly, Benefit The Healthy And Wealthy. Americans Must Ask Themselves: Who Offers The Most Needed Reforms For Our Health Care System?” “The GOP does not promise that if you like your insurance plan you can keep it, and with good reason. The vast majority of privately insured Americans are covered through their work. The American Health Care Reform Act would abolish current deductions and exclusions for employer-sponsored health insurance. This would not only be one of the largest middle class tax increases in American history, but could result in millions of Americans losing employer-sponsored insurance. Whatever disruptions the ACA may cause in coming months, it moves us toward more comprehensive and affordable coverage for low- and middle-income and sicker Americans. The alternatives proposed by House Republicans would be very disruptive, and unsurprisingly, benefit the healthy and wealthy. Americans must ask themselves: Who offers the most needed reforms for our health care system?” [CNN, 1/3/14]

1/2/14: Associated Press: “Walgreen Co. And CVS Caremark Corp., The Nation's Two Largest Drugstore Chains, Plan To Offer Prescriptions At No Upfront Cost To Some Patients Who Don't Have All The Information They Need For Coverage Received Through The Health Care Overhaul.” “Walgreen Co. and CVS Caremark Corp., the nation's two largest drugstore chains, plan to offer prescriptions at no upfront cost to some patients who don't have all the information they need for coverage received through the health care overhaul. Walgreen Co. will provide up to a 30-day supply of some branded and generic medicines to patients who can confirm their enrollment through the overhaul's public insurance marketplaces but have yet to receive a plan identification number, which is normally needed to process a claim. Deerfield-based Walgreen’s offer excludes complex and expensive medications like cancer drugs or treatments for rare diseases. Patients won't have to pay anything at the pharmacy, but they may receive a bill later for the co-payment their plan requires them to make. The drugstore chain also will collect payment from the insurer once it verifies enrollment.” [Associated Press, 1/2/14]

1/2/14: Boston Globe: “Thousands Of Low- And Moderate-Income College Students Are About To Get A Break On The Cost Of Health Insurance, Thanks To New Rules Going Into Effect Friday To Bring The State

Into Compliance With The National Health Care Law...” “Thousands of low- and moderate-income college students are about to get a break on the cost of health insurance, thanks to new rules going into effect Friday to bring the state into compliance with the national health care law... The Affordable Care Act has changed the ground rules. The state is no longer allowed to exclude from subsidized programs those who can get insurance elsewhere, and that includes college students, according to Suzanne Curry, senior health policy manager with Health Care For All, a Massachusetts advocacy group. At the same time, she said, the law’s Medicaid expansion means that young people won’t lose MassHealth at age 19, as many have in the past.” [Boston Globe, 1/2/14]

1/2/14: MSNBC: “Millions Of Americans Woke Up On January 1, 2014 With Health Insurance They Got Through Federal And State Insurance Exchanges Thanks To The Affordable Care Act. The Relatively Quiet First Day Is A Welcome Contrast To Three Months Ago...” “Millions of Americans woke up on January 1, 2014 with health insurance they got through federal and state insurance exchanges thanks to the Affordable Care Act. The relatively quiet first day is a welcome contrast to three months ago, when massive problems with Healthcare.gov, the online portal to the health insurance exchanges, threatened the law’s future and President Obama’s legacy. Officials touted improvements to the site as a reason for the drastic increase in enrollments for the month of December – 2.1 million through December 28 – but they also acknowledged that some people who signed up could have problems.” [MSNBC, 1/2/14]

1/2/14: New York Times: “Consumers Around The Country Began Using Coverage Provided By The New Health Care Law On Wednesday, The Same Day That Medicaid Expanded To Hundreds Of Thousands Of People In About Half The States.” “Consumers around the country began using coverage provided by the new health care law on Wednesday, the same day that Medicaid expanded to hundreds of thousands of people in about half the states. Many provisions of the 2010 health care law offering new benefits and protections to consumers, including those with pre-existing conditions, also took effect.” [New York Times, 1/2/14]

1/1/14: NBC News: “...For People Like The Schulz Family Of Phoenix, Ariz., Rita Rizzo And Lou Vincent Of Akron, Ohio, And Joyce Moore Of Zionsville, Pa., [Today Is] The First Test Of Whether Obamacare Will Really Work. They All Say They’re Relieved And Excited To Finally Have New Access To Health Care...” “For the 2.1 million people who’ve signed up for health insurance under the new federal and state exchanges, Jan. 1 is when the rubber meets the road. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius called it ‘an exciting new day in health care’ as latest enrollment figures were released Tuesday. But for people like the Schulz family of Phoenix, Ariz., Rita Rizzo and Lou Vincent of Akron, Ohio, and Joyce Moore of Zionsville, Pa., it’s the first test of whether Obamacare will really work. They all say they’re relieved and excited to finally have new access to health care, and they hope that the rocky rollout of the exchanges under the Affordable Care Act will actually give way to the smooth delivery of vital medical services.” [NBC News, 1/1/14]

12/31/13: New York Times: “Starting Wednesday, Health Insurance Companies Can No Longer Deny Coverage To People With Pre-Existing Conditions And Cannot Charge Higher Premiums To Women Than To Men For The Same Coverage. In Most Cases, Insurers Must Provide A Standard Set Of Benefits Prescribed By Federal Law And Regulations. And They Cannot Set Dollar Limits On What They Spend On ‘Essential Health Benefits’ For A Policyholder.” “Millions of Americans will begin receiving health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act on Wednesday after years of contention and a rollout

hobbled by delays and technical problems. The decisively new moment in the effort to overhaul the country's health care system will test the law's central premise: that extending coverage to far more Americans will improve the nation's health and help many avoid crippling medical bills. Starting Wednesday, health insurance companies can no longer deny coverage to people with pre-existing conditions and cannot charge higher premiums to women than to men for the same coverage. In most cases, insurers must provide a standard set of benefits prescribed by federal law and regulations. And they cannot set dollar limits on what they spend on 'essential health benefits' for a policyholder." [New York Times, 12/31/13]

12/30/13: Jimmy Williams, MSNBC: "...Under Obamacare I Will Now January 1st Be Able To Get Insurance. Now, That Notwithstanding, I Had To Apply Four Times On The Phone With An Obamacare Person From ACA Or Healthcare.Gov To Get My Application Filled Out And Filled Out Correctly. But That Being, I Got It. Finally I Got It. I Paid My First Due. It's In. Good. And By The Way, I'm Now Paying \$400 Less Than I Was Paying Under COBRA." "JIMMY WILLIAMS, MSNBC CONTRIBUTOR: I hate to do this, but I'm going to agree with him, Healthcare.gov. Not the implementation of Obamacare, not Obamacare or the Affordable Care Act which I love. Why? I'm uninsured. My cover ran out. Under the Republican plan -- wait, one Republican plan. There is no Republican plan. But under Obamacare I will now January 1st be able to get insurance. Now, that notwithstanding, I had to apply four times on the phone with an Obamacare person from ACA or healthcare.gov to get my application filled out and filled out correctly. But that being, I got it. Finally I got it. I paid my first due. It's in. Good. And by the way, I'm now paying \$400 less than I was paying under COBRA. That's a good thing. But the Web site was an absolute abject failure. They have fixed that. That is a good thing." [MSNBC – Politics Nation, 12/30/13]

Alabama

1/13/14: Associated Press: "The Number Of Alabamians Signing Up For The Federally Operated Health Insurance Marketplace Jumped Significantly In The Last Month, With More Than 28,600 Signed Up Through Late December. "The number of Alabamians signing up for the federally operated health insurance marketplace jumped significantly in the last month, with more than 28,600 signed up through late December. Enrollment under the federal health care law started Oct. 1, and about 3,450 in Alabama had signed up through the end of November. The Department of Health and Human Services says 58 percent of those who have signed up are women. That's slightly more than the national average." [Associated Press, 1/13/14]

1/7/14: Associated Press: "A New Report Says About 198,000 Uninsured Alabamians Are Eligible For Federal Subsidies To Purchase Health Insurance Under The New Federal Health Care Law." "A new report says about 198,000 uninsured Alabamians are eligible for federal subsidies to purchase health insurance under the new federal health care law. The report by the Kaiser Family Foundation says that number represents 30 percent of Alabama's 660,000 residents without insurance. The report also says about 191,000 people, or 29 percent of Alabama's uninsured, fall into a coverage gap because Alabama is not expanding its Medicaid program under the federal law." [Associated Press, 1/7/14]

1/6/14: Montgomery Advertiser: "About 198,000 Alabamians May Qualify For Financial Assistance With Health Insurance Policies Offered Under The Affordable Care Act, According To A Report Released

Monday By The Kaiser Family Foundation. That Number Represents 30 Percent Of The State's Roughly 660,000 Residents Without Insurance. The Report Also Noted That 29 Percent Of The Uninsured -- 191,000 People -- Will Not Qualify For The Financial Assistance, But Would Be Eligible For Medicaid If Gov. Robert Bentley Opted For An Expansion Of The Program Under The ACA." "About 198,000 Alabamians may qualify for financial assistance with health insurance policies offered under the Affordable Care Act, according to a report released Monday by the Kaiser Family Foundation. That number represents 30 percent of the state's roughly 660,000 residents without insurance. The report also noted that 29 percent of the uninsured -- 191,000 people -- will not qualify for the financial assistance, but would be eligible for Medicaid if Gov. Robert Bentley opted for an expansion of the program under the ACA. 'The ACA will help many currently uninsured Alabamians gain health coverage, but many who could have obtained financial assistance through the Medicaid expansion will remain outside its reach,' the report said. 'Further, the impact of the ACA will depend on take-up of coverage among the eligible uninsured, and outreach and enrollment efforts will be an important factor in determining how the law affects the uninsured rate in the state.'" [Montgomery Advertiser, 1/6/14]

Arizona

1/15/14: NPR: Arizona Resident Amanda Shelley, Once Unable To Obtain Insurance Because Of Pre-Existing Conditions, Got Covered Under The ACA; She Felt Stabbing Pain On Jan. 3, Called To Confirm She Was Covered And Had Gallbladder Surgery Two Days Later. "AMANDA SHELLEY: My name is Amanda Shelley. I live just outside of Phoenix in Gilbert, Arizona. And I'm a physician assistant.

ROTT: Shelley didn't have health insurance either.

SHELLEY: I was not one of the poor people that people think are signing up for Obamacare. I was - I'm one of the well-off people.

ROTT: But she was unable to get insurance because of pre-existing conditions. That changed January 1st. Then...

SHELLEY: On January 3rd, I started having some pain in my abdomen.

ROTT: A piercing, stabbing pain.

SHELLEY: And I tried to ignore it because I'm used to ignoring things because I didn't have insurance.

ROTT: But by the next day, it was so bad that she had to go in. She called first to make sure that she really was covered.

SHELLEY: And two days later, I had my gallbladder out, urgently.

ROTT: She says without insurance...

SHELLEY: This would've been bankruptcy for me, definitely.

ROTT: So even though Amanda Shelley knows the new law isn't perfect, for her, it's already proved its worth. Nathan Rott, NPR News." [NPR, 1/15/14]

1/2/14: New York Times: “Kathy Hornbach Of Tucson Is Not Wasting Any Time Before Using Her New Health Insurance Coverage, Which Took Effect On New Year’s Day. Ms. Hornbach, 57, Has An Appointment With A Cardiologist On Thursday For A Stress Test.” “Kathy Hornbach of Tucson is not wasting any time before using her new health insurance coverage, which took effect on New Year’s Day. Ms. Hornbach, 57, has an appointment with a cardiologist on Thursday for a stress test. ‘I’ve had some heart palpitations, and my mom’s side has a history of heart problems starting early,’ she said Wednesday in a telephone interview. ‘So it’s mostly just to double-check that everything is O.K.’ Ms. Hornbach, who has had breast cancer and retired early from the technology industry, said that insurance companies in Arizona had refused to cover her until about two years ago, when she got a policy with monthly premiums of \$285 and a deductible of \$5,500 a year. Last month, using the federal insurance exchange, she bought a midlevel silver plan with lower premiums and deductible. ‘It’s a better policy — lower out-of-pocket, more choice of doctors,’ she said. ‘This is a very happy day.’” [New York Times, 1/2/14]

1/1/14: NBC News: “For The Past Four Months, [The Shultz Family] Has Been Paying \$1,600 A Month For COBRA Benefits To Extend The Insurance Provided By Joseph Schulz’s Former Job As A Mortgage Broker. Now, However, With A Silver-Level Plan Through Health Net Of Arizona, They’ll Pay Just About \$700 A Month To Cover Themselves And Their Three Children, Ages 2, 7 And 10.” “Still, Rizzo’s optimism is shared by Claudia and Joseph Schulz [of Phoenix], who started trying to sign up for Obamacare on Oct. 1, the first morning the federally run Arizona exchange was open, and only succeeded in the last hours of an extended deadline on Christmas Eve. The pair quit their jobs in September to start an independent real estate business, putting them among some 1.5 million newly self-employed people projected to seek coverage under the ACA, according to a Georgetown University study. That left them frustrated and a little nervous about the repeated glitches and long delays of the sign-up process. But Claudia Schulz, 34, said she and her 37-year-old husband always expected it to work out eventually. ‘We weren’t happy that the website wasn’t working,’ said Claudia Schulz. ‘But we figured it’s the U.S. government. I’m sure they’ll fix the website.’ For the past four months, the couple has been paying \$1,600 a month for COBRA benefits to extend the insurance provided by Joseph Schulz’s former job as a mortgage broker. Now, however, with a silver-level plan through Health Net of Arizona, they’ll pay just about \$700 a month to cover themselves and their three children, ages 2, 7 and 10. There’s a \$3,000 deductible and \$12,000 maximum out-of-pocket payment per year. That’s more, certainly, than the \$420 they were paying through the employer-sponsored care through Joseph Schulz’s job, but it allows them to pursue their longtime dream of working for themselves, Claudia Schulz said. ‘We are very happy with our choice and so glad we had the ability to compare so many options and choose for ourselves,’ she said.” [NBC News, 1/1/14]

Arkansas

1/8/14: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette: “Enrollment In The State's Expanded Medicaid Program Rose To Almost 73,000 As Of Monday, An Increase Of More Than 3,300 From Nine Days Earlier... Separately, A Spokesman For Arkansas Blue Cross And Blue Shield Said About 85 Percent Of The 8,600 People Who Have Enrolled For Coverage Starting Last Wednesday With The Company Or Its National Affiliate Have Paid Their First Month's Premium...” “Enrollment in the state's expanded Medicaid program rose to almost 73,000 as of Monday, an increase of more than 3,300 from nine days earlier, a spokesman for the Arkansas Department of Human Services said Tuesday. Separately, a spokesman for Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield said about 85 percent of the 8,600 people who have enrolled for coverage starting last Wednesday

with the company or its national affiliate have paid their first month's premium, which is required for the coverage to take effect. The companies extended the deadline for paying the premium until Jan. 31 - three weeks later than the extended deadline announced last month by a national health-insurance trade group. The expansion of the state's Medicaid program, authorized by the federal health-care overhaul law and approved by the Legislature last year, extended eligibility to adults with incomes of up to 138 percent of the poverty level - \$15,860 for an individual or \$32,500 for a family of four.” [Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 1/8/14]

California

1/15/14: NPR: “ROTT: Tanya [English]'s Daughter, Charlize, Is Nine Months Pregnant. She's Here For An Ultrasound And A Check Up, And She's All Smiles As She Walks Back To An Examination Room Because This Visit Is Covered. For A Number Of Years, Charlize Didn't Have Health Insurance.

CHARLIZE: And Now That I Got It, I Could Just Walk Into A Doctor's Office Without A Problem.”
“NATHAN ROTT, BYLINE: The waiting room at St. John's Well Child and Family Center in South Los Angeles is packed. So packed that Tanya English is having a hard time finding her daughter.

TANYA ENGLISH: Oh, right here. Oh.

ROTT: Tanya's daughter, Charlize, is nine months pregnant. She's here for an ultrasound and a check up, and she's all smiles as she walks back to an examination room because this visit is covered. For a number of years, Charlize didn't have health insurance.

CHARLIZE: And now that I got it, I could just walk into a doctor's office without a problem.

ROTT: Her timing was right. Under the Affordable Care Act and the expansion of Medicaid, she was able to get insurance just weeks before her due date. Nearly 2.2 million people have now enrolled in regular health insurance plans through Obamacare nationwide. Another 3.9 million, like Charlize, have been deemed eligible through Medicaid expansions. And there's a lot of them at this health center.” [NPR, 1/15/14]

1/14/14: Sacramento Business Journal: “Nearly 2.2 Million People Signed Up For Insurance Coverage From State And Federal Exchanges By Dec. 28 -- And Almost A Quarter Of Those Got It Through Covered California... 498,794 [Enrolled Through] In The New Marketplace In California.” “Nearly 2.2 million people signed up for insurance coverage from state and federal exchanges by Dec. 28 -- and almost a quarter of those got it through Covered California... New federal numbers released Monday show 2,153,421 people picked health plans through exchanges from Oct. 1 through late December. Twenty-three percent of those -- 498,794 -- are people who shopped in the new marketplace in California. California continues to dominate the nation in exchange sign-ups. Florida is second, with 158,030. New York is third, with 156,902. Florida participates in the federal exchange, while New York and California run their own.” [Sacramento Business Journal, 1/14/14]

1/6/14: Bloomberg: “Amber Sanchez, A San Francisco Cancer Survivor, Skipped Visiting The Gynecologist Last Year To Check A Growth On Her Ovary Because She Was Uninsured... As Of Jan. 1, The 27-Year-Old Is Eligible For California's Medicaid Expansion Under Obamacare.” “Amber Sanchez, a San Francisco

cancer survivor, skipped visiting the gynecologist last year to check a growth on her ovary because she was uninsured. This year, it's at the top of her New Year's plans. The difference: As of Jan. 1, the 27-year-old is eligible for California's Medicaid expansion under Obamacare... Sanchez had surgery in 2008 to remove her left ovary, lymph nodes and appendix to keep the cancer from spreading. She was dropped from her parents' coverage with Oakland, California-based Kaiser Permanente two years ago, and hasn't found an insurer willing to sell her an individual plan, she said. She last had her ovarian growth checked in October 2012." [Bloomberg, 1/6/14]

1/3/14: San Diego Union-Tribune: "Daniel Smiechowski, 60, Of Bay Ho, Said He Is Still Trying To Get His Head Around The Idea Of Having Health Insurance After 40 Years Of Going Without.... 'They're Going To Subsidize My Monthly Health Care To The Tune Of \$614 A Month. I Will Pay A Mere \$44 A Month,' He Said." "Some who have signed up can scarcely believe their luck. Daniel Smiechowski, 60, of Bay Ho, said he is still trying to get his head around the idea of having health insurance after 40 years of going without. 'It's really too much for me even to digest at this point,' Smiechowski said. With an income of about \$16,000 per year, Smiechowski, a part-time substitute teacher, said he qualified for the most generous subsidies offered by the Affordable Care Act, which allowed him to purchase a plan from Anthem Blue Cross that gives him access to UC San Diego doctors at a price that seems unreal. 'They're going to subsidize my monthly health care to the tune of \$614 a month. I will pay a mere \$44 a month,' he said." [San Diego Union-Tribune, 1/3/14]

12/31/13: San Jose Mercury News: "Acting Under Provisions Of The New Federal Health Care Law, California's Department Of Health Care Services On Tuesday Said It Transferred More Than 630,000 Californians From The State's Low Income Health Program To Medi-Cal, The State's Health Program For The Very Poor." "Acting under provisions of the new federal health care law, California's Department of Health Care Services on Tuesday said it transferred more than 630,000 Californians from the state's Low Income Health Program to Medi-Cal, the state's health program for the very poor. The new federal law, called the Affordable Care Act and also known as 'Obamacare,' offered states the ability to expand eligibility for Medicaid, the federal health program for the poor, which is called Medi-Cal in California. The LIHP was established in 2010 through a \$10 billion federal grant to help states prepare for the Affordable Care Act. Beginning Wednesday, Medi-Cal will immediately begin serving the former LIHP members, a group comprised of uninsured, childless adults ages 19 to 64, and parent and caretaker relatives, all with incomes below 138 percent of the federal poverty level." [San Jose Mercury News, 12/31/13]

12/29/13: CNN: Elaine Post... West Hills, Calif.... One Of The Things I Love About The Situation Now Is That I Feel Like I'm A Consumer. I Like That I Don't Have To Be At The Mercy Of Insurance Companies. I Feel Empowered. It's My Choice, Not Theirs To Choose Me." "Name: Elaine Post, 64

Residence: West Hills, Calif.

Job: Writes training programs for businesses I signed up for a bronze plan with L.A. Care at \$461 a month. Although I don't qualify for a subsidy, it's \$272 less than I would pay if I continued on COBRA.

I decided I'm better off with a high-deductible (\$5,000) plan since I rarely have go to the doctor except for preventative care. I'd rather deal with the high deductible if I need it, rather than pay the extra money out of pocket every month for premiums. In November, I will go on Medicare. When I first got laid off, I tried to get private insurance through the big companies. They all rejected me outright or wanted to charge me really

really high premiums for not very good insurance. I had what I thought were not very serious pre-existing conditions, but apparently they were enough to disqualify you. The whole process of shopping for insurance was nightmarish. I spent an hour and a half at least on the phone with people who interviewed me and asked me about every single detail about my health. It was very intrusive. Rather than try to sell me insurance, they were trying to not sell me insurance. One of the things I love about the situation now is that I feel like I'm a consumer. I like that I don't have to be at the mercy of insurance companies. I feel empowered. It's my choice, not theirs to choose me." [CNN, 12/29/13]

12/28/13: Washington Post: "Adam Peterson's Life Is About To Change. For The First Time In Years, He Is Planning To Do Things He Could Not Have Imagined. He Intends To Have Surgery To Remove His Gallbladder, An Operation He Needs To Avoid Another Trip To The Emergency Room. And He's Looking Forward To Running A Marathon In Mid-January.... Peterson Is Among The Millions Of Uninsured Americans Who Are Benefiting From The Affordable Care Act...." "Adam Peterson's life is about to change. For the first time in years, he is planning to do things he could not have imagined. He intends to have surgery to remove his gallbladder, an operation he needs to avoid another trip to the emergency room. And he's looking forward to running a marathon in mid-January along the California coast without constant anxiety about what might happen if he gets injured. These plans are possible, says Peterson, who turned 50 this year and co-manages a financial services firm in Champaign, Ill., because of a piece of plastic the size of a credit card that arrived in the mail the other day: a health insurance card. Peterson is among the millions of uninsured Americans who are benefiting from the Affordable Care Act, the 2010 law that launched far-reaching changes to the U.S. health-care system and is President Obama's premier domestic achievement." [Washington Post, 12/28/13]

Colorado

1/13/14: Colorado Springs Gazette: "Enrollments Totaled 58,514 Through Saturday, Largely Because 500 To 800 People Signed Up For Plans Each Weekday In January, Said Patty Fontneau, The Exchange's Chief Executive." "People who missed the first deadline for health insurance coverage through the state's new exchange continued seeking plans in January, Connect for Health Colorado officials reported Monday. Enrollments totaled 58,514 through Saturday, largely because 500 to 800 people signed up for plans each weekday in January, said Patty Fontneau, the exchange's chief executive. 'We've been very pleased with the ongoing enrollments,' Fontneau said during the exchange's board meeting Monday... Fontneau said that 49 percent of the people who enrolled in insurance plans through Dec. 31 opted to receive federal subsidies to help offset the cost of coverage. Another 80,696 Coloradans had signed up through Saturday for expanded Medicaid coverage, Fontneau said." [Colorado Springs Gazette, 1/13/14]

1/4/14: Edward C. Maynard, Letter To The Editor: "I Would Like To Relate The Positive Experience Our Small Business Has Had Obtaining Health Insurance For Our Employees Using Connect For Health Colorado... In Early December We Looked At The Option Of Buying Insurance On The Exchange, And Were Delighted To Find We Could Provide A Better Insurance Package At A Significantly Lower Premium Starting Jan. 1. It Took Some Work To Complete The Application For Our Entire Group, But We Got It Done In Less Than Two Weeks." "I would like to relate the positive experience our small business has had obtaining health insurance for our employees using Connect for Health Colorado, the state health insurance exchange. We have long felt it is important for us to provide health insurance for our staff and their families,

but as for most small businesses, this has become increasingly difficult with yearly premium increases. In early December we looked at the option of buying insurance on the exchange, and were delighted to find we could provide a better insurance package at a significantly lower premium starting Jan. 1. It took some work to complete the application for our entire group, but we got it done in less than two weeks. This was made possible by the federal Affordable Care Act, which mandates a quality benefit package and provides incentives to small businesses. As a pediatric practice, we see many children whose families are stressed by lack of health insurance, often because the parents are small business owners or employees; now these hard working families can finally obtain quality health insurance. Edward C. Maynard, MD Colorado Springs.” [The Gazette (Colorado Springs, CO), 1/4/14]

Florida

1/13/14: Palm Beach Post: “Florida’s Obamacare Enrollment Grew Tenfold Between The End Of November And The End December, As The Deadline To Buy A Plan In Time For Jan. 1 Approached. Enrollment Jumped From About 14,000 To More Than 140,000 By The End Of December.” “Florida’s Obamacare enrollment grew tenfold between the end of November and the end December, as the deadline to buy a plan in time for Jan. 1 approached. Enrollment jumped from about 14,000 to more than 140,000 by the end of December. That dwarfed the pathetic October sign up, which totaled little more than 3,500. All told, 158,030 Florida residents signed up for a plan under the Affordable Care Act – more than any other state using the federal government enrollment site. Florida is among the states that chose not to run its own enrollment program. Another nearly 58,400 have gained access to Medicaid in Florida. The state’s rush to enroll reflected a national trend and showed that the troubled healthcare.gov has improved enough to allow hundreds of thousands to navigate the site successfully in the last month of 2013.” [Palm Beach Post, 1/13/14]

1/6/14: Miami Herald: “Josh Benson Of Delray Beach Said He Had Suffered From Chronic Pancreatitis Until His Pancreas Had To Be Removed, Making Him A Diabetic. He Was Able To Remain On His Parents’ Health Plan For A While — A Provision Of The ACA — And Then His Parents Paid \$600 A Month For A Bare Bones Policy For Him. As Of Jan. 1, Benson, Who’s Now 28, Is Fully Covered Under A New Plan Through The ACA That Costs \$177 A Month.” “Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz also introduced three South Floridians who have enrolled under the ACA. Josh Benson of Delray Beach said he had suffered from chronic pancreatitis until his pancreas had to be removed, making him a diabetic. He was able to remain on his parents’ health plan for a while — a provision of the ACA — and then his parents paid \$600 a month for a bare bones policy for him. As of Jan. 1, Benson, who’s now 28, is fully covered under a new plan through the ACA that costs \$177 a month.” [Miami Herald, 1/6/14]

1/6/14: Miami Herald: “Martin West, A Small Business Owner From Dania Beach, Said He Reduced His Family’s Healthcare Costs To Their Lowest In 10 Years When He Enrolled In A Health Plan On Healthcare.Gov.” “Martin West, a small business owner from Dania Beach, said he reduced his family’s healthcare costs to their lowest in 10 years when he enrolled in a health plan on Healthcare.gov. ‘Something had to be done about healthcare in this country. I think this is the start of what could be a more competitive system,’ said West, a life-long Republican. And Stacy Sylvain, a 19-year-old college student from North Miami Beach, enrolled in a \$158-a-month plan after qualifying for a subsidy. Before she had insurance, she suffered a head injury and wound up with a \$3,000 hospital bill that she’s still paying off.” [Miami Herald,

1/6/14]

1/6/14: Miami Herald: "... Stacy Sylvain, A 19-Year-Old College Student From North Miami Beach, Enrolled In A \$158-A-Month Plan After Qualifying For A Subsidy. Before She Had Insurance, She Suffered A Head Injury And Wound Up With A \$3,000 Hospital Bill That She's Still Paying Off." "Martin West, a small business owner from Dania Beach, said he reduced his family's healthcare costs to their lowest in 10 years when he enrolled in a health plan on Healthcare.gov. 'Something had to be done about healthcare in this country. I think this is the start of what could be a more competitive system,' said West, a life-long Republican. And Stacy Sylvain, a 19-year-old college student from North Miami Beach, enrolled in a \$158-a-month plan after qualifying for a subsidy. Before she had insurance, she suffered a head injury and wound up with a \$3,000 hospital bill that she's still paying off." [Miami Herald, 1/6/14]

1/3/14: Palm Beach Post: "Palm Beach Lawyer Steven Greenwald Is Not Exactly Who You Might Expect To Sing The Praises Of The New Health Care Law. He's A Republican, For Starters, Who Voted For Reagan And Both Bushes... This Year, [Greenwald And His Wife] Are Getting A 65 Percent Break On Their Bill For Slightly Better Coverage Through The New Law." "Palm Beach lawyer Steven Greenwald is not exactly who you might expect to sing the praises of the new health care law. He's a Republican, for starters, who voted for Reagan and both Bushes. Although he hasn't worked much since having a heart attack in 2004 and his wife's real estate business has been slow, Greenwald and his wife had enough in savings last year that they could afford to pay more than \$27,000 out of pocket for top-notch health coverage. This year, the couple are getting a 65 percent break on their bill for slightly better coverage through the new law... Although he and his wife would be considered well-to-do by the standards of many Americans, the couple qualified for a hefty subsidy. They earned about \$19,000 last year, which puts their income a little above the poverty line. With the financial help, the Greenwalds will pay about \$700 a month for what he calls the Rolls Royce of coverage. Greenwald didn't seek out the tax credit. 'This is a different story than the usual person who is really poor and suffering and never bought insurance in their lives,' he said. 'It's a person who is just saving money.'" [Palm Beach Post, 1/3/14]

1/3/14: Miami Herald: "Steven Greenwald, 60, Said The Price Of A Platinum Level Florida Blue Health Plan For Him And His Wife Would Have Cost About \$32,000 In 2014 Were It Not For The Affordable Care Act's Provisions... Greenwald Learned That He Also Qualified For Financial Aid That Will Lower His Costs Even More, To About \$8,000 A Year." "Launching the New Year with a message of affordable healthcare for all, the White House on Friday once again tapped Florida as a backdrop to promote the health law by touting the success story of a Palm Beach man who enrolled in a federally subsidized plan in less than 30 minutes - and saved thousands of dollars a year by doing so. Steven Greenwald, 60, said the price of a platinum level Florida Blue health plan for him and his wife would have cost about \$32,000 in 2014 were it not for the Affordable Care Act's provisions, which among other things limits the amount that insurers can charge their oldest members. Greenwald said Florida Blue instead quoted him an annual price of about \$18,000 for the plan, but that was before Greenwald learned that he also qualified for financial aid that will lower his costs even more, to about \$8,000 a year. 'The numbers are totally in my favor,' said Greenwald, who estimated that the couple's income in 2014 will come to about \$19,000." [Miami Herald, 1/3/14]

1/2/14: WSJ: "People Such As Carlos Gomez, A 55-Year-Old Part-Time Retail Clerk In Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Who Had Been Rejected By Insurers Because Of A Heart Disorder, Are Among The Law's

Beneficiaries. Mr. Gomez Recently Signed Up For A Humana Inc. Plan That Will Cost Him \$150 A Month After Federal Subsidies.” “People such as Carlos Gomez, a 55-year-old part-time retail clerk in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., who had been rejected by insurers because of a heart disorder, are among the law's beneficiaries. Mr. Gomez recently signed up for a Humana Inc. plan that will cost him \$150 a month after federal subsidies. As he and other customers with medical conditions gain coverage, they are upending insurers' traditional business model of charging riskier customers higher rates or denying them altogether, practices banned under the health law... Under the law, he is eligible for a \$402-a-month federal subsidy to help buy coverage, based on his income of about \$12,000 a year. Knowing he would use medical services, he chose a top-shelf Humana plan with a monthly premium of \$552 for a patient of his age, regardless of health. Like many patients, he is still waiting for Humana to send a bill, though the Louisville, Ky.-based insurer is giving its first wave of enrollees until Jan. 31 to pay their initial premiums.” [WSJ, 1/2/14]

1/2/14: ABC News (Rough Transcript): “JON KARL: For Maggie Fernandez Of Miami, This Is A Big Day.

MAGGIE FERNANDEZ: I'm Looking At 2014 To Be The Year Of My Health.

KARL: The Dawn Of Obamacare Means Better Health Coverage, Money Saved, And A Chance To Make Her First Doctor's Appointment In Nearly A Year.” “DIANE SAWYER: and next here tonight on ‘world news,’ we are in the beginning of a new era in health care in america, obamacare now in effect. as of tonight, more than 2 million americans have signed up. their stories are beginning to be told. abc's chief white house correspondent jonathan karl reports in.

JON KARL: for maggie fernandez of miami, this is a big day.

MAGGIE FERNANDEZ: i'm looking at 2014 to be the year of my health.

KARL: the dawn of obamacare means better health coverage, money saved, and a chance to make her first doctor's appointment in nearly a year. because she suffers from hypertension, fernandez couldn't get affordable health coverage last year. as of january 1st, insurance companies can no longer charge more for pre- existing conditions and she was able to find a plan she could afford, slashing her prescription drug bill.

FERNANDEZ: while i was uninsured, i was paying \$200 a month, but now with obamacare i will be paying \$20 a month. [ABC News (Rough Transcript), 1/2/14]

1/1/14: Associated Press: “Joshua Benson Stayed On His Parents' Insurance Until He Turned 26 Last Year. After That, Benson, Who Had His Pancreas Removed And Needs Daily Insulin For His Type 1 Diabetes, Struggled To Find Coverage... He Recently Enrolled In A Platinum Plan With No Deductible That Costs Him \$170 A Month And Even Covers His Endocrinologist.” “More than 3 million young adults have health insurance thanks to the Affordable Care Act because they remained on their parents' health insurance, according to the feds. The law extended the age that children can stay on their parents' plan to 26. Joshua Benson stayed on his parents' insurance until he turned 26 last year. After that, Benson, who had his pancreas removed and needs daily insulin for his Type 1 diabetes, struggled to find coverage. He was either denied or quoted \$2,000 monthly premiums, said the South Florida resident, who works part-time as a grocery store cashier. He recently enrolled in a platinum plan with no deductible that costs him \$170 a month and even covers his endocrinologist. The federal government kicks in another \$200 a month.” [Associated Press, 1/1/14]

12/30/13: Florida Today: “When I Was (Without Health Insurance), I Always Worried About Losing My House’ Because Of A Health Crisis, Frazer Said. [Bo] Frazer, 62, Said He Couldn’t Get Insurance — Even Under His Wife’s Plan Through Her Employer — Because Of Pre-Existing Conditions. Those Include A Mild Stroke He Suffered A Decade Ago And A Cardiac Condition That Led To A Heart Attack In March. But Those Obstacles Have Ended Because Part Of President Obama’s Signature Legislation Prohibits Companies From Denying Health Insurance Because Of Pre-Existing Conditions. “ “Melbourne’s Bo Frazer will wake up Wednesday morning with greater peace of mind. The professional fiddle player, a self-proclaimed struggling musician, will greet the day knowing he has health insurance for the first time in at least eight years, thanks to the Affordable Care Act. The law mandates most Americans to purchase insurance or pay penalties. ‘When I was (without health insurance), I always worried about losing my house’ because of a health crisis, Frazer said. Frazer, 62, said he couldn’t get insurance — even under his wife’s plan through her employer — because of pre-existing conditions. Those include a mild stroke he suffered a decade ago and a cardiac condition that led to a heart attack in March. But those obstacles have ended because part of President Obama’s signature legislation prohibits companies from denying health insurance because of pre-existing conditions. Frazer and his wife have selected a midlevel health plan. With government-issued subsidies, they are paying about \$70 a month, he said. He said a similar policy for only his wife through her employer was about \$500 a month. Frazer also took his time — as many federal, state and local officials had suggested — before trying to sign onto the website created under the ACA, healthcare.gov. ‘I wouldn’t want to go on it the first day because I was sure (the site) would crash,’ Frazer said. ‘It’s like freebeer.gov. Everyone was going to be on it and it was sure to crash.’ He said he waited until mid-November. That decision paid off. ‘I had a seamless experience,’ he said. ‘Being a (former) computer programmer . . . I wouldn’t give (the site) an A-plus, but I would give it an A’ for its effectiveness and ease of use. Frazer said he initially spent about 10 minutes to register and an additional 10 minutes a few weeks later to select a policy.” [Florida Today, 12/30/13]

12/29/13: CNN: “Karen Farrar...Naples, Fla....Having Insurance Means A Lot To Me....All Around, I Think Obamacare Is A Great Thing.” “Name: Karen Farrar, 60

Residence: Naples, Fla. Job: Administrative assistant I’m uninsurable because of pre-existing conditions: osteoporosis, high-blood pressure, which I’ve had for 30 years, and asthma. My husband is self-employed and I work for him. We were uninsured for quite a long time. We had insurance people in our house giving us quotes, but as soon as I started going down the list of what the problems were, they said ‘oh...oh...no.’ In Oct. 2012, I was enrolled in PCIP [the transitional Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan that was created by the Affordable Care Act]. Previously, I had very limited coverage through the state of Florida. The PCIP program is ending. My husband signed us up for Obamacare. He got through, no problems. There were a lot of choices. I was happy to see that. The premium will be about \$1,000 a month for the two of us. The new insurance will have a lower deductible and better coverage. The co-pays are lower. Having insurance means a lot to me. Because of the osteoporosis and asthma, I always end up in the doctor’s office. Medication is expensive. When I was buying it outright, just the asthma medication was costing \$400 a month. I stopped using it. I just started not breathing very well. I didn’t have any options. All around, I think Obamacare is a great thing.” [CNN, 12/29/13]

12/29/13: CNN: “Alan Meeks...Orlando, Fla...I Logged Into Healthcare.Gov And Looked At All The Options. Using The Site Was A Breeze....Now, I Don’t Feel Like I’m Constrained. Health Benefits Is Not A Deciding Factor For Where I Work Anymore. It Gives Me More Freedom To Do What I Want Professionally.” “Name: Alan Meeks, 45

Residence: Orlando, Fla. Job: Systems engineer... My last job had benefits, but required me to travel 75% of the time. What allowed me to take this job is the existence of the Affordable Care Act. The current company I work for is akin to contracting work. You are a little better paid, but you don't have any benefits. Both myself and my partner have pre-existing conditions. He has a heart condition and takes 14 drugs a day. I had a benign brain tumor and have to be checked with an MRI every two years. I logged into healthcare.gov and looked at all the options. Using the site was a breeze. We chose a platinum version. Together we'll be paying \$770 a month with zero deductible and a maximum out-of-pocket of \$2,000 for each of us. At my previous job, I was paying almost the same but the deductible was almost \$8,000. And all our doctors are in the plan. Now, I don't feel like I'm constrained. Health benefits is not a deciding factor for where I work anymore. It gives me more freedom to do what I want professionally.” [CNN, 12/29/13]

12/29/13: CNN: “Oristela Schwend... Plantation, Fla.... I Lost My Employer Coverage In 2012. I Tried To Get Individual Insurance And I Was Denied Right And Left. I Had Diverticulitis And Knee Issues. I Got Very Excited About Obamacare Because Finally I Would Have The Opportunity To Pay For My Own Insurance.” “Name: Oristela Schwend, 47 Residence: Plantation, Fla. Job: Accountant I lost my employer coverage in 2012. I tried to get individual insurance and I was denied right and left. I had diverticulitis and knee issues. I got very excited about Obamacare because finally I would have the opportunity to pay for my own insurance. I was willing to pay for insurance, they just didn't want me to. My husband applied on the website more than 10 times before he finally got through. I signed up for a Humana Gold plan for \$343.09 a month with a \$2,500 deductible. My husband signed up for a silver plan for \$388.27 a month, with a \$3,250 deductible. We've always had a high deductible so the Obamacare plans are not any worse. The prices were a little less than what we were paying through our employer, a small business. We won't know how good the insurance is until we start using the coverage. It can't be worse than not having insurance. I plan to start using the benefits in January to follow up on my knee issues. I have the beginning of arthritis. I haven't been able to manage my treatment because I haven't had insurance. And I was afraid to go to the doctor when I did have insurance because if I complained about a headache, then it was a pre-existing condition for something else.” [CNN, 12/29/13]

12/27/13: Allan Zullinger, Letter To The Editor: “I Am A 28-Year-Old Who Exercises Relentlessly And Diets Meticulously... A Few Weeks Ago, I Was Hit By A Car While Bicycling Home From Campus... After My Close Call, I Took An Hour Or So With My Mother And Enrolled In A Health Insurance Plan That Will Begin Covering Me Jan. 1.” “I am a 28-year-old who exercises relentlessly and diets meticulously. I attend Florida International University's (FIU) College of Law and I work at FIU's Health Law and Policy Clinic, which assists the underprivileged with services that include accessing public benefits and resolving unpaid medical debts. A few weeks ago, I was hit by a car while bicycling home from campus. Fortunately, I had only a bruised rib and a few cuts and scrapes, but if the scenario had played out differently, I could have ended up in the shoes of those I help: without insurance and with tens of thousands of dollars of unpaid bills for necessary emergency medical treatment. After my close call, I took an hour or so with my mother and enrolled in a health insurance plan that will begin covering me Jan. 1.” [Washington Post, 12/27/13]

Georgia

1/9/14: Kaiser Health News: “Obamacare Giving Big Boost To Georgia's Health IT Industry.” “Politically, Georgia is fighting the health law at every turn. Gov. Nathan Deal, a Republican, has chosen not to expand Medicaid, and the state's insurance commissioner publically vowed to obstruct the Affordable Care Act. But that doesn't mean Georgia isn't seeing a financial benefit from the law. Take the company called PreMedex. Founder and president Van Willis knows that just a few years ago, a company like his would've been a hard sell -- impossible, even. The two-year-old company contracts with hospitals and doctors' offices to call

patients after they're discharged. Under the Affordable Care Act, hospitals are penalized if Medicare patients are readmitted within a month for several specific illnesses... PreMedex started with five employees. It's up to 25 and growing. It's a story told over and over across Georgia, according to Tino Mantella, who heads the Technology Association of Georgia." [Kaiser Health News, 1/9/14]

1/2/14: Atlanta Journal-Constitution: "Julie And Danny Thiets Have Struggled To Pay Unexpected Medical Bills Since Opening Their Own Small Business Nine Years Ago... For The Thietses, Both In Their 50s, [Their New Plan] Means No Longer Putting Off Preventive Care. It Means A Savings Of About \$300 A Month In Premiums Because They Qualify For A Federal Tax Credit. The New Plan Has Smaller Deductibles And Better Coverage Than Their Old One Too. 'I'm Just Over The Moon,' Julie Thiets Said. 'I Feel Like We Won The Lottery.'" "A \$1,500 broken foot. A \$1,200 bee sting allergic reaction. Julie and Danny Thiets have struggled to pay unexpected medical bills since opening their own small business nine years ago. The Decatur couple has only been able to afford a bare-bones policy with a \$6,000 deductible that had to be met before it would even cover a visit to the doctor's office. Until now. Starting this week, after months of website problems and political finger-pointing, coverage is finally in effect for consumers who bought health plans through the Health Insurance Marketplace --- a key element of the Affordable Care Act. For the Thietses, both in their 50s, it means no longer putting off preventive care. It means a savings of about \$300 a month in premiums because they qualify for a federal tax credit. The new plan has smaller deductibles and better coverage than their old one too. 'I'm just over the moon,' Julie Thiets said. 'I feel like we won the lottery.'" [Atlanta Journal Constitution, 1/2/14]

1/2/14: Atlanta Journal-Constitution: "Under The Health Care Law, [Lisa Ryan] Is Now Paying \$167 A Month For Medical And Dental Coverage After Her Federal Tax Credit Was Factored In, She Said. Ryan Said She Already Has Appointments With Her Internist, A Pain Management Specialist And A Neurologist." "Lisa Ryan was one of the few Georgians able to sign up in the first week or so that HealthCare.gov went live. The Decatur resident, who suffers from chronic pain and is on disability, said she was priced out of the insurance market when her insurer raised her monthly premium to more than \$1,500. Under the health care law, she is now paying \$167 a month for medical and dental coverage after her federal tax credit was factored in, she said. Ryan said she already has appointments with her internist, a pain management specialist and a neurologist. 'I only want the chance for a level playing field and access to the specialists I need to stay alive,' she said. Next on her list: the dentist." [Atlanta Journal Constitution, 1/2/14]

1/1/14: New York Times: "William Hannah Of Cleveland, Ga., Who Has Been Uninsured For About 20 Years, Said He Was Looking Forward To Using His New Coverage To See A Specialist For Lower Back Problems And Numbness In His Limbs... 'It's Very Affordable To Me, Thanks To The Tax Credit,' Said Mr. Hannah, 63, Who Said He Had Retired Early To Care For His Ailing Mother." "William Hannah of Cleveland, Ga., who has been uninsured for about 20 years, said he was looking forward to using his new coverage to see a specialist for lower back problems and numbness in his limbs. But Mr. Hannah said he had canceled the first plan he signed up for, from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, after realizing it would not pay for treatment at the medical center closest to his home. He switched to a silver plan from Alliant Health Plans and qualified for a tax subsidy that will lower his premium costs to \$56 a month. 'It's very affordable to me, thanks to the tax credit,' said Mr. Hannah, 63, who said he had retired early to care for his ailing mother. 'On the other hand, there's the limitation of what the insurance companies are actually paying for and what institutions they are paying for.'" [New York Times, 1/1/14]

Idaho

1/13/14: Boise State Public Radio: "Idaho Health Insurance Exchange Officials Say 19,922 People Have Bought Insurance Plans From The Newly-Created Online Marketplace... 'The Number Of Idahoans Who Have Selected A Health Insurance Plan On YourHealthIdaho[.Org] Has Increased By 1,000 Percent From A Month Ago,' Says Spokesperson Jody Olson." "Idaho health insurance exchange officials say 19,922 people have bought insurance plans from the newly-created online marketplace. Nearly a third of those who purchased policies are between 55-and 64-years old. YourHealthIdaho.org is the portal Idaho set up to meet the requirements of the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare. The number of people signing up for these subsidized policies represents a huge increase from the exchange's first rocky months. 'The number of Idahoans who have selected a health insurance plan on YourHealthIdaho[.org] has increased by 1,000 percent from a month ago,' says spokesperson Jody Olson. She says the increase comes, in part, because the federal government fixed many of the problems with its website, which is the platform that operates Idaho's marketplace. Olson says Idaho's site was working much better in December." [Boise State Public Radio, 1/13/14]

Illinois

1/13/14: Champaign Urbana News Gazette: "More Than 150,000 Illinois Residents Completed Applications For Obamacare Health Coverage In The First Three Months They Had A Chance To Sign Up, According To New Federal Data Released Monday... 36 Percent Of The Marketplace Health Plan Selections In The State [Were] Made By People Ages 18-44, Showing Younger Adults Were Interested In Obtaining Coverage." "More than 150,000 Illinois residents completed applications for Obamacare health coverage in the first three months they had a chance to sign up, according to new federal data released Monday. Fewer than half of the newly insured will be buying their coverage through private insurers in the state/federal marketplace. Of the 158,123 who completed applications in the state as of Dec. 28, 2013, 61,111 chose marketplace health plans for which they'll pay mostly subsidized premiums. Nearly 73 percent of those who selected marketplace plans qualified for premium subsidy assistance... 'The numbers show interest greatly peaking or increasing in December once the (federal) website was fairly fixed,' said Jim Duffett, executive director of Campaign for Better Health Care. One thing that encouraged him about Illinois numbers, Duffett said: seeing 36 percent of the marketplace health plan selections in the state made by people ages 18-44, showing younger adults were interested in obtaining coverage." [Champaign Urbana News Gazette, 1/13/14]

1/9/14: Kaiser Health News: "That Sense Of Having A Safety Net Strengthened In September When [Joseph] Hale Signed Up For Medicaid, A New Option Under The Affordable Care Act... 'It Was A Big Sigh Of Relief For Me,' Said Hale, 46, Who Has Hypertension And Diabetes And Had Lived Without Health Insurance For Many Years. 'It Makes It Easier For Me To Take Care Of My Health.'" "Five years ago, Joseph Hale didn't care whether he lived or died. He was unemployed, hooked on drugs and deeply depressed. Help came after Hale swallowed a bottle of pills and landed in South Shore Hospital. There, an outreach worker persuaded him to seek help at a local mental health agency. Within a few months, Hale was living in a men's residence, going to group therapy every day, and beginning to feel secure for the first time in his life. That sense of having a safety net strengthened in September when Hale signed up for Medicaid, a new option under the Affordable Care Act. Previously, adults who were poor, single, psychologically troubled and uninsured didn't qualify for this public health program unless they were deemed permanently disabled. 'It was a big sigh of relief for me,' said Hale, 46, who has hypertension and diabetes and had lived

without health insurance for many years. ‘It makes it easier for me to take care of my health.’” [Kaiser Health News, 1/9/14]

1/1/14: Chicago Sun-Times: “...Most People Who Qualified For Medicaid Said They’re Just Relieved To Have Coverage. Humboldt Park Resident Juzzane Brownlee, 42, Who Said She Has Been Uninsured For A Year, Doesn’t Get Sick Often, But Said It Was A Concern Not To Have Insurance. ‘I’m Looking Forward To See What It Will Actually Offer And How I Will Benefit.’” “Many of the people who qualified for Medicaid, thanks to the broader expansion of Medicaid made possible by the Affordable Care Act, said they had been uninsured before the change...But most people who qualified for Medicaid said they’re just relieved to have coverage. Humboldt Park resident Juzzane Brownlee, 42, who said she has been uninsured for a year, doesn’t get sick often, but said it was a concern not to have insurance. ‘I’m looking forward to see what it will actually offer and how I will benefit.’” [Chicago Sun-Times, 1/1/14]

1/1/14: Chicago Sun-Times: “The Affordable Care Act Forbids Insurers To Exclude Coverage Because Of Pre-Existing Conditions After 2014. Keith Moens, 61, Said Removing That Barrier From Getting Insurance For Him, His Wife And Their Son Would Have Been Enough Of A Help. Being Able To Find A New Affordable Insurance Plan With Tax Credits That The Moens And Their Son Qualified For Was An Added Bonus.” “Keith and Joyce Moens of Arlington Heights had been ‘flying without insurance since December 2011,’ because they said they couldn’t afford COBRA insurance after both lost their jobs in 2008. The same insurance plan they had when Joyce Moens, 55, was employed went from a premium of \$450 per month to \$2,000 per month on COBRA. And when they tried to enroll in COBRA, they were told it would cost \$12,000 for that first month, because of back pay they had to make. The Moens also couldn’t get any other insurers to cover them, because Joyce had been afflicted with West Nile virus in 2006 and also had thyroid problems, meaning she had ‘pre-existing conditions.’ The Affordable Care Act forbids insurers to exclude coverage because of pre-existing conditions after 2014. Keith Moens, 61, said removing that barrier from getting insurance for him, his wife and their son would have been enough of a help. Being able to find a new affordable insurance plan with tax credits that the Moens and their son qualified for was an added bonus. The Moens did not want it published how much they make or how much they’re paying for insurance, but noted that they meet the tax credit guidelines. ‘It’s a good plan. It’s got all that we need. And we’re ready to go. We’re just waiting for January to roll around,’ Keith said.” [Chicago Sun-Times, 1/1/14]

12/31/13: Chicago Daily Herald: “After Two Stressful Years Without Health Insurance, Arlington Heights Residents Keith And Joyce Moens Went On Healthcare.Gov And Could Hardly Believe Their Eyes. There, On The Computer Screen, Were Five Insurance Plans They Were Eligible For And Could Afford, Thanks To The New Federal Health Care Law... The Moens Will Be Among Thousands Of Suburban Residents Who, Starting Wednesday, Will Have Health Insurance As A Result Of The New Federal Act.” “After two stressful years without health insurance, Arlington Heights residents Keith and Joyce Moens went on healthcare.gov and could hardly believe their eyes. There, on the computer screen, were five insurance plans they were eligible for and could afford, thanks to the new federal health care law. ‘We just looked at each other, and we looked back at the screen, and it’s like we saw the light at the end of the tunnel,’ Joyce said. ‘I started to cry.’ The Moens will be among thousands of suburban residents who, starting Wednesday, will have health insurance as a result of the new federal act... The Moens chose a Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO that will cost roughly \$300 a month and will cover them and their youngest son, a 19-year-old college student. The plan has high co-pays and a \$10,000-per-person deductible, but it’s an amount they said they can live with if one of them is hospitalized or gets sick.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 12/31/13]

12/28/13: Washington Post: “For Adam Peterson, Awaiting Gallbladder Surgery In Illinois, The Dark Tunnel Without Insurance Began About Six Years Ago, When He Decided To Forgo Health Coverage Because He Needed The Cash To Set Up His Financial Services Business.... Peterson Said, Contemplating His Insurance Coverage, Which Begins On New Year’s Day. ‘More, It Just Allows Me To Live A Normal Life With One Less Worry.’” “For Adam Peterson, awaiting gallbladder surgery in Illinois, the dark tunnel without insurance began about six years ago, when he decided to forgo health coverage because he needed the cash to set up his financial services business. The cost of that decision hit home in March, when the emergency surgery to remove a gallstone cost him \$27,000. When he went to HealthCare.gov this fall, the online system at first balked at verifying his identity — an essential step. It took a few calls to a help line before anyone called back. But just before Thanksgiving, he managed to enroll in a top-tier plan with a monthly premium of \$475. ‘I do not feel that it gives me the freedom to do reckless things,’ Peterson said, contemplating his insurance coverage, which begins on New Year’s Day. ‘More, it just allows me to live a normal life with one less worry.’” [Washington Post, 12/28/13]

Indiana

1/13/14: Gannett: “The Number Of Hoosiers Who Selected A Health Plan Through The Federal Exchange In December (26,951) Was Nearly Eight Times Higher Than The Number Signing Up During The Exchange’s First Two Months (3,492), According To Figures Released By The Federal Government Today. And 85 Percent Of The 30,443 Hoosiers Who Have Chosen A Plan Through December Qualified For Financial Assistance To Make The Plans More Affordable.” “Participation among Hoosiers in the federally run health exchange surged last month as operation of the website significantly improved and the deadline neared for getting insurance that would begin in January. The number of Hoosiers who selected a health plan through the federal exchange in December (26,951) was nearly eight times higher than the number signing up during the exchange’s first two months (3,492), according to figures released by the federal government today. And 85 percent of the 30,443 Hoosiers who have chosen a plan through December qualified for financial assistance to make the plans more affordable.” [Gannett, 1/13/14]

Iowa

1/13/14: Des Moines Register: “Nearly 7,500 Iowans Managed To Sign Up For Private Insurance Plans On The Federal Government’s Health-Insurance Website By Dec. 28, Officials Said Monday. The New Total Reflected A Huge Improvement From A Month Earlier, When The Government Said Just 757 Iowans Had Managed To Obtain Private Policies On Healthcare.Gov.” “Nearly 7,500 Iowans managed to sign up for private insurance plans on the federal government’s health-insurance website by Dec. 28, officials said Monday. The new total reflected a huge improvement from a month earlier, when the government said just 757 Iowans had managed to obtain private policies on healthcare.gov. The website, which is a key feature of President Obama’s Affordable Care Act, was hamstrung by technical problems after it opened for business Oct. 1. Those problems have eased in recent weeks, as federal experts rushed to fix the site. A federal report released Monday showed that 44,453 Iowans applied for coverage via the federal website from Oct. 1 through Dec. 28. Of those, 24,975 were deemed eligible for a private insurance plan, including 13,367 who could receive public subsidies toward the premiums. By Dec. 28, 7,475 of them had selected private

insurance plans.” [Des Moines Register, 1/13/14]

Kentucky

1/2/14: State Of Kentucky: “123,543 Kentuckians Are Enrolled In New Health Coverage, Including Medicaid And Private Insurance...40% Of The Enrollees In Medicaid Or Qualified Health Plans Are Under 35 Years Old.” “As of 7:00 p.m. on Monday 1/2/2013 778,314 unique visitors to kynect.ky.gov, viewing more than 25.6 million web pages. 559,680 people conducted preliminary screenings to determine qualifications for subsidies, discounts or programs like Medicaid. 123,543 Kentuckians are enrolled in new health coverage, including Medicaid and private insurance. 90,254 have enrolled in Medicaid and 33,289 have enrolled in a qualified health plan (QHP). 40% of the enrollees in Medicaid or qualified health plans are under 35 years old. 41,664 have been found eligible for a subsidy to purchase a qualified health plan, but many have not yet chosen a plan. 10,670 have enrolled in dental plans. 1,283 small businesses have started applications for employee coverage; 520 of those businesses have completed applications and are eligible to offer coverage to employees. More than 321,000 calls processed by the kynect call center.” [State of Kentucky, 1/2/14]

Maine

1/13/14: Portland Press Herald: “...More Than 13,700 Mainers...Signed Up For Coverage Under The Federal Health Care Law Through Dec. 28. Maine And Other States Had A Surge In Enrollment On The Affordable Care Act’s Insurance Marketplace Last Month, According To Figures Released Monday By The U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services.” “Frederick Kamegni is probably eligible for insurance under the Affordable Care Act, but he didn’t know it before he walked into the Portland Community Health Center to see his doctor Monday. Kamegni, 40, may soon join the more than 13,700 Mainers who had signed up for coverage under the federal health care law through Dec. 28. Maine and other states had a surge in enrollment on the Affordable Care Act’s insurance marketplace last month, according to figures released Monday by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. At the end of November, Maine’s enrollment was about 1,700.” [Portland Press Herald, 1/13/14]

Maryland

1/2/14: Baltimore Sun: “Cyrus Nusum Of Baltimore Has Asthma And Was Counting Down The Days Until Her New Medicaid Insurance Kicked In... She Said She Believes She Will Cost The Medical System Less By Managing Her Chronic Condition Rather Than Racking Up Big Emergency Room Bills.” “Vincent DeMarco, president of the advocacy group Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative, said he's heard about lives saved and improved from patients who already got coverage. And he hears from those relieved that they will soon be able to visit a doctor and fill prescriptions. Cyrus Nusum of Baltimore has asthma and was counting down the days until her new Medicaid insurance kicked in. Nusum qualified for the expanded program after being laid off from her job for a company that offered managed-care plans to Medicaid patients. She quickly

landed a new job at a small medical clinic but was not offered health insurance immediately. She was already familiar with Medicaid and its expansion because of her line of work, so she enrolled herself and her college-age son. ‘In my old job, my life revolved around helping people get the most out of their Medicaid benefits,’ Nusum said. ‘I saw a lot of people who would go to the emergency room for routine things. I don't want to be one of those people, because that strains the whole system.’ She said she believes she will cost the medical system less by managing her chronic condition rather than racking up big emergency room bills.” [Baltimore Sun, 1/2/14]

Massachusetts

1/1/14: Boston Globe: “Anne Mahon Was Able To Buy An Unsubsidized Plan Through The Connector This Week, After Hours Of Frustration With The Website. The Real Estate Agent From Belmont Said The Connector Plan Saved Her Several Hundred Dollars A Month, Compared With The COBRA Plan Offered By Her Husband’s Former Employer.” “Anne Mahon was able to buy an unsubsidized plan through the Connector this week, after hours of frustration with the website. The real estate agent from Belmont said the Connector plan saved her several hundred dollars a month, compared with the COBRA plan offered by her husband’s former employer. ‘The online experience is frustrating, but the opportunity to call and talk to somebody that can help you through it, [makes it] so easy,’ she said.” [Boston Globe, 1/1/14]

Minnesota

1/3/13: Associated Press: “Minnesota’s Health Insurance Exchange Saw A Sizable Last-Minute Spike In Enrollment Ahead Of A Deadline For Coverage That Took Effect With The New Year. MNsure Released Its Latest Enrollment Figures Friday. By The Dec. 31 Deadline For Coverage Starting Jan. 1, The Agency Reported That 67,805 Minnesotans Had Enrolled For Insurance Under The New Federal Health Care Law. That Means More Than 14,600 People Signed Up For Coverage In The Last Four Days Of December.” “Minnesota’s health insurance exchange saw a sizable last-minute spike in enrollment ahead of a deadline for coverage that took effect with the new year. MNsure released its latest enrollment figures Friday. By the Dec. 31 deadline for coverage starting Jan. 1, the agency reported that 67,805 Minnesotans had enrolled for insurance under the new federal health care law. That means more than 14,600 people signed up for coverage in the last four days of December. As of Dec. 27, MNsure had reported that about 53,000 people had signed up. It reflects a last-minute rush by many to lock down coverage, after many experienced technical glitches with the MNsure website and long waits for help on the toll-free helpline. Of the 67,805 who signed up, about 38 percent enrolled in private insurance plans. The rest signed up for the state’s two public insurance programs, MinnesotaCare and Medical Assistance. MNsure stressed that the latest enrollment figures are preliminary and could change later this month as more data become available.” [Associated Press, 1/3/13]

Missouri

1/13/14: St. Louis Post-Dispatch: “More Than 33,000 Missourians Enrolled In A Health Insurance Plan

Through The Federal Healthcare.Gov Marketplace As Of Dec. 28... That Number Skyrocketed From The 4,124 Who Selected A Plan In November...” “More than 33,000 Missourians enrolled in a health insurance plan through the federal HealthCare.gov marketplace as of Dec. 28, according to new data released Monday by the Department of Health and Human Services. That number skyrocketed from the 4,124 who selected a plan in November, but it's merely a fraction of the more than 800,000 uninsured in the state. In Missouri there were about 71,000 applications, representing a request for coverage for nearly 113,000 people. Of the more than 93,000 eligible individuals in Missouri, almost half were not eligible for financial assistance.” [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 1/13/14]

12/31/13: New York Times: “‘I Feel A Huge Sense Of Relief,’ Said Katie R. Norvell, 33, A Music Therapist In St. Louis, Who Has Been Uninsured For Three And A Half Years And Has A Pre-Existing Gynecological Condition, Endometriosis... ‘With Coverage,’ She Said, ‘I Can Be My Best Self. Health Insurance Won’t Control My Job Choices.’” “‘I feel a huge sense of relief,’ said Katie R. Norvell, 33, a music therapist in St. Louis, who has been uninsured for three and a half years and has a pre-existing gynecological condition, endometriosis. She signed up Dec. 22 for a midlevel silver plan offered by Coventry Health Care, owned by Aetna, and has already begun making doctor’s appointments. ‘With coverage,’ she said, ‘I can be my best self. Health insurance won’t control my job choices.’” [New York Times, 12/31/13]

Montana

1/13/14: Billings Gazette: “Numbers Of Montanans Choosing Health Insurance Policies On The ‘Obamacare’ Online Marketplace Surged Upward In December, Increasing Nearly Tenfold To 13,135 People. The Sign-Ups, Through Dec. 28, Are An Increase Of Nearly 12,000 Policies In A Month, Up From Just 1,382 People At The End Of November And A Mere 212 At The End Of October.” “Numbers of Montanans choosing health insurance policies on the ‘Obamacare’ online marketplace surged upward in December, increasing nearly tenfold to 13,135 people. The sign-ups, through Dec. 28, are an increase of nearly 12,000 policies in a month, up from just 1,382 people at the end of November and a mere 212 at the end of October. Nationwide, the U.S. Health and Human Services Department reported Monday that 2.15 million people had chosen plans through federal and state-run websites, or nearly seven times the number at the end of November. ‘It is a brand new day for health care for millions of Americans and for the millions of families who now finally have coverage,’ HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius told reporters on a conference call.” [Billings Gazette, 1/13/14]

1/6/14: Don Ryan, Letter To The Editor: “After More Than 15 Years Of Paying Insurance Premiums Out Of Our Own Pockets, Last December My Wife And I Realized We Could No Longer Afford Health Insurance. Thanks To The Affordable Care Act And Montana Health Co-Op, We Now Have An Affordable Insurance Plan.” “After more than 15 years of paying insurance premiums out of our own pockets, last December my wife and I realized we could no longer afford health insurance. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act and Montana Health Co-op, we now have an affordable insurance plan. I urge every working person not covered by employer insurance to explore Healthcare.gov. My experience with the website was bumpy, but with some helpful advice from a navigator at Planned Parenthood, we were able to secure insurance for our family. Our premiums are now affordable. The new policy is even better than the one we had to give up. Please don't let the tea party's scare tactics keep you from exploring or enrolling. My wife and I know how poor insurance or lack of insurance can affect family finances for years. We encourage that every family who works hard to

make ends meet take the time to explore the web site or make a call for help. You may soon sleep better knowing you need not fear obtaining medical care for your family. Thank you, Sens. Max Baucus and Jon Tester, for making health insurance possible for hardworking families. Don Ryan, Great Falls.” [Great Falls Tribune, 1/6/14]

Nevada

1/9/14: Associated Press: “Nevada's Medicaid Enrollments Are Higher Than Expected Under Federal Health Reform. Health And Human Services Director Mike Willden Says The Medicaid Caseload Has Grown By More Than 10,000 From September To December. Figures To Be Presented Thursday To The State's Health Insurance Exchange Board Also Show That 74,000 Have Been Deemed Newly Eligible As Of Jan. 5...”
“Nevada's Medicaid enrollments are higher than expected under federal health reform. Health and Human Services Director Mike Willden says the Medicaid caseload has grown by more than 10,000 from September to December. Figures to be presented Thursday to the state's health insurance exchange board also show that 74,000 have been deemed newly eligible as of Jan. 5, when the state expanded its eligibility to include childless adults. That report adds that the majority of people choosing private insurance through Nevada's online web portal are in southern Nevada, which makes up 68 percent of all policies sold. In contrast, people in rural areas account for just 2 percent.” [Associated Press, 1/9/14]

New Jersey

1/1/14: New York Times: “Ana Yngelmo, A 37-Year-Old Immigration Lawyer In Kearny, N.J., Said She Would Use Her New Insurance To Start Seeing A Primary Care Doctor And To Get Her First Mammogram. Ms. Yngelmo, Who Said She Had Been Uninsured For 16 Months, Chose A Platinum Plan With Generous Coverage And No Deductible.” “Ana Yngelmo, a 37-year-old immigration lawyer in Kearny, N.J., said she would use her new insurance to start seeing a primary care doctor and to get her first mammogram. Ms. Yngelmo, who said she had been uninsured for 16 months, chose a platinum plan with generous coverage and no deductible. She qualified for a tax-credit subsidy that will lower her monthly premium to \$350 — still expensive, she said, but worth it for peace of mind. ‘For me, insurance is about those tragic situations where you need some terrible surgery or get cancer,’ said Ms. Yngelmo, who recently started her own law practice. ‘I just want to make sure that in those situations, I can go to whichever doctor I want and it will be covered.’” [New York Times, 1/1/14]

New Mexico

1/13/14: Albuquerque Business First: “More Than 7,500 New Mexicans Have Selected A Health Insurance Plan On The Federal Insurance Exchange For Individuals, The U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services Said Monday. As Of Dec. 28, 7,688 State Residents Had Selected A Plan On The Exchange.” “More than 7,500 New Mexicans have selected a health insurance plan on the federal insurance exchange for individuals, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said Monday. As of Dec. 28, 7,688 state

residents had selected a plan on the exchange. Of those, 55 percent were women and 18 percent were between the ages of 18 and 34, a key demographic for the exchanges. The exchanges need healthy young people to buy insurance through the exchanges so they can help subsidize care for older and sicker people. Thirty-eight percent of New Mexicans who have signed up for policies were between the ages of 55 and 64, and 60 percent were aged 45 to 64. [Albuquerque Business First, 1/13/14]

1/1/14: Las Cruces Sun-News: “Cristi Moreno Robles Has A Back Injury That Used To Leave Her Without Health Care Coverage Or Paying As Much As \$1,200 Per Month For Insurance. Jan. 1, That Changes... Moreno Robles Will Now Pay \$200 Per Month Under A Plan Offered Through The Federal Exchange.” “Cristi Moreno Robles has a back injury that used to leave her without health care coverage or paying as much as \$1,200 per month for insurance. Jan. 1, that changes. The Affordable Care Act's major benefits take effect Jan. 1, including patient protections and coverage for those who purchased insurance through state and federal exchanges by Dec. 24 -- provided buyers pay their first monthly bill by Jan. 10. Moreno Robles will now pay \$200 per month under a plan offered through the federal exchange. ‘I'm so excited to not have to be a self-pay, stay home sick or fear illness,’ she said.” [Las Cruces Sun-News, 1/1/14]

New York

1/13/14: WGRZ: “About Half Of The New Yorkers Who Enrolled In The State's Health Exchange Were Uninsured At The Time Of Their Application, The Exchange's Executive Director Said Monday. About Half Of The New Yorkers Who Enrolled In The State's Health Exchange Were Uninsured At The Time Of Their Application, The Exchange's Executive Director Said Monday... The State's Insurance Marketplace, Which Launched In October, Has Processed 294,000 Enrollments Through Midnight Sunday, Executive Director Donna Frescatore Told A Panel Of State Senators During A Hearing.” The state's insurance marketplace, which launched in October, has processed 294,000 enrollments through midnight Sunday, executive director Donna Frescatore told a panel of state senators during a hearing. A total of 230,624 people enrolled for individual coverage by Dec. 24, which was the deadline for Jan. 1 coverage. Of those, Frescatore said, about half were not insured at the time of enrollment. ‘New York's health plan marketplace is a leader in the nation, and health insurance through New York State of Health has grown steadily and significantly since first opening Oct. 1,’ Frescatore said.” [WGRZ, 1/13/14]

12/31/13: Newsday: “The New York State Department Of Health Announced That As Of Monday, 241,522 New Yorkers Had Enrolled On The State's Exchange, NY State Of Health, With A 22 Percent Increase From Dec. 23 To Dec. 30.” “People signing up for health insurance spurred a last-minute surge in enrollment figures on the New York and federal exchanges. The New York State Department of Health announced that as of Monday, 241,522 New Yorkers had enrolled on the state's exchange, NY State of Health, with a 22 percent increase from Dec. 23 to Dec. 30. U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Tuesday that as of Dec. 28 more than 2.1 million had enrolled through state-based or federal exchanges for private plans, with more than half on the federal exchange. She said an additional 3.9 million had signed up for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program, although some of those were renewals.” [Newsday, 12/31/13]

North Carolina

1/13/14: WRAL: “Almost 108,000 People In North Carolina Signed Up For Health Coverage Through The Online Marketplace Between October And The End Of December, According To Federal Figures Released Monday. The 107,778 Enrollees Places North Carolina Fifth Nationally For The Number Of People Seeking Health Insurance Under The Affordable Care Act...” “Almost 108,000 people in North Carolina signed up for health coverage through the online marketplace between October and the end of December, according to federal figures released Monday. The 107,778 enrollees places North Carolina fifth nationally for the number of people seeking health insurance under the Affordable Care Act, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said. California led the way, followed by Florida, New York and Texas. California and New York operate their own online exchanges, while North Carolina, Florida and Texas offer health plans through the federal HealthCare.gov site.” [WRAL, 1/13/14]

Ohio

1/7/14: Cleveland Daily Banner: “‘I Think There’s Probably At Least One-Third Of The People On Medicare Have Gotten Money From It,’ [81-Year-Old Dorothy] Quinn Said. ‘That’s What I Can Tell From The People I Know.’ Quinn Is Referring To The Closing Of The ‘Doughnut Hole’ ... ‘Oh, Gosh This Has Helped Me Out,’ She Said As She Showed Documents Showing Where Her Prescriptions Were Paid By The ‘Doughnut Hole’ Portion Of The ACA.” “I’m afraid people are being discouraged by the stories they see,’ said Dorothy Quinn. Quinn, who is a young 81 years old, was upset by a story she had seen on the front page of the Cleveland Daily Banner. ‘I think there’s probably at least one-third of the people on Medicare have gotten money from it,’ Quinn said. ‘That’s what I can tell from the people I know.’ Quinn is referring to the closing of the ‘doughnut hole,’ the coverage gap for prescription drugs meaning there’s a temporary limit on what the drug plan will cover for drugs. The new law includes a one-time \$250 rebate for those Medicare recipients who reached the gap in Part D drug coverage in 2010. According to the White House website, the ACA will take steps every year through 2020 to close the ‘doughnut hole.’ Starting in 2011, anyone who reaches the gap receives a 50 percent discount on brand-name drugs or a 7 percent discount on generic medications. ‘There were some people who got those checks and didn’t know what they were doing,’ Quinn said. ‘I knew someone who wondered why their parents hadn’t gotten theirs. She went back and looked, and the checks were in with a bunch of other papers. ‘Oh, gosh this has helped me out,’ she said as she showed documents showing where her prescriptions were paid by the ‘doughnut hole’ portion of the ACA.” [Cleveland Daily Banner, 1/7/14]

1/1/14: NBC News: “Rita Rizzo And Lou Vincent Of Akron, Ohio, Say They're Making Appointments With New Doctors Now That They Have Affordable Coverage On A Federal Health Exchange. But Now That She And Vincent, 64, Are Covered By A New Caresource Silver-Level Plan Under The Federal Exchange, He’s Insured For The First Time In Years After Being Denied By Dozens Of Private Plans Because He Has High Blood Pressure And Diabetes.” “...for people like the Schulz family of Phoenix, Ariz., Rita Rizzo and Lou Vincent of Akron, Ohio, and Joyce Moore of Zionsville, Pa., [today is] the first test of whether Obamacare will really work. They all say they’re relieved and excited to finally have new access to health care, and they hope that the rocky rollout of the exchanges under the Affordable Care Act will actually give way to the smooth delivery of vital medical services. ‘I’ve been afraid for the last three years to get preventive care, because if they found something, I couldn’t afford to treat it,’ said Rizzo, 59, who runs a management

training business with her husband. 'I haven't had any blood work in three years and my right hip is starting to give out.' Rita Rizzo and Lou Vincent of Akron, Ohio, say they're making appointments with new doctors now that they have affordable coverage on a federal health exchange. But now that she and Vincent, 64, are covered by a new CareSource silver-level plan under the federal exchange, he's insured for the first time in years after being denied by dozens of private plans because he has high blood pressure and diabetes. And Rizzo said they'll pay \$184 a month, with a \$2,000 deductible and a maximum of \$3,400 out of pocket, far less than the \$400 a month and \$6,000 deductible they were paying for her alone with a private plan. 'The coverage is wonderful,' said Rizzo. 'We'll get prescription coverage. Right now, his prescriptions alone are \$170 a month.'" [NBC News, 1/1/14]

12/29/13: CNN: "Bob Weber...Hamilton, Ohio...I Chose A Platinum Plan With A \$1,000 Deductible. The Process Was Painless. I Applied Online And Had No Issues At All. It Was Not Difficult To Navigate Or To Find The Policies That Would Fit." "Name: Bob Weber, 58

Residence: Hamilton, Ohio

Job: Visiting part-time professor

After not having any health insurance for over 16 years, I am pleased at the prospect of starting 2014 with insurance. With my income, I didn't have the ability to pursue buying my own health insurance. Businesses are trying purposely not to have budget lines that have benefit-eligible in it. When you are over 50, you are pretty much up a creek. The Affordable Care Act for me is reasonable enough that with the tax break, the premium ended up being in the range of \$136 a month. I chose a platinum plan with a \$1,000 deductible. The process was painless. I applied online and had no issues at all. It was not difficult to navigate or to find the policies that would fit. I don't know how it's going to be when I start using the insurance. The jury is still out. My first concern was being able to find a doctor that was close. I did find a doctor 10 minutes away. I am diabetic. I've been doing pretty well. But as you age, you start to have more issues that go with it. I have a minor surgery procedure that I've put off for years and testing that I just couldn't afford. What the future holds is the problem. You can't roll the dice with no insurance for as many years as I did it. I know that." [CNN, 12/29/13]

Oregon

1/8/14: The Statesman Journal: "Ismael Perez Guzman, 25, Of Salem, Is One Of The Newly Insured Oregonians. He Qualified For A \$91 Per Month Tax Subsidy Through Cover Oregon, And Pays \$81 Per Month For His Silver-Level Health Plan From Moda Health... 'I'm Pretty Excited, Actually,' He Said." "Ismael Perez Guzman, 25, of Salem, is one of the newly insured Oregonians. He qualified for a \$91 per month tax subsidy through Cover Oregon, and pays \$81 per month for his silver-level health plan from Moda Health. He said the whole process took about a month, and he got help from Cover Oregon's customer service representatives to understand unfamiliar terminology in the plan designs. Perez Guzman, who works for a retirement home that doesn't offer insurance, said he heard negative news and opinions about Cover Oregon, but didn't see the harm in giving it a try anyway. 'I'm pretty excited, actually,' he said." [The Statesman Journal, 1/8/14]

1/8/14: The Statesman Journal: "Another Salem Resident, Mary Gilds, 51, Says She Now Has Insurance For

The First Time In Years After Leaving Her Employment That Offered Health Benefits... With A \$189 Per Month Tax Subsidy From Cover Oregon, She Is Now Able To Afford Private Insurance At \$53 Per Month. Finding A Doctor And Scheduling An Appointment Is On Gilds' To-Do List For This Week.” “Another Salem resident, Mary Gilds, 51, says she now has insurance for the first time in years after leaving her employment that offered health benefits. She now owns a rental property that produces her income, but she hasn't purchased insurance because it was too costly. With a \$189 per month tax subsidy from Cover Oregon, she is now able to afford private insurance at \$53 per month. Finding a doctor and scheduling an appointment is on Gilds' to-do list for this week. ‘Realistically, everybody needs to have insurance in today's world,’ Gilds said. ‘Without it ... one hospital stay can put you under. So I'm an advocate for insurance.’” [The Statesman Journal, 1/8/14]

1/7/14: The Oregonian: “About 170,000 Oregonians Used The State Or Oregon's Health Insurance Exchange To Enroll In Health Insurance Effective Jan. 1, According To Numbers Released Tuesday.” “About 170,000 Oregonians used the state or Oregon's health insurance exchange to enroll in health insurance effective Jan. 1, according to numbers released Tuesday. A joint release from the Oregon Health Authority and Cover Oregon stressed that enrollment proceeded despite problems with the health exchange website that forced consumers to submit paper applications to be processed by an army of temporary hires. ‘More than 55,000 people shopped and purchased a private plan or enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan through Cover Oregon. Of those, about 20,000 people gained private coverage and more than 35,000 joined the Oregon Health Plan. Additionally, more than 114,500 people enrolled directly in the Oregon Health Plan through the Oregon Health Authority.’” [The Oregonian, 1/7/14]

1/7/14: The Statesman Journal: “With Major Parts Of The Affordable Care Act In Effect Since Jan. 1, Almost 70 Percent Of Oregon's Uninsured Are Eligible For Assistance Obtaining Health Insurance, The Kaiser Family Foundation Reported Monday.” “With major parts of the Affordable Care Act in effect since Jan. 1, almost 70 percent of Oregon's uninsured are eligible for assistance obtaining health insurance, the Kaiser Family Foundation reported Monday. Almost half of Oregon's 559,000 nonelderly uninsured population are eligible for Oregon Health Plan. About one-quarter are eligible for tax credits to help pay for premiums for plans found on Cover Oregon, the state health insurance exchange. About 21 percent of the uninsured either earn too much or have an affordable coverage option from an employer, making them ineligible for any assistance under the Affordable Care Act. One out of 10 uninsured Oregonians who are living in the country illegally are not eligible for Medicaid and financial assistance and are not allowed to shop on the government exchanges. This group is likely to remain uninsured, the KFF report reads.” [The Statesman Journal (OR), 1/7/14]

1/2/14: Associated Press: “Mike Estes Of Beaverton, Ore., Finally Received His Insurance Card On Dec. 27 After Applying In Early November. Still, The Family Was Thrilled To Have Insurance Through The Oregon Health Plan, Oregon's Version Of Medicaid, Because Their Previous \$380-A-Month Premium ‘Literally Crushed Our Family's Finances,’ Estes Said.” “Mike Estes of Beaverton, Ore., finally received his insurance card on Dec. 27 after applying in early November. Still, the family was thrilled to have insurance through the Oregon Health Plan, Oregon's version of Medicaid, because their previous \$380-a-month premium ‘literally crushed our family's finances,’ Estes said. Obama administration officials estimate that 2.1 million consumers have enrolled so far through the federal and state-run health insurance exchanges that are a central feature of the federal law.” [Associated Press, 1/2/14]

Pennsylvania

1/5/14: Philadelphia Inquirer: “‘I Can See The Light At The End Of The Tunnel,’ Ken Lyle Said Two Weeks Ago As He Signed Up For A Silver-Tier Plan Through The Independence Blue Cross Express In Haverford. Uninsured For The Last Two Years, Lyle, 41, Of Schwenksville, Could Not Afford Treatment For Injuries He Suffered In A 2011 Car Accident. That Was, Until Jan. 1. ‘Now I Can Get Taken Care Of,’ He Said.” “Three, two, one - happy health insurance. OK, so no one yelled that at the stroke of midnight Wednesday. But if someone had, it would have been understandable. After all, for many of the more than a million Americans who signed up on healthcare.gov by Dec. 24 - including tens of thousands of Pennsylvania and New Jersey residents - the new year heralded health insurance coverage. ‘I can see the light at the end of the tunnel,’ Ken Lyle said two weeks ago as he signed up for a silver-tier plan through the Independence Blue Cross Express in Haverford. Uninsured for the last two years, Lyle, 41, of Schwenksville, could not afford treatment for injuries he suffered in a 2011 car accident. That was, until Jan. 1. ‘Now I can get taken care of,’ he said.” [Philadelphia Inquirer, 1/5/14]

1/4/14: Richard Krepski, Letter To The Editor: “I Am Retired But Do Not Yet Qualify For Medicare. Currently, I Spend About 25 Percent Of My Annual Income On Health Insurance. With My New ‘Silver’ Policy Through The ACA ‘Exchange’ I Will Be Saving \$360 A Month On Health Insurance. Hands Off My Obamacare!” “Politicians invested in the failure of ObamaCare are expressing horror over the cancellation of some existing insurance policies. The reality is that anyone who buys his or her own insurance would be foolish not to explore options under the Affordable Care Act. I am retired but do not yet qualify for Medicare. Currently, I spend about 25 percent of my annual income on health insurance. With my new ‘silver’ policy through the ACA ‘exchange’ I will be saving \$360 a month on health insurance. Hands off my ObamaCare! Richard Krepski Highland Park.” [Pittsburgh Tribune Review, 1/4/14]

1/1/14: NBC News: “‘I Was Expecting It To Be Canceled. The Idea That You Can Keep Your Plan Was Never An Option For Me,’ Said [Joyce] Moore, 58, Who Runs Her Own Retirement And Estate Planning Business. ‘That Was Fine With Me Because My Plan Was Awful.’ ... ‘Under My New Plan, The Premium Is \$100 Less A Month And The Out-Of-Pocket Is \$4,750 Less Per Year.’” “Joyce Moore, a Pennsylvania financial planner, is pleased, too, even though she was among at least 4 million people whose private insurance policies were canceled, sparking criticisms of President Barack Obama’s early promises that people who liked their plans could keep their plans. An estimated 11 million to 19 million people previously got insurance through the private insurance market. That’s dwarfed by the 149 million people who get insurance through an employer and another 97 million who get government coverage through Medicare, Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program or CHIP. ‘I was expecting it to be canceled. The idea that you can keep your plan was never an option for me,’ said Moore, 58, who runs her own retirement and estate planning business. ‘That was fine with me because my plan was awful.’ Under the old plan, Moore paid a \$550 monthly premium and had a limit of \$8,500 a year for out-of-pocket costs — for one person. ‘If you had to have surgery that year, you’d have to have \$10,000 set aside just for medical bills,’ said Moore, who signed up for a silver-level plan with provider Geisinger. ‘Under my new plan, the premium is \$100 less a month and the out-of-pocket is \$4,750 less per year.’” [NBC News, 1/1/14]

Rhode Island

1/13/14: WPRI: "Healthsource RI Enrolled 11,770 Individuals In Private Insurance Plans From Oct. 1 To Jan. 4, And 9,902 Of Them Finished The Process By Paying Their First Premium, Figures Released Monday Show. An Additional 19,941 Individuals Used Healthsource RI To Enroll In Medicaid..." "Rhode Island's new Obamacare insurance marketplace, HealthSource RI, said Monday nearly 10,000 people have enrolled in private plans and paid their first premiums, with the vast majority choosing a federally subsidized plan from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island. HealthSource RI enrolled 11,770 individuals in private insurance plans from Oct. 1 to Jan. 4, and 9,902 of them finished the process by paying their first premium, figures released Monday show. An additional 19,941 individuals used HealthSource RI to enroll in Medicaid, the government health program for lower-income Americans that's being expanded under the new federal health law. Christine Ferguson, HealthSource RI's executive director, called the 9,902 paid private enrollments 'a good, solid beginning' for the new agency, which has had to deal with technical problems at the federal and local levels. She also said she's been surprised by the continued level of interest this month." [WPRI, 1/13/14]

12/31/13: WPRI: "Healthsource RI Enrolled 9,803 Individuals In Private Health Insurance Plans From Oct. 1 To Dec. 28... That's More Than Triple The 2,649 Who Had Enrolled As Of The End Of November And An Increase Of 4,334 Since Dec. 14." "Rhode Island's new Obamacare insurance marketplace, HealthSource RI, says enrollment in private health plans has surged this month ahead of Tuesday's deadline for individuals to sign up if they want to be covered on New Year's Day. HealthSource RI enrolled 9,803 individuals in private health insurance plans from Oct. 1 to Dec. 28, though not all of them have paid their first premiums, according to preliminary figures it released Tuesday. That's more than triple the 2,649 who had enrolled as of the end of November and an increase of 4,334 since Dec. 14." [WPRI, 12/31/13]

Tennessee

1/4/13: Knoxville News-Sentinel: "For Chyna Brackeen, Wednesday Brought A New Year And With It Affordable Health Insurance. After More Than A Dozen Attempts Since It Launched In October, Brackeen Successfully Signed Up For A Health Plan On The Federal Health Insurance Exchange. 'The Program Is Really Designed To Help People Like Me Who Is Self-Employed And Has A Pre-Existing Condition,' Said Brackeen, The Owner Of Attack Monkey Productions." "For Chyna Brackeen, Wednesday brought a new year and with it affordable health insurance. After more than a dozen attempts since it launched in October, Brackeen successfully signed up for a health plan on the federal health insurance exchange. 'The program is really designed to help people like me who is self-employed and has a pre-existing condition,' said Brackeen, the owner of Attack Monkey Productions. 'I'm pretty pleased how it worked out, but it was definitely very frustrating in the beginning. I finally gave up. I tried again when they said the website had been fixed in November and sailed right through.' Brackeen is among more than 2 million who have enrolled in an insurance plan through federal and state exchanges under the Affordable Care Act, a major overhaul of the health care system that began to take effect New Year's Day." [Knoxville News-Sentinel, 1/4/13]

1/2/14: WRCB: "John Harris Counted Down The Days When President Obama's New Health Care Law Went Into Effect. The Father Of 4 From Ooltewah Was Diagnosed With A Rare Genetic Blood Disorder Several Years Back. John Says, He Was Devastated When His Doctor Explained The Details Surrounding His Crippling Condition. More Bad News Followed When Blue Cross Blue Shield Dropped Him A Month Later... John Is Now Grateful He Won't Be Denied Health Care." "January 1, 2014 is a major turning point

for many who were uninsured. John Harris counted down the days when President Obama's new health care law went into effect. The father of 4 from Ooltewah was diagnosed with a rare genetic blood disorder several years back. John says, he was devastated when his doctor explained the details surrounding his crippling condition. More bad news followed when Blue Cross Blue Shield dropped him a month later. He was unable to find another health care provider that would insure him. John is now grateful he won't be denied health care. The Affordable Care Act now makes it illegal for insurance companies to deny people who have preexisting medical conditions, coverage. [WRCB (TN), 1/2/14]

12/28/13: Washington Post: "Paying Toward His Own Insurance, [Alan Munstock] Said, Gives Him 'A Certain Dignity,' A Feeling That He Is Not 'One Of The Takers.' The Next Day, He Called The Doctor's Office. His Appointment For A Physical Is Jan. 2. 'I'm Feeling Surprisingly Moved By All Of This,' Munstock Said. 'This Finally Seems Real. And I'm Thinking That Maybe All The Talk And The Promises And The Messy Politics Can Actually Lead To Something Good After All.'" "This core mission has sometimes been obscured by the political and legal disputes that have dogged and, in important ways, altered the law. Strong research links having health insurance and being healthy. Having a health plan does not guarantee that a good doctor is within reach when a patient needs one. But insurance matters. Dan Munstock knows this. A 62-year-old retiree in Greenville, Tenn., he hasn't had insurance since he left his job as a crisis counselor in Miami six years ago. He lives on Social Security income of less than \$15,000 a year. Although he does not know of any major ailments, he would like a checkup because, he said, 'you can seem fine until the day you drop over with something.' Like thousands of other Americans, Munstock ran into technical problems with the federal Web site before managing to pick a health plan Dec. 1. He qualified for a federal subsidy to help him afford the insurance, so he has to pay just \$87.57 a month toward his premium. After his welcome packet from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee arrived in the mail, Munstock was so eager to finish the process of enrolling and getting an insurance card that he picked up the phone to pay the first premium instead of using the mail. 'It felt really good,' he said. Paying toward his own insurance, he said, gives him 'a certain dignity,' a feeling that he is not 'one of the takers.' The next day, he called the doctor's office. His appointment for a physical is Jan. 2. 'I'm feeling surprisingly moved by all of this,' Munstock said. 'This finally seems real. And I'm thinking that maybe all the talk and the promises and the messy politics can actually lead to something good after all.'" [Washington Post, 12/28/13]

12/28/13: Washington Post: "[Emily] Wright Also Needs Surgery For Endometriosis, A Painful Gynecological Condition That Has Already Required Her To Have Two Operations. Constant Pain Makes It Difficult For Her To Work Delivering Pizzas And Attend East Tennessee State University...Enrolling Through The Federal Exchange, She Qualified For A Federal Subsidy And Picked A Top-Tier Plan That Will Cost Her \$125 A Month....'It Feels Like The Light At The End Of The Long Dark Tunnel.'" "...Emily Wright has been worrying about the mole on her back. The suspicious mole is on a mental list of 'little things' that Wright, 28, of Johnson City, Tenn., said she wants to get checked out. Recurring joint pain in a foot and knee are also on the list. So are her frequently swollen glands. Wright also needs surgery for endometriosis, a painful gynecological condition that has already required her to have two operations. Constant pain makes it difficult for her to work delivering pizzas and attend East Tennessee State University, where she hopes to get a history degree in May. Enrolling through the federal exchange, she qualified for a federal subsidy and picked a top-tier plan that will cost her \$125 a month. The soonest appointment she could get with an obstetrics-gynecology practice, the first step before surgery, is Jan. 17. 'I am excited. I am ready,' she said. 'It feels like the light at the end of the long dark tunnel.'" [Washington Post, 12/28/13]

Texas

1/13/14: San Antonio Business Journal: "More Than 118,000 People In Texas Have Selected A Marketplace Health Insurance Plan Through Dec. 28." "More than 118,000 people in Texas have selected a marketplace health insurance plan through Dec. 28. Only California, New York and Florida have seen greater enrollment in the new plans made available through the Affordable Care Act. Across the U.S., nearly 2.2 million people have selected health plans from state and federal marketplaces from Oct. 1 through Dec. 28. According to a new Health and Human Services report, roughly 1.8 million people enrolled in a plan in December alone." [San Antonio Business Journal, 1/13/14]

1/4/14: Times Record News: "[Julie And Jeff Coley's] Monthly Premium Dropped Almost \$500 To \$349, And Their Annual Deductible Is Now \$1,500. The Self-Employed And Part-Time Worker Said Between The Reduced Premium, Drop In Prescription Drug Prices And Low-To-No Cost Of Preventive Screenings And Diagnostic Tests, She And Her Husband Will Be Able To Save About \$600 A Month By Signing Up For Insurance On The Exchange." "Julie Coley, of Wichita Falls, said that Friday it was a foregone conclusion in March 2010 that she and her husband, Jeff, would sign up for insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. 'We could hardly wait to at least give it a shot,' she said of the new coverage. 'We knew with the premiums we were paying, anything was better than that.' Because of her husband's pre-existing condition of congestive heart failure and her use of statins for elevated cholesterol, she said they were denied health insurance, except through the Texas Risk Pool program. Since the late 2000s, Coley said their policy through the risk pool cost them \$839 per month, and their deductible — which they never reached — was \$7,500. After completing the enrollment process in mid-December — she began the online application Oct. 1 — Coley said she selected the Blue Choice Silver PPO-004 plan offered through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, the only carrier servicing Wichita County. Their monthly premium dropped almost \$500 to \$349, and their annual deductible is now \$1,500. The self-employed and part-time worker said between the reduced premium, drop in prescription drug prices and low-to-no cost of preventive screenings and diagnostic tests, she and her husband will be able to save about \$600 a month by signing up for insurance on the exchange. While she is glad they have a better policy at a lower price, she said she is still skeptical and fearful because it almost seems too good to be true. 'We haven't even test-drove it yet,' she said. 'I don't know how it's going to be.'" [Times Record News (Wichita Falls, TX), 1/4/14]

Utah

1/13/14: Associated Press: "The Federal Government Announced Wednesday That About 18,600 People Had Signed Up For Plans In Utah By Dec. 28. That's More Than 10 Times The Total At The End Of November." "Enrollment in health care plans on the federal government's website spiked in Utah in December as thousands who were previously stuck in the pipeline got signed up. The federal government announced Wednesday that about 18,600 people had signed up for plans in Utah by Dec. 28. That's more than 10 times the total at the end of November. The spike in enrollment occurred across the country as people scrambled to beat enrollment deadlines. Nearly 2.2 million had signed up through Dec. 28, more than six times the November total. The online federal marketplace that went live in October was plagued by glitches, leading to a slow start for enrollment." [Associated Press, 1/13/14]

Virginia

12/30/13: CNN: "ATHENA JONES: People Like Lauren Reisig, A 27-Year-Old Marketing Director From McLean, Virginia Who Suffers From Crohn's Disease. She Enrolled With The Help Of A Government Call Center After Running Into Trouble On The Web Site. Starting January 1st, Her Premium Is Dropping From There Are \$1,300 A Month To \$400.

LAUREN REISIG: It Gives Me The Option To Possibly Finally Move Out Of My Parent's House At Age 27." "ATHENA JONES, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Good morning, Michaela. Health officials say this welcome surge was possible because the federal exchange, healthcare.gov, is now working a lot better after that disastrous rollout in October. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

JONES (voice-over): Healthcare.gov may be finally be hitting its stride. Health officials say more than 1.1 million people enrolled in health plans through the federal exchange between October 1st and December 24th with a nearly a million of those coming this month alone.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It changes my life.

ATHENA JONES: People like Lauren Reisig, a 27-year-old marketing director from McLean, Virginia who suffers from Crohn's disease. She enrolled with the help of a government call center after running into trouble on the web site. Starting January 1st, her premium is dropping from there are \$1,300 a month to \$400.

LAUREN REISIG, ENROLLED IN HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN: It gives me the option to possibly finally move out of my parent's house at age 27." [CNN, 12/30/13]

12/29/13: Roanoke Times: "Next Year, Nathan Auldridge Will Be As Much A Cancer Survivor As He Has Been For The Past Eight Years. There Will Be A Difference, Though, One That He Calls Life-Changing. Because Of His Pre-Existing Condition, Auldridge Has Been Paying \$483 A Month For Health Insurance That Only Starts To Help With His Medical Bills After He Meets A \$5,000 Deductible. Under A Different Plan That Takes Effect On The First Day Of The New Year — And The First Day Of His New Life — Auldridge Will Pay Just \$111 A Month And Have A Deductible Of \$1,750." "Next year, Nathan Auldridge will be as much a cancer survivor as he has been for the past eight years. There will be a difference, though, one that he calls life-changing. Because of his pre-existing condition, Auldridge has been paying \$483 a month for health insurance that only starts to help with his medical bills after he meets a \$5,000 deductible. Under a different plan that takes effect on the first day of the new year — and the first day of his new life — Auldridge will pay just \$111 a month and have a deductible of \$1,750. The reason, the 30-year-old from Salem says, is a provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that prohibits insurance companies from charging more or denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions. 'It has freed me from a weight, a chain, a prison of costs that were astronomical, especially considering my low income level,' said Auldridge, who makes about \$20,000 a year working with people with autism." [Roanoke Times, 12/29/13]

Washington State

1/13/14: Associated Press: "Washington State Signed Up More People For Health Insurance Than All But A Handful Of States During The First Few Months Of Enrollment Under The Health Care Overhaul... More Than 71,000 People Have Signed Up For Private Insurance Through Washington's New Health Care Exchange. Another 72,000 Will Be Enrolled After They Complete Payment On Their Insurance."

"Washington state signed up more people for health insurance than all but a handful of states during the first few months of enrollment under the health care overhaul. According to a new federal report released

Monday, only California, Michigan, North Carolina, New York and Texas have signed up more people up for health insurance since Oct. 1. All of those states have larger populations than Washington. More than 71,000 people have signed up for private insurance through Washington's new health care exchange. Another 72,000 will be enrolled after they complete payment on their insurance. The Washington exchange had a goal of getting 130,000 people into private insurance plans by Jan. 1. The total number of people either buying private insurance or enrolling in free insurance through Medicaid is now more than 248,000. More than 121,000 of those signing up are newly eligible for the expanded Medicaid.” [Associated Press, 1/13/14]

1/8/14: Puget Sound Business Journal: “The Washington State Health Exchange Has Enrolled More Than 248,000 In Health Plans Through Medicaid And Private Insurance Plans. In The Past Three Months, Healthplanfinder Has Enrolled About 71,000 People (About 29 Percent Of The Total) In Commercial Health Insurance Plans, And Another 177,000 In Medicaid Plans.” “The Washington state health exchange has enrolled more than 248,000 in health plans through Medicaid and private insurance plans. In the past three months, Healthplanfinder has enrolled about 71,000 people (about 29 percent of the total) in commercial health insurance plans, and another 177,000 in Medicaid plans. The Washington Health Benefit Exchange missed its goal of enrolling 130,000 people in commercial health plans by the end of 2013, but another 72,000 people have applied for private coverage and have not yet paid. Once those payments are complete, the number of private enrollments will be well above that benchmark. Officials say another 179,000 people have started the application process for Medicaid plans.” [Puget Sound Business Journal, 1/8/14]

Wisconsin

12/31/13: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: “The Federal Health Care Law Has Already Identified Tens Of Thousands Of Wisconsin Residents Eligible For State Badgercare Plus Health Care, With Some Potentially Receiving Coverage As Early As Wednesday As Key Parts Of Obamacare Take Effect...32,000 People [Have Been] Identified So Far As Being Eligible To Receive Badgercare.” “The federal health care law has already identified tens of thousands of Wisconsin residents eligible for state BadgerCare Plus health care, with some potentially receiving coverage as early as Wednesday as key parts of Obamacare take effect. In a letter Monday to federal officials, state Medicaid director Brett Davis said the Wisconsin Department of Health Services wrote last week to these 32,000 people identified so far as being eligible to receive BadgerCare. This first wave of applicants for state coverage — a 4% bump to the BadgerCare program and a sharp increase over referral figures from the end of November — gives a new look at the effects the federal law will have for both the uninsured and taxpayers in the state.” [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/31/13]

From: Daniel, J. Michael </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=daniel, joe m.cfa>
Sent: Fri Jan 17 2014 09:04:12 EST
Harris, Julian </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=harris, julian j.88f>;Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>;Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>;Cobert, Beth </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=cobert, beth f.551>;VanRoekel, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=steven_1_vanroekel>;Reilly, Tom </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=thomasm.reilly54276557>;Schwartz, Ari </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=schwartz, ari m.a8c>;Gillis, Ryan </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=gillis, ryan m.7ce>;Reczek, Jeff </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jeffrey_reczek>
To:
CC: Martin, Kathryn </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kathrynmartin15107475>
Subject: RE: RELEASE: Issa Agrees to Tierney Request to Investigate Criminal Groups Attempting to Hack HealthCare.gov
Attachments: image001.jpg

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

Michael Daniel
Special Assistant to the President
Cybersecurity Coordinator

(b) (6)

From: Harris, Julian
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2014 11:10 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Cobert, Beth; VanRoekel, Steven; Reilly, Tom; Daniel, J. Michael; Schwartz, Ari; Gillis, Ryan; Reczek, Jeff
Cc: Martin, Kathryn
Subject: Fw: RELEASE: Issa Agrees to Tierney Request to Investigate Criminal Groups Attempting to Hack HealthCare.gov

From: Schultz, Eric
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2014 06:03 PM
To: DL-WHO-Oversight Details; DL-WHO-ACA-CORE
Subject: FW: RELEASE: Issa Agrees to Tierney Request to Investigate Criminal Groups Attempting to Hack HealthCare.gov

From: Oversight Committee Democrats Press Office [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2014 5:54 PM
To: Oversight Committee Democrats Press Office
Subject: RELEASE: Issa Agrees to Tierney Request to Investigate Criminal Groups Attempting to Hack HealthCare.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Jennifer Hoffman

January 16, 2014 (b) (6)

Issa Agrees to Tierney Request to Investigate
Criminal Groups Attempting to Hack HealthCare.gov

Washington, D.C. (Jan. 16, 2014)—At a hearing today on the security of the Healthcare.gov website, Rep. John F. Tierney, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on National Security, proposed that the Committee stop spending so much time criticizing federal officials charged with protecting the website—which has not been successfully attacked to date—and instead start investigating the criminal activities of domestic hackers, foreign entities, and others seeking to gain access to the personal information of American consumers.

As one example, Tierney highlighted press reports about organizations developing and promoting a tool called “Destroy Obamacare” that intentionally seeks to stall the website so it cannot function properly. This tool was reportedly developed by right wing groups motivated by political opposition to the Affordable Care Act to block applicants from obtaining health coverage they are entitled to under the law—activities today’s witnesses called “criminal.”

“I have a modest suggestion here,” said Tierney. “Why don’t we try to find out who’s doing that? This is an oversight and investigatory committee after all. I’m talking about people who are trying to get into the system and destroy it. We ought to go after those bad guys on that basis.”

He added, “I would ask that the Committee consider an investigation pursuing those who are making attempts to attack and hack this site whether it is for political animus or any other means... That seems to be the real danger here, and interfering with people’s rights to have healthcare under the plan.”

In response to Tierney’s proposal, Committee Chairman Darrell Issa agreed to investigate these organizations and hold hearings.

“The gentleman absolutely is right. Cybersecurity is part of our core jurisdiction. Mr. Connolly and I also spoke this morning at a cloud computing conference, so that is an area of not only interest but willingness to put staff and dais time into. If I may, Mr. Cummings and I have been discussing—and I’ll be brief—the fact that we need to link in as part of our Committee jurisdiction other areas of best practice flaws within federal government, but also a recognition that those things have to be rippled out to private corporations, the banking community, certainly Target’s been mentioned here, but it wasn’t the only commercial site hacked during this period of time, so I join with the gentleman, and you can count on there being a series of briefings and possible Committee hearings.”

All of the witnesses at today’s hearing confirmed that there have been no successful security attacks against the website to date. A memo issued last week by Oversight Committee Ranking Member Elijah Cummings and Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Henry Waxman confirmed these findings and reported that no individual or group has succeeded to date in hacking or maliciously accessing the personally identifiable information of users.

From: Brundage, Amy </o=cop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=amybrundage30503606>
Sent: Sat Jan 25 2014 12:45:09 EST
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=cop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: Re: NYT: House G.O.P. Leaders Aim to Bridge Party's Divisions to Avoid Debt Limit Face-Off
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (6)

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Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2014 12:43 PM
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Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2014 10:03 AM

To: Palmieri, Jennifer; 'DMCOS (b) (6)' <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)>; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Podesta, John; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Nabors, Robert L.; Carney, Jay; Earnest, Joshua R.

Cc: Pfeiffer, Dan

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Cc: Pfeiffer, Dan; Brundage, Amy

Subject: Fw: NYT: House G.O.P. Leaders Aim to Bridge Party's Divisions to Avoid Debt Limit Face-Off

(b) (5)

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From: Pfeiffer, Dan

Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2014 08:44 AM

To: Holzer, Benjamin; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Press

Subject: Re: NYT: House G.O.P. Leaders Aim to Bridge Party's Divisions to Avoid Debt Limit Face-Off

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By JONATHAN WEISMAN

January 24, 2014

WASHINGTON — Speaker John A. Boehner will seek to emerge from a three-day House Republican retreat next week with a diminished opposition inside his party to avoid a showdown in the 11 legislative days that remain before the federal government exhausts its borrowing authority.

House Republicans will begin their retreat on the Eastern Shore of Maryland on Wednesday, still divided over how to raise the federal debt limit, overhaul immigration laws, challenge President Obama's health care law, and address privacy issues highlighted by National Security Agency surveillance.

But with the passage of a budget in December and a detailed spending bill this month, Mr. Boehner and other Republican leaders have the upper hand in the simmering disputes.

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The speaker's goal, above all, will be to emerge from the Maryland retreat with a legislative path forward that will give Republicans a vision to run on in the midterm elections this year without the public clashes that have damaged the party since it took control of the House in 2011. The focus will be achievable outcomes, not talking points, allies of the speaker said.

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Topping the list is the repeal of one provision in the health law in which the government would step in to pay insurance companies for some of the increased premium costs if insurers end up with too many sick or high-risk customers signed up through the health insurance exchanges. Republicans, led by Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, have denounced that as a brewing bailout, although insurance companies say such "risk corridors" exist to save consumers from the premium spikes Republicans have warned about.

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The other main challenge will be to emerge from the retreat with a consensus on the immigration issues. Republican leaders are leaning toward separate bills on border security, the enforcement of existing laws against the hiring of illegal immigrants, an expanded guest worker program and a path to legal status for at least some of the 11 million immigrants in the country illegally.

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From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=cop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Sat Jan 25 2014 14:14:45 EST
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=cop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
CC:
Subject: FW: NYT: House G.O.P. Leaders Aim to Bridge Party's Divisions to Avoid Debt Limit Face-Off
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Please put in contacts thanks.

From: Brundage, Amy
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2014 12:45 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia
Subject: Re: NYT: House G.O.P. Leaders Aim to Bridge Party's Divisions to Avoid Debt Limit Face-Off

(b) (6)

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Sent: Fri Jan 31 2014 22:31:19 EST
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>;Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
CC:
Subject: Fw: GOP Hypocrisy -- Risk Corridors
Attachments: GOP Hypocrisy -- Risk Corridors.docx

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

From: Beechem, Stephanie
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 07:30 PM
To: DL-WHO-ACA-CORE
Subject: GOP Hypocrisy -- Risk Corridors

Here's some additional info that could be helpful as we continue to push GOP hypocrisy on ACA/Part D risk corridors. Let me know if you have questions or would like me to build out any aspect of this!

--

GOP Hypocrisy – Part D Risk Corridors

Table of Contents

GOP Record. 1

Public Statements. 1

Votes. 3

Heritage. 3

Risk Corridor Context. 5

GOP Record

Public Statements

11/19/03: “Q: Senator, The HMOs Pulled Out Of Medicare+Choice Because They Said Congress Wasn't Paying Them Enough. What's To Say That PPOs Aren't Going To Pull Out Of Medicare Advantage For The Same Reason, And What Does Congress Do About It?

SEN. CHUCK GRASSLEY: Well, Number One, In Order To Prepare For PPOs Kicking In After The Year 2006 And The Regional Plans Kicking In, There's Going To Be An Increase In Reimbursement For HMOs Because Some Of Those May Want To Expand To The Region-Wide, And We Feel That Strengthening Them Now So No More Pull Out, But Also Strengthening Them For The Future, Is A Good Foundation To Build On. And Then We Have The Stabilization Fund, We Have Risk Corridors.” “QUESTION: Senator, the HMOs pulled out of Medicare+Choice because they said Congress wasn't paying them enough. What's to say that PPOs aren't going to pull out of Medicare Advantage for the same reason, and what does Congress do about it?

GRASSLEY: Well, number one, in order to prepare for PPOs kicking in after the year 2006 and the regional plans kicking in, there's going to be an increase in reimbursement for HMOs because some of those may want to expand to the region-wide, and we feel that strengthening them now so no more pull out, but also strengthening them for the future, is a good foundation to build on. And then we have the stabilization fund, we have risk corridors. And there's still a couple other incentives that the secretary can use to get them off in a strong way. But once you're down the road, in answer to your question, there's nothing in the bill that anticipates other than that they're going to be a success.” [Sens. Baucus, Thomas, and Grassley – News Conference, 11/19/03]

9/14/04: CMS Administrator Mark McClellan: “To Encourage The Offering Of Regional MA Plans, [The Medicare Modernization Act] Provided For Risk Sharing For Part A And B Health Benefits To Be In Effect For 2006 And 2007. Risk Corridors Will Allow The Government To Share In Any Unexpected Gains Or Losses That The Plans Incur And Help Plans In The Early Years Of The Regional Plan Program While They Gain Experience Covering The Medicare Population On A Regional Basis.” “MCCLELLAN: To encourage the offering of regional MA plans, [the Medicare Modernization Act] provided for risk sharing for Part A and B health benefits to be in effect for 2006 and 2007. Risk corridors will allow the government to share in any unexpected gains or losses that the plans incur and help plans in the early years of the regional plan program while they gain experience covering the Medicare population on a regional basis. With the risk corridors, a target amount of plan spending is set to equal the total payments to plans from the government and enrollee premiums, minus the plan's administrative costs assumed in its bid. Actual costs at the end of the year are then compared to this target amount. The risk corridors are symmetrical in that the government pays plans if costs are above the target and recoups its share of the savings when costs are below the target. The plan is fully at risk for the first 3 percent of costs above or below a target amount. The plan and the government share 50 percent of costs/savings that are 3 to 8 percent off the target. The government pays/keeps 80 percent of the costs/savings that are more than 8 percent off the target.” [Senate Finance Committee Hearing Testimony, 9/14/04]

9/14/14: CMS Administrator Mark McClellan: “And On Risk Adjustment For The Medicare Advantage Plans, We've Got A Lot Of Good Issues Here. Most Of The Payments That Are Going Into Medicare

Advantage This Year, Because We're Increasing Our Application Of Risk-Adjustment, Is Going To Beneficiaries With Chronic Illnesses... And As We Keep Moving Forward, We're Going To Be Keeping On Increasing The Amount Of Payments That Are Risk-Adjusted.” “MCCLELLAN: But we will be making sure that we're implementing the drug benefit in the way to get the lowest possible drug prices negotiated for beneficiaries, whether they are getting it through a regular drug benefit or, if we need to go there, through a fall-back plan. And on risk adjustment for the Medicare Advantage plans, we've got a lot of good issues here. Most of the payments that are going into Medicare Advantage this year, because we're increasing our application of risk-adjustment, is going to beneficiaries with chronic illnesses. And, as I said, these plans are enabling many beneficiaries to lower their out-of-pocket costs substantially, and that's particularly true for beneficiaries with chronic illnesses. And as we keep moving forward, we're going to be keeping on increasing the amount of payments that are risk-adjusted. So most of the new funding going into Medicare Advantage is going straight to better benefits for people with chronic illnesses and high out-of-pocket costs otherwise. We need to give those beneficiaries that help. We need to get these plans into Montana, and that's what we intend to do with the PPO program for 2006.” [Senate Finance Committee Hearing Testimony, 9/14/04]

11/25/03: Sen. Bill Frist: “As Currently Constructed, The Bill -- Because Of The Demographic Shift, It Simply Could Not Face This Tidal Wave [Of Retiring Baby Boomers], So What We've Done In This Bill Is Inject Elements Of The Marketplace -- Of Competition, Of Purchasing By Plans In Bulk Quantity, Of Engaging In Things Like Risk Sharing In The Competitive Model -- Which We Haven't Talked Very Much About. These Dynamics Of The Marketplace Are What We Believe Is Most Suitable, At The Same Time Guaranteeing Seniors The Benefits That They Have Today And Adding Benefits To It.” “Q To pay for this long-term, the scoring was only over 10 years, 400 billion (dollars), but when the baby boomers start retiring in 10 years, the costs could explode. What --

SEN. FRIST: The hope for the huge demographic shift, the tidal wave that's inevitable, the driving force, really, behind this bill, in that we can have a doubling of the number of seniors and almost half the number of people supporting them, is that this bill, by having a level playing field with appropriate competition in terms of quality and cost, where there's full transparency, that we will be able to sustain this program in a way that is -- which, without question, could not be done without the new bill, without change. As currently constructed, the bill -- because of the demographic shift, it simply could not face this tidal wave, so what we've done in this bill is inject elements of the marketplace -- of competition, of purchasing by plans in bulk quantity, of engaging in things like risk sharing in the competitive model -- which we haven't talked very much about. These dynamics of the marketplace are what we believe is most suitable, at the same time guaranteeing seniors the benefits that they have today and adding benefits to it.” [Press Conference on Medicare Legislation, 11/25/03]

10/23/03: Sen. Jon Kyl: “Because We Are Not Sure That The Private Sector Will Get Enough Money In The Government Reimbursements To The Plan... We'll Need To Create Some Risk Corridors. We Need To Create A Stabilization Fund. In Other Words, Instead Of Just Letting Them Set Their Own Prices Since We May Not Pay Them Enough, Based Upon How We're Going To Regulate This, We're Going To Compensate For That By Setting Up Some Other Funds To Help Pay Them Just In Case.” “Because we are not sure that the private sector will get enough money in the government reimbursements to the plan, you know the government is either going to pay under traditional Medicare or it's going to pay a certain amount to the private insurers to take care of seniors. We figured out that this might not be enough under this formula that people have been talking about, so we'll need to create some risk corridors. We need to create a stabilization fund. In other words, instead of just letting them set their own prices since we may not pay them enough, based upon how we're going to regulate this, we're going to compensate for that by setting up some other funds to help pay them just in case. It would be easier just to do it right in the first place, but that's an

example of the kind of thing that people have talked about doing.” [Heritage Foundation Lecture, 10/23/03]

Votes

11/25/03: H.R. 1, The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, And Modernization Act Of 2003, Passed 54-44; 42 Republicans Voted Yea, Including Sens. McConnell, Cornyn, Grassley, Alexander And Hatch. [GovTrack.us, Senate Vote #459, 11/25/03]

11/22/03: H.R. 1, The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, And Modernization Act Of 2003, Passed 220-215; 204 Republicans Voted Yea, Including Reps. Boehner, Ryan, Cantor, Issa, And Upton. [GovTrack.us, House Vote #669, 11/22/03]

Heritage

7/28/08: Edmund F. Haislmaier, Heritage Foundation: “A Risk-Transfer Pool Is A Mechanism To Spread The Costs Of The Relatively Few Individuals With Very Expensive Medical Conditions Evenly Among All Insurers And Policyholders In A Given Market. Therefore, No Single Insurer Is Disadvantaged If It Happens To Attract More High-Cost Subscribers Than Its Competitors.” “A risk-transfer pool is a mechanism to spread the costs of the relatively few individuals with very expensive medical conditions evenly among all insurers and policyholders in a given market. Therefore, no single insurer is disadvantaged if it happens to attract more high-cost subscribers than its competitors. Because the funding adjustments in a risk-transfer pool system are based on actual claims as opposed to projections of future costs, they are less complicated to design and administer than systems for prospectively risk adjusting insurer payments.” [Heritage Foundation, 7/28/08]

7/28/08: Edmund F. Haislmaier, Heritage Foundation: “The Scope Of The Risk-Transfer Pool Should Be As Wide As Possible.” “State officials should follow three major principles when designing a statewide risk-transfer pool: The scope of the risk-transfer pool should be as wide as possible. Ideally, participation in the pool should apply to all major medical health insurance policies sold in the state, and all insurers selling major medical coverage in the state should be required to participate.” [Heritage Foundation, 7/28/08]

7/28/08: Edmund F. Haislmaier, Heritage Foundation: “... To Work Effectively, A Consumer-Choice Health Insurance Market Needs To Ensure That The Payments To Health Plans Are Commensurate With The Varying Costs Of Care Among Individual Enrollees. This Will Give Plans The Necessary Incentives To Provide Both The Healthy And The Sick With The Best Value Relative To Their Individual Needs And Health Status.” “From the patient perspective, a consumer-choice health insurance system is desirable

because it forces insurers and providers to compete for their business by offering the best results or value for consumers' dollars. However, to work effectively, a consumer-choice health insurance market needs to ensure that the payments to health plans are commensurate with the varying costs of care among individual enrollees. This will give plans the necessary incentives to provide both the healthy and the sick with the best value relative to their individual needs and health status. The most basic form of health insurance risk adjustment is to permit some variation in premiums according to one or more associated factors, such as age or geography. For example, charging age-rated premiums for health insurance coverage offers a kind of rough equity as it adjusts somewhat for differences in the likely consumption of medical care. In general, older individuals tend to consume more medical care than younger individuals consume. Older workers also tend to earn more than younger workers earn and thus can afford to pay somewhat higher health insurance premiums. However, within any age group, income bracket, or geographic area, some individuals will have better or worse health than the norm. Thus, policymakers should look to additional, more formal risk-adjustment mechanisms as a way to ensure that health plans have incentives to accept rather than avoid higher-risk individuals and to optimize the care provided to those individuals in terms of cost and results.” [Heritage Foundation, 7/28/08]

7/28/08: Edmund F. Haislmaier, Heritage Foundation: “Rather Than Attempting To Limit Risk Selection By Imposing Standardized Benefit Packages Or Restricting Consumer Coverage Choices, Risk-Adjustment Mechanisms Accept The Reality Of Selection Effects In The Insurance Market And Manage Them In Ways That Accommodate The Needs Of Both Insurers And Consumers. Addressing The Reality Of Risk Segmentation When Designing Competitive Health Insurance Markets Is Akin To Addressing The Reality Of Gravity When Designing Airplanes. Like Gravity, Risk Segmentation Is A Natural Phenomenon That The Designer Must Respect And Accommodate.” “The purpose of risk adjustment is to correct for any natural tendencies toward risk segmentation that produce a skewed distribution of risks among competing insurers in a market while still preserving the benefits of insurer innovation in coverage design and consumer choice of coverage. Rather than attempting to limit risk selection by imposing standardized benefit packages or restricting consumer coverage choices, risk-adjustment mechanisms accept the reality of selection effects in the insurance market and manage them in ways that accommodate the needs of both insurers and consumers. Addressing the reality of risk segmentation when designing competitive health insurance markets is akin to addressing the reality of gravity when designing airplanes. Like gravity, risk segmentation is a natural phenomenon that the designer must respect and accommodate. However, in neither instance does the natural phenomenon pose an inherently insurmountable barrier to designers' achievement of their intended objectives.” [Heritage Foundation, 7/28/08]

Risk Corridor Context

1/28/14: Jack Hoadley, Georgetown University: “Senator Marco Rubio Has Introduced A Bill To Repeal The Risk Corridors That Offer Protections For Both Insurers And Consumers Who Participate In The New Insurance Marketplaces... Ironically, One Of The Models For These Risk Corridors Is The Medicare Part D Drug Benefit That Was Enacted When Republicans Controlled Both Chambers Of Congress And The White House.” “Senator Marco Rubio has introduced a bill to repeal the risk corridors that offer protections for both insurers and consumers who participate in the new insurance Marketplaces, while referring to these corridors as a bailout for the insurance industry. Ironically, one of the models for these risk corridors is the Medicare Part D drug benefit that was enacted when Republicans controlled both chambers of Congress and the White House.” [Georgetown University Health Policy Institute, 1/28/14]

§ 1/28/14: Jack Hoadley, Georgetown University: “In Contrast To The View That Risk Corridors Are A Means Of Bailing Out Plans, The Experience In Part D Suggests That They Have Actually Protected The Taxpayer. In Most Years, Plans Have Made Payments Back To The Government As A Result Of Greater Profits Than Expected From Their Bids, As Opposed To Receiving Payments From The Government. In Effect, The Risk Corridors Are Protecting The Government From ‘Windfall Profits’ Of Insurers As Opposed To Protecting Insurers Against Pricing Too Low.” “These measures have been in use for Part D for nine years. So how has this system worked in that program? The best measure of their success is that plan participation is still robust in the program’s ninth year, and the program is popular with both plans and enrollees. Although the science of risk adjustment is imperfect, the risk adjusters have been refined since the program’s start. Among the standalone Part D plans in 2011, risk-adjustment scores ranged from 72 percent to 146 percent of the average score. The plans at the high end would either have suffered significant losses or been forced to charge much higher premiums in the absence of risk adjustment. The opposite would have been true on the low end. Reinsurance payments for these same plans averaged about \$50 per member per month; as such, they help discourage avoidance of enrollees with unusually high drug costs. In contrast to the view that risk corridors are a means of bailing out plans, the experience in Part D suggests that they have actually protected the taxpayer. In most years, plans have made payments back to the government as a result of greater profits than expected from their bids, as opposed to receiving payments from the government. In effect, the risk corridors are protecting the government from ‘windfall profits’ of insurers as opposed to protecting insurers against pricing too low.” [Georgetown University Health Policy Institute, 1/28/14]

1/25/14: Washington Post: “Risk Corridors Are Also A Feature Of Medicare Part D And As Such Represent A Common Risk- Management Technique When It Comes To Private Insurance. As Yevgeniy Feyman Argues, ‘Any Conservative Reform Plan For Universal Coverage Will Have To Use Similar Methods Of Risk Adjustment.’” “So should the Affordable Care Act’s risk corridors be considered ‘bailouts’? It’s telling that the risk corridors aren’t going to be done after the fact, with the government waiting until losses happen to decide whether and how much it’s going to react. Indeed the risk corridors expire after a few years. So in that sense, these policies aren’t arbitrary and after the fact in the same way that the financial market bailouts of 2008 were. Risk corridors are also a feature of Medicare Part D and as such represent a common risk-management technique when it comes to private insurance. As Yevgeniy Feyman argues, ‘any conservative reform plan for universal coverage will have to use similar methods of risk adjustment.’” [Washington Post, 1/25/14]

1/22/14: Washington Post (Editorial): “Smart Contingency Planning Is Not A Bailout. Giving The Most Ambitious Reform Of The Health-Care System In Decades More Than Several Months To Take Root Is Not A Bailout. If The Critics Want To Help, They Should Encourage More People To Enroll — For Their Health, And For The Health Of The Health-Care System.” “Critics, though, are describing the possibility that these stabilizers will have to kick in as a bailout. Some have even called to repeal them. The argument has some least-common-denominator political appeal, but it amounts to little more than name-calling. Spreading risk is insurance, not a bailout. Smart contingency planning is not a bailout. Giving the most ambitious reform of the health-care system in decades more than several months to take root is not a bailout. If the critics want to help, they should encourage more people to enroll — for their health, and for the health of the health-care system.” [Washington Post, 1/22/14]

1/15/14: Jonathan Cohn, The New Republic: “Reinsurance And Risk Corridors Are Already A Feature Of Some Government Programs, Most Prominent Among Them Medicare Part D... What’s That? You Haven’t Heard Republicans Attacking Medicare Part D An Insurer Bailout? Maybe That’s Because Of One Other, Obvious Difference Between Part D And The Affordable Care Act. Only One Of Them Was Signed Into Law By A Guy Named Barack Obama.” “Conservatives used to say Obamacare is socialized medicine. Now they

say it is a ‘government bailout’ of insurers. The new claim is just as misleading and cynical as the old one... Conservatives might object to reinsurance and risk corridors on principle, regardless of amounts involved. That would be a perfectly legitimate argument, except for one thing: Reinsurance and risk corridors are already a feature of some government programs, most prominent among them Medicare Part D. The reinsurance and risk corridors in Obamacare and Medicare Part D are remarkably similar, except that Obamacare’s are temporary and Medicare Part D’s are permanent—which is to say, they are still part of the program. What’s that? You haven’t heard Republicans attacking Medicare Part D an insurer bailout? Maybe that’s because of one other, obvious difference between Part D and the Affordable Care Act. Only one of them was signed into law by a guy named Barack Obama.” [The New Republic, 1/15/14]

11/19/13: Modern Healthcare: “Timothy Jost, A Law Professor At Washington And Lee University School Of Law And A Healthcare Expert... Points Out That A Similar [Risk Corridor] Program Was Put In Place When The Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program Was Established In 2006 By A Republican President And Republican-Controlled Congress. ‘It Was Done For Exactly The Same Reason,’ Jost Said. ‘It Wasn’t Clear How This Was Going To Work And How Big A Risk The Insurers Were Taking On. So (The Government) Said We Will Backstop You.’” “Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) has proposed to repeal the healthcare reform law’s ‘risk corridor’ designed to provide financial protection to health insurers offering plans on the state and federal healthcare exchanges... Timothy Jost, a law professor at Washington and Lee University School of Law and a healthcare expert, questions whether it would be constitutional to repeal the risk corridor program after enticing insurers into the marketplace with the promise of that protection. ‘It’s a federal law on which the insurers relied in entering into contracts with the federal government to offer qualified health plans,’ he said. ‘If the federal government reneges on that agreement, I think that raises some constitutional questions.’ Jost further points out that a similar program was put in place when the Medicare Part D prescription drug program was established in 2006 by a Republican president and Republican-controlled Congress. ‘It was done for exactly the same reason,’ Jost said. ‘It wasn’t clear how this was going to work and how big a risk the insurers were taking on. So (the government) said we will backstop you.’” [Modern Healthcare, 11/19/13]

2013: Milliman: “A Form Of Reinsurance For High [Cost] Claimants Is Also Part Of The Medicare Part D Program, And Was Probably Included For The Same Reason: To Make Insurers Less Nervous About Jumping Into An Untested Market. While Reinsurance Is Currently Set To Be Phased Out Of Commercial Markets Over The Course Of Three Years, It Is A Permanent Feature (Barring Statutory Changes) Of Part D.” “Second in the government’s lineup of risk mitigation strategies [for the ACA] is reinsurance. Under this program, the federal government will reimburse individual market issuers for a portion of the claims incurred by high cost individuals. A form of reinsurance for high claimants is also part of the Medicare Part D program, and was probably included for the same reason: to make insurers less nervous about jumping into an untested market. While reinsurance is currently set to be phased out of commercial markets over the course of three years, it is a permanent feature (barring statutory changes) of Part D.” [Milliman, 2013]

2013: Milliman: “A Risk Corridor Protects Plans Against Mispricing By Sharing Profits And Losses With The Federal Government... This Concept Is Set To Apply To QHPs In The Individual Market For Three Years Starting In 2014. By Contrast, In Part D This Is Again A Permanent Feature...” “Third, the ACA implements another tool borrowed from Medicare Part D: the risk corridor. A risk corridor protects plans against mispricing by sharing profits and losses with the federal government... This concept is set to apply to QHPs in the individual market for three years starting in 2014. By contrast, in Part D this is again a permanent feature, although CMS has the authority to increase the amount of risk borne by Part D insurers over time, which would amount to a phase-out of the risk corridors.” [Milliman, 2013]

8/2006: Avalere Health: “To Address Criticisms That PDPs [Stand-Alone Drug Plans] Would Never Materialize, [Part D] Legislation Included A Complicated System Of Subsidies To PDPs, Including Federal

Reinsurance Payments To PDPs For Beneficiaries Who Reach High Out-Of-Pocket Expense Levels. The Legislation Also Included Risk-Corridor Payments Which Allow PDP Sponsors To Share Market Risks With The Medicare Program, To Encourage Market Development And To Balance The Tension Between Market Efficiency And Government Stability.” “To address criticisms that PDPs [stand-alone drug plans] would never materialize, the legislation included a complicated system of subsidies to PDPs, including federal reinsurance payments to PDPs for beneficiaries who reach high out-of-pocket expense levels. The legislation also included risk-corridor payments which allow PDP sponsors to share market risks with the Medicare program, to encourage market development and to balance the tension between market efficiency and government stability. Congress believed a market would develop if plans were required to bear only minimal risk during the initial years of the benefit, reasoning that over time, plans would be willing to bear more risk. Congress also authorized CMS to contract with non-risk based PBMs [pharmacy benefit managers] to serve as a ‘fallback’ in any part of the country that did not attract at least two private plans.” [Avalere Helath, 8/2006]

8/2006: Avalere Health: “Congress Believed A Market Would Develop If Plans Were Required To Bear Only Minimal Risk During The Initial Years Of The Benefit, Reasoning That Over Time, Plans Would Be Willing To Bear More Risk. Congress Also Authorized CMS To Contract With Non-Risk Based Pbms To Serve As A ‘Fallback’ In Any Part Of The Country That Did Not Attract At Least Two Private Plans.” “To address criticisms that PDPs [stand-alone drug plans] would never materialize, the legislation included a complicated system of subsidies to PDPs, including federal reinsurance payments to PDPs for beneficiaries who reach high out-of-pocket expense levels. The legislation also included risk-corridor payments which allow PDP sponsors to share market risks with the Medicare program, to encourage market development and to balance the tension between market efficiency and government stability. Congress believed a market would develop if plans were required to bear only minimal risk during the initial years of the benefit, reasoning that over time, plans would be willing to bear more risk. Congress also authorized CMS to contract with non-risk based PBMs to serve as a ‘fallback’ in any part of the country that did not attract at least two private plans.” [Avalere Helath, 8/2006]

From: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
Sent: Sun Feb 02 2014 23:57:42 EST
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC: Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>; Carney, Matt </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=carney, matthew b.936>
Subject: Hill This Week
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

HOUSE

On Monday, the House will meet at 2:00 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. The House will be in session Monday through Thursday, and not in session on Friday.

The Rules Committee will meet on Monday to consider a rule for H.R. 3590 – the Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act. The SAP is currently with WHLA and COS for final review. There is no need to raise this at the 8AM. The bill is the compilation of a number of bills that support recreational hunting and fishing. The SAP states titles of the bill that the Administration supports and those we oppose, and it expresses the Administration desire to work with Congress to enact sportsmen and recreation legislation that addresses the concerns raised with certain provisions of H.R. 3590. (SAP below)

The Rules Committee will meet on Tuesday to consider a rule for H.R. 3964 - Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act, and H.R. 2954 - The Public Access and Lands Improvement Act. Simas raised concerns with the SAP for H.R. 3964 during WW clearance. He wanted to make clear that while the Administration opposes the bill that we support efforts to assist CA with the drought. Katie recommend that we mention legislation being drafted by Senator Feinstein and Rep. Costa in the SAP. This will be problematic if the Feinstein-Costa bill is not introduced prior to when the WW wants to issue the SAP. I’ll raise tomorrow during the WHLA meeting.

SENATE

The Senate will convene at 2:00 pm and resume consideration of the Farm Bill conference report, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report. The Senate is expected to vote on final passage on the conference report on Tuesday, February 4, 2014.

Hearings of Interest

On Tuesday, the Senate Budget Committee hearing on the "2014 Outlook: Moving From Constant Crises to Broad-Based Growth."

On Wednesday, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing on "ObamaCare: Why the Need for an Insurance Company Bailout?" and the House Budget Committee hearing on "Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) Budget and Economic Outlook."

On Thursday, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will continue markup of the "Postal Reform Act of 2013."

From: Harris, Julian </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=harris, julian j.88f>
Sent: Tue Feb 04 2014 20:06:28 EST
To: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>;Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>;Furman, Jason L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=furman, jason l.277>;Fiedler, Matt </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=fiedler, matthew a.7df>
CC: Rzeczkowski, Kristin </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=rzeczkowski, kristin c.def>
Subject: RE: ThinkProgress: Obamacare Finally Gives Workers The Freedom Conservatives Demanded
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

These quotes on job lock are fantastic.

-----Original Message-----

From: Lee, Jesse C.
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 7:39 PM
To: DL-WHO-Healthcare; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Press
Subject: ThinkProgress: Obamacare Finally Gives Workers The Freedom Conservatives Demanded

<http://thinkprogress.org/health/2014/02/04/3249671/obamacare-job-lock/>

Obamacare Finally Gives Workers The Freedom Conservatives Demanded BY IGOR VOLSKYON
FEBRUARY 4, 2014 AT 7:09

On Tuesday, the Congressional Budget Office projected that The Affordable Care Act will reduce the number of full-time workers by 2.3 million in 2021, leading critics to seize on the claim as evidence that the health care law is undermining job growth.

But that's not what the CBO actually said. In fact, CBO economists write that "[t]he estimated reduction [in labor] stems almost entirely from a net decline in the amount of labor that workers choose to supply, rather than from a net drop in businesses' demand for labor." Americans won't be losing their jobs, but people who are only working to maintain access to their employer sponsored health insurance plans will be able to leave the workforce or work fewer hours because they can obtain coverage elsewhere. That's a goal that prominent Republicans, conservative think tanks and policy analysts have supported for years:

– "A lot of people change their jobs. So the tax benefit should change and go with them, and not be attached to their jobs. We want to address job lock. So, the key question that ought to be addressed in any health care reform legislation, is are we going to continue job lock, or are we going to allow individuals more choice, and portability to fit the 21st century workforce?" [Paul Ryan, 5/20/2009]

– "Today, leaving a job or changing jobs means leaving behind the health insurance provided at the place of work. Individuals who wish to take a better job, change careers, or leave the workforce to raise a family or to retire early take substantial risks. [...] Under the McCain plan, which links tax breaks directly to individuals instead of to their place of work, individuals would no longer feel obligated to stay with their employers simply because they need to keep their employer-based health insurance. [Heritage Foundation, 10/15/2008]

- “Of course there are a number of things that I like in health care reform that I’m going to put in place. . . . I also want individuals to be able to buy insurance, health insurance, on their own as opposed to only being able to get it on a tax advantage basis through their company.” [Mitt Romney, 9/9/2012]
- “[T]he employer-based system leads to ‘job lock,’ whereby people are afraid to leave their jobs if they fall ill on the job, because switching plans could mean higher premiums or denial of coverage.” [Avik Roy, former health care adviser to Mitt Romney, 2/7/2012]

In other words, ensuring that an older person who stay in a job for its health care coverage can retire sooner or that a mother can leave her job to take care of a sick child, or an entrepreneur can can quit secure employment and start a new business have long been bipartisan goals. Democrats have sought to give Americans more options though the health care law’s exchanges and Medicaid expansion while Republican health care proposals focus on ending the favorable tax treatment of employer-sponsored health care and providing individuals with tax credits to buy their own health insurance on the individual market, across state lines.

Academic research has quantified the cost of keeping health care coverage connected to the workplace. In 2008, researchers at Harvard estimated that there are “11 million people who would like to change jobs but are locked into their current job simply to keep their insurance,” while other studies have found that “job-to-job mobility is estimated to increase by as much as 25 percent when alternative group coverage is available.”

As Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) explained in 2008, while rolling out the health care proposal that animated his presidential campaign, “‘job lock’ reduces opportunities for American workers because they often pass up new jobs for fear of losing their health care coverage.” The health care law will start to change that predicament.

From: Harris, Julian </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=harris, julian j.88f>
Sent: Wed Feb 05 2014 15:35:31 EST
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>;Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
CC: Reilly, Tom </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=thomasm.reilly54276557>;Martin, Kathryn </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kathrynmartin15107475>;Barnett, Patti </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=patti_a_barnett>;Wright, Sophia M. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sophiam.wright46321605>;Garufi, Marc </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=marcgarufi42823431>;Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>;Rzeczkowski, Kristin </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=rzeczkowski, kristin c.def>
Subject: Must read: CBO on job lock
Attachments: image003.jpg;image004.png;image005.jpg

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

From: Lee, Jesse C.
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 2:41 PM
To: Allen, Jessica; DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: Tweets - CBO

Brian Beutler@brianbeutler1 min

Well, I guess the CBO director will have to be thrown back under the bus now. pic.twitter.com/CN0x1RZcrU

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 1:28 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: Tweets - CBO

Danny Vinik @DannyVinik 29s

Well that's not true either MT @AaronBlakeWP: New line from Dems on CBO: It "will enable more than 2 million workers to escape 'job-lock'"

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 12:40 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: Tweets - CBO

Jesse Lee@jesseclee44now

GOP health care plan: "repeal ACA & inflict the horrible individual market on the middle class again so they'll have an incentive to work!"

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 12:38 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: Tweets - CBO

Sam Stein @samsteinhp 24s

Obama White House in 2014 or American Enterprise Institute in 2006? pic.twitter.com/v5NqUbFv4p

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 12:21 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: Tweets - CBO

Danny Vinik @DannyVinik 31s

Elmendorf reiterates that immigration reform would reduce budget deficit and increase the size of the economy

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 12:12 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: Tweets - CBO

Tom Curry @NBC_Tom_Curry 14s

At House Budget hearing, Rep. Jim McDermott, D- Wash., denounced "paranoid speculation" about ACA's effect on employment & hours worked

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:42 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: Tweets - CBO

Sam Stein @samsteinhp 45s

Studies show people who just hit Medicare r more likely to start their own biz than those just under eligibility
<http://bit.ly/1cUVydE>

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 10:44 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: Tweet - CBO Director

H/t John.

2/5/14, 10:34 AM

Democrat Chris Van Hollen pushing back by noting that CBO also found GOP efforts to repeal health care

law will reduce demand for jobs

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 10:43 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: Tweet - CBO Director

Suzy Khimm @SuzyKhimmm 2m

Paul Ryan, for instance, raises a legit Q--Will disincentive to work restrict lower-class's economic mobility?

Suzy Khimm @SuzyKhimmm 1m

Counterpoint would be that having greater health-insurance security could give lower-income Americans more economic/job options.

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 10:39 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: Tweet - CBO Director

Suzy Khimm @SuzyKhimmm 1m

Dishonest and misleading CBO attacks have obscured and crowded out the real labor market/econ concerns the report raises.

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 10:33 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: Tweet - CBO Director

Jesse Lee @jesseeclee44 23s

CBO Director Elmendorf re-confirms that ACA reduces deficit & is boosting demand for labor short term, both of which will boost economy.

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 10:31 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: Tweet - CBO Director

Brendan Buck @BrendanBuck 18s

Write that down RT @ChadPergram: CBO's Elmendorf tells House Budget Cmte that Obamacare "creates a disincentive for people to work"

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 10:29 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: RE: Tweet - CBO Director

Rory Cooper @rorycooper 40s

--> RT @ChadPergram: CBO's Elmendorf tells House Budget Cmte that Obamacare "creates a disincentive for people to work"

Jake Sherman @JakeSherman 1m

RT @ChadPergram: CBO's Elmendorf tells House Budget Cmte that Obamacare "creates a disincentive for people to work"

Jamie Dupree @jamiedupree 51s

CBO chief Doug Elmendorf on Obama health law subsidies: "The Act creates a disincentive for people to work"

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 10:23 AM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial; DL-WHO-Healthcare
Subject: Tweet - CBO Director

Jamie Dupree @jamiedupree 1m

CBO Director tells House panel that subsidies for the Obama health law "creates a disincentive for people to work"

From: Cobert, Beth </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=cobert, beth f.551>
Sent: Tue Feb 11 2014 16:32:30 EST
To: Brown, Dustin S. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dustins.brown77647441>;Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>;Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
Timberlake, Courtney B. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=courtneyb.timberlake45577210>;Vorhaus, Dave </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=davida.vorhaus13178357>;Reilly, Sean </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sean_c_reilly>;Hornung, Daniel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=hornung, daniel065>;Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>;Rowe, David </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=davidrowe13616553>;Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya c.5dc>;Crilley, Joe </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=josephcrilley11427377>;O'Connor, Devin </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=devin_1_oconnor>;English, Leandra </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=english, leandra43b>;Reed, Julia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=reed, julia g.783>;Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>
CC:
Subject: RE: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget
Attachments:
Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Thanks all for quickly pulling this together and the thoughtful comments below. We look forward to learning more as the detailed info from the agencies is complete

From: Brown, Dustin S.
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 3:26 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Cobert, Beth; Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Shlossman, Amy; Rowe, David; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Crilley, Joe; O'Connor, Devin; English, Leandra; Reed, Julia; Posner, Steven
Subject: RE: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

Sylvia, Brian, and Beth -

(b) (5)



(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)



Thanks to Sean and BRD for pulling all of this together.

Dustin

From: Cobert, Beth
Sent: Sunday, February 02, 2014 10:05 AM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Rowe, David; Brown, Dustin S.
Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Shlossman, Amy
Subject: RE: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

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The federal outsourcing boom and why it's failing Americans

By Steven Pearlstein,

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Lots of Americans were disturbed to learn from Edward Snowden that the government is keeping track of their every phone call and text message. But they might have also wondered why a 30-year-old government contractor in Honolulu, with security clearance that was approved by another private contractor, had routine access to some of the government's most sensitive secrets. Even worse, two years after Pfc. Bradley Manning

did the same thing, Snowden managed to download millions of pages of documents from a computer system designed and managed by private contractors without setting off a single alarm. The whole affair was an embarrassment to Washington's government contracting sector.

So, too, the fiasco with HealthCare.gov, which despite the bleating of Republicans has almost nothing to do with the wisdom of the new health-care law and everything to do with the way the government and its outside contractors set about implementing it. While several of the contractors failed to perform as promised, in hindsight it appears the government also made a crucial mistake in deciding to rely on the IT staff at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to manage the contractors and oversee the final integration of the new system. Free-market ideologues will reflexively see in this failure further evidence of the inherent inferiority of public-sector workers. In truth, it is evidence of how outdated civil service rules and ill-conceived caps on the size and pay of the federal workforce have eroded the government's ability to perform even essential government tasks.

The federal government has long relied on outside contractors to provide it with weapons systems and other goods. But starting with the Reagan administration, there has been a determined shift of work from government employees to private contractors, on the theory that they could do it better and cheaper. For a time, that was true. Much of the early outsourcing was for lower-skilled clerical and maintenance functions for which government workers received pay and benefits well above the market rate. Or it was for the design and operation of new computer systems that automated the work of government and had never existed before.

But in recent years, much of the outsourcing has been driven by politics and ideology.

To demonstrate their commitment to “shrinking” the size of the federal government, both Republican and Democratic politicians set about shrinking the federal workforce and then capping it at 2 million workers, despite continued growth in the economy, the size of the federal budget and demand for government services.

“This obsession with small government is a sham,” declares Daniel Gordon, who headed the Office of Procurement Policy in the first Obama term before joining the law faculty at George Washington University.

Not only are there caps on the number of government workers, but there are also caps on government pay that ignore the realities of the marketplace — and that, too, has driven the outsourcing trend. It may be politically popular in a country where median household income is \$51,000 to require that no federal employee should be paid more than the \$174,000 earned by a member of Congress, but it makes it pretty hard for the government to recruit and retain the lawyers and economists and biochemists and software engineers it needs when they can make double and triple that in the private sector. So it's no surprise that the only way that government managers can fulfill their mission is to outsource its brains, shifting high-level work to private firms that have the flexibility to pay their workers market rates.

In the end, taxpayers are not only indirectly paying the higher salaries they refuse to pay directly to government employees — they also wind up paying for the contractors' profit and the costs of winning and managing contracts.

Government employees, however, must also shoulder some of the blame for the outsourcing boom.

If you give federal managers the choice of filling vacancies from the candidates who emerge from the government's arcane recruitment and promotion system (and who, once chosen, will be virtually impossible to fire if they don't work out), or you gave them the choice of handpicking whomever they want and hiring them under an open-ended "umbrella" contract with a private firm (with the power to fire them at a moment's notice), nine in 10 would hire the contractor. And that's exactly why you now find so many contract employees in government offices working side by side with government employees.

The system the government uses to recruit, hire, evaluate and incentivize its employees is seriously broken. And yet every attempt to reform it is bitterly opposed by federal employee unions, who take it as their mission to prevent good employees from being rewarded and bad employees from being fired. The result is that the unions are protecting ever-fewer employees with ever-lower pay.

Those open-ended IDIQ (for "indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity") contracts, by the way, now account for anywhere between one quarter and one half of all federal service contracting, according to Gordon. Originally, they were designed to allow agencies buy smaller quantity of standardized supplies, or respond to the occasional surge in workload, without having to go through the long and cumbersome process of letting a new contract. But now they are routinely used by agencies for orders worth hundreds of millions of dollars that involve no competition, little transparency and dubious savings.

These clever work-arounds to the government's personnel and contracting systems have driven the rapid growth in government contracting, much of it here in the Washington region. Federal contracting grew from about \$200 billion in 2000 to about \$550 billion in 2011 before falling back to \$450 billion last year. Sixty percent of that was for services. By some estimates, there are twice as many people doing government work under contract than there are government workers.

Against that backdrop, hardly anyone considered it remarkable that the government would have outsourced the day-to-day operation of its most secretive computer system to Booz Allen Hamilton, the agency's leading contractor. Nor, during the homeland security push after 9/11, did anyone question why a company such as USIS, which was originally spun off from the government to do simple background checks for new employees at departments such as Agriculture and Education, should be doing investigations for top security clearances normally done by the FBI. After the Snowden affair, the government sued USIS, accusing the firm of pushing through clearances without sufficient investigation in order to qualify for performance bonuses.

And long before the botched rollout of Obamacare, even the Professional Services Council, the leading trade association for federal contractors, was complaining publicly that too many agencies lacked skilled workforce to manage the contracting process — in particular, contracts for complex new computer systems. Numerous agencies had turned to outside contractors to manage its outside contractors before Gordon issued an order in 2011 declaring contract management to be an “inherently government function” that should be done only by government employees.

What Snowden and HealthCare.gov have made clear is there is a limit to how much outsourcing can be used as a work-around to the problems of dysfunctional government. It's time — actually, it's way past time — to fix the underlying problems.

Up to now, the Obama White House has made the calculation that it's not worth the political capital to take on the public employee unions over civil service reform, and it's not worth the political risk of challenging the tea party Republicans to push for an increase in the size of the federal workforce. Given what's happened, maybe it's time to recalculate

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 6:30 PM
To: Rowe, David; Brown, Dustin S.
Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy
Subject: Re: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

Perfect. Thanks guys

From: Rowe, David
Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 06:21 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Deese, Brian C.; Brown, Dustin S.
Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy
Subject: Re: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

Brian--

Dustin and I emailed offline. (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)

Hope this helps.

From: Deese, Brian C.

Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 01:29 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: Brown, Dustin S.

Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Rowe, David; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy

Subject: Re: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

Dustin:

(b) (5)

Thanks

From: Brown, Dustin S.

Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 03:09 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: Deese, Brian C.

Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Rowe, David; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy

Subject: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

Brian – Per a conversation with Courtney and Dave V., wanted to get your reaction on a question about (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

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(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely redacted with a solid black fill.

(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely redacted with a solid black fill.

Please let us know if you have thoughts or would like to discuss.

Thanks,

Dustin

From: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=ecop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
Sent: Mon Feb 17 2014 09:08:03 EST
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=ecop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: FW: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

You reviewed the latest chapter, but wanted to make sure you saw this note from Dustin before the 9:30am call.

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Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 3:26 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Cobert, Beth; Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Shlossman, Amy; Rowe, David; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Crilley, Joe; O'Connor, Devin; English, Leandra; Reed, Julia; Posner, Steven
Subject: RE: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

Sylvia, Brian, and Beth -

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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(b) (5) [REDACTED]

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Dustin

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Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy
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Shlossman, Amy
Subject: Re: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

Dustin:

(b) (5) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Thanks

From: Brown, Dustin S.
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To: Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Rowe, David; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy
Subject: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

Brian – Per a conversation with Courtney and Dave V., wanted to get your reaction on a question about (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(b) (5) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(b) (5)



Please let us know if you have thoughts or would like to discuss.

Thanks,

Dustin

From: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
Sent: Mon Feb 17 2014 11:12:58 EST
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC: Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>
Subject: RE: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget
Attachments: Draft AP Chapter FTE Table 10-2.pdf

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2014 10:20 AM
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya
Cc: Shlossman, Amy
Subject: FW: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

(b) (5). Please just let me know.

From: Brown, Dustin S.
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 3:26 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Cobert, Beth; Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Shlossman, Amy; Rowe, David; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Crilley, Joe; O'Connor, Devin; English, Leandra; Reed, Julia; Posner, Steven
Subject: RE: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

Sylvia, Brian, and Beth -

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)

Thanks to Sean and BRD for pulling all of this together.

Dustin

From: Cobert, Beth
Sent: Sunday, February 02, 2014 10:05 AM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Rowe, David; Brown, Dustin S.
Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Shlossman, Amy
Subject: RE: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

Here is the article. I did speak to them on background (although not clear that any of my context made it in to his writing)

The federal outsourcing boom and why it's failing Americans

By Steven Pearlstein,

Two of the biggest news events of the past year have been the leaks about top-secret snooping by the NSA and the disastrous rollout of Obamacare. But in an important way, they are both manifestations of a story that has been unfolding for decades — that of a federal government that has outsourced too much of what it does to private contractors while allowing the quality of its own workforce to atrophy.

Lots of Americans were disturbed to learn from Edward Snowden that the government is keeping track of their every phone call and text message. But they might have also wondered why a 30-year-old government contractor in Honolulu, with security clearance that was approved by another private contractor, had routine

access to some of the government's most sensitive secrets. Even worse, two years after Pfc. Bradley Manning did the same thing, Snowden managed to download millions of pages of documents from a computer system designed and managed by private contractors without setting off a single alarm. The whole affair was an embarrassment to Washington's government contracting sector.

So, too, the fiasco with HealthCare.gov, which despite the bleating of Republicans has almost nothing to do with the wisdom of the new health-care law and everything to do with the way the government and its outside contractors set about implementing it. While several of the contractors failed to perform as promised, in hindsight it appears the government also made a crucial mistake in deciding to rely on the IT staff at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to manage the contractors and oversee the final integration of the new system. Free-market ideologues will reflexively see in this failure further evidence of the inherent inferiority of public-sector workers. In truth, it is evidence of how outdated civil service rules and ill-conceived caps on the size and pay of the federal workforce have eroded the government's ability to perform even essential government tasks.

The federal government has long relied on outside contractors to provide it with weapons systems and other goods. But starting with the Reagan administration, there has been a determined shift of work from government employees to private contractors, on the theory that they could do it better and cheaper. For a time, that was true. Much of the early outsourcing was for lower-skilled clerical and maintenance functions for which government workers received pay and benefits well above the market rate. Or it was for the design and operation of new computer systems that automated the work of government and had never existed before.

But in recent years, much of the outsourcing has been driven by politics and ideology.

To demonstrate their commitment to "shrinking" the size of the federal government, both Republican and Democratic politicians set about shrinking the federal workforce and then capping it at 2 million workers, despite continued growth in the economy, the size of the federal budget and demand for government services.

"This obsession with small government is a sham," declares Daniel Gordon, who headed the Office of Procurement Policy in the first Obama term before joining the law faculty at George Washington University.

Not only are there caps on the number of government workers, but there are also caps on government pay that ignore the realities of the marketplace — and that, too, has driven the outsourcing trend. It may be politically popular in a country where median household income is \$51,000 to require that no federal employee should be paid more than the \$174,000 earned by a member of Congress, but it makes it pretty hard for the government to recruit and retain the lawyers and economists and biochemists and software engineers it needs when they can make double and triple that in the private sector. So it's no surprise that the only way that government managers can fulfill their mission is to outsource its brains, shifting high-level work to private firms that have the flexibility to pay their workers market rates.

In the end, taxpayers are not only indirectly paying the higher salaries they refuse to pay directly to government employees — they also wind up paying for the contractors' profit and the costs of winning and managing contracts.

Government employees, however, must also shoulder some of the blame for the outsourcing boom.

If you give federal managers the choice of filling vacancies from the candidates who emerge from the government's arcane recruitment and promotion system (and who, once chosen, will be virtually impossible to fire if they don't work out), or you gave them the choice of handpicking whomever they want and hiring them under an open-ended "umbrella" contract with a private firm (with the power to fire them at a moment's notice), nine in 10 would hire the contractor. And that's exactly why you now find so many contract employees in government offices working side by side with government employees.

The system the government uses to recruit, hire, evaluate and incentivize its employees is seriously broken. And yet every attempt to reform it is bitterly opposed by federal employee unions, who take it as their mission to prevent good employees from being rewarded and bad employees from being fired. The result is that the unions are protecting ever-fewer employees with ever-lower pay.

Those open-ended IDIQ (for "indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity") contracts, by the way, now account for anywhere between one quarter and one half of all federal service contracting, according to Gordon. Originally, they were designed to allow agencies buy smaller quantity of standardized supplies, or respond to the occasional surge in workload, without having to go through the long and cumbersome process of letting a new contract. But now they are routinely used by agencies for orders worth hundreds of millions of dollars that involve no competition, little transparency and dubious savings.

These clever work-arounds to the government's personnel and contracting systems have driven the rapid growth in government contracting, much of it here in the Washington region. Federal contracting grew from about \$200 billion in 2000 to about \$550 billion in 2011 before falling back to \$450 billion last year. Sixty percent of that was for services. By some estimates, there are twice as many people doing government work under contract than there are government workers.

Against that backdrop, hardly anyone considered it remarkable that the government would have outsourced the day-to-day operation of its most secretive computer system to Booz Allen Hamilton, the agency's leading contractor. Nor, during the homeland security push after 9/11, did anyone question why a company such as USIS, which was originally spun off from the government to do simple background checks for new employees at departments such as Agriculture and Education, should be doing investigations for top security clearances normally done by the FBI. After the Snowden affair, the government sued USIS, accusing the firm of pushing through clearances without sufficient investigation in order to qualify for performance bonuses.

And long before the botched rollout of Obamacare, even the Professional Services Council, the leading trade association for federal contractors, was complaining publicly that too many agencies lacked skilled workforce to manage the contracting process — in particular, contracts for complex new computer systems. Numerous agencies had turned to outside contractors to manage its outside contractors before Gordon issued an order in 2011 declaring contract management to be an “inherently government function” that should be done only by government employees.

What Snowden and HealthCare.gov have made clear is there is a limit to how much outsourcing can be used as a work-around to the problems of dysfunctional government. It's time — actually, it's way past time — to fix the underlying problems.

Up to now, the Obama White House has made the calculation that it's not worth the political capital to take on the public employee unions over civil service reform, and it's not worth the political risk of challenging the tea party Republicans to push for an increase in the size of the federal workforce. Given what's happened, maybe it's time to recalculate

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 6:30 PM
To: Rowe, David; Brown, Dustin S.
Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy
Subject: Re: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

Perfect. Thanks guys

From: Rowe, David
Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 06:21 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Deese, Brian C.; Brown, Dustin S.
Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy
Subject: Re: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

Brian--

Dustin and I emailed offline. (b) (5)



(b) (5)

Hope this helps.

From: Deese, Brian C.

Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 01:29 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: Brown, Dustin S.

Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Rowe, David; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy

Subject: Re: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

Dustin:

(b) (5)

Thanks

From: Brown, Dustin S.

Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 03:09 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: Deese, Brian C.

Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Rowe, David; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy

Subject: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

Brian – Per a conversation with Courtney and Dave V., wanted to get your reaction on a question about (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely blacked out, indicating redacted content. The redaction covers approximately the top third of the page.

(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely blacked out, indicating redacted content. The redaction covers approximately the middle third of the page.

(b) (5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely blacked out, indicating redacted content. The redaction covers approximately the bottom third of the page.

Please let us know if you have thoughts or would like to discuss.

Thanks,

Dustin

From: Vorhaus, Dave </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=davida.vorhaus13178357>
Sent: Thu Feb 20 2014 08:55:50 EST
To: Cobert, Beth </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=cobert, beth f.551>;Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>;Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
CC: Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>;Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>;O'Connor, Devin </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=devin_1_oconnor>;English, Leandra </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=english, leandra43b>
Subject: RE: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

(b) (5)


From: Cobert, Beth
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 8:27 AM
To: Vorhaus, Dave; Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Shlossman, Amy; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; O'Connor, Devin; English, Leandra
Subject: RE: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Vorhaus, Dave
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 8:13 AM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Cobert, Beth
Cc: Shlossman, Amy; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; O'Connor, Devin; English, Leandra
Subject: RE: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

No problem, will do. (b) (5)



Thanks!

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10:50 PM
To: Deese, Brian C.; Cobert, Beth
Cc: Shlossman, Amy; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Vorhaus, Dave; O'Connor, Devin
Subject: FW: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

(b) (5)



0

-----Original Message-----

From: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 06:41 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia
Cc: Shlossman, Amy
Subject: RE: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2014 11:13 AM
To: Burwell, Sylvia
Cc: Shlossman, Amy
Subject: RE: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

(b) (5)

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2014 10:20 AM
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya
Cc: Shlossman, Amy
Subject: FW: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

(b) (5)

Please just let me know.

From: Brown, Dustin S.
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 3:26 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Cobert, Beth; Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Shlossman, Amy; Rowe, David; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Crilley, Joe; O'Connor, Devin; English, Leandra; Reed, Julia; Posner, Steven
Subject: RE: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

Sylvia, Brian, and Beth -

(b) (5) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Dustin

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Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Shlossman, Amy
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From: Deese, Brian C.

Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 6:30 PM

To: Rowe, David; Brown, Dustin S.

Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy

Subject: Re: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

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From: Rowe, David

Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 06:21 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: Deese, Brian C.; Brown, Dustin S.

Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy

Subject: Re: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

Brian--

Dustin and I emailed offline. (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Hope this helps.

From: Deese, Brian C.

Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 01:29 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: Brown, Dustin S.

Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Rowe, David; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy

Subject: Re: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

Dustin:

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks

From: Brown, Dustin S.

Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 03:09 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: Deese, Brian C.

Cc: Timberlake, Courtney B.; Vorhaus, Dave; Rowe, David; Reilly, Sean; Hornung, Daniel; Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy

Subject: FTEs in FY 2015 Budget

Brian – Per a conversation with Courtney and Dave V., wanted to get your reaction on a question about (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

Please let us know if you have thoughts or would like to discuss.

Thanks,
Dustin

From: Benenati, Frank </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=benenati, frank j.70c>
Sent: Wed Mar 05 2014 12:22:13 EST
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
CC: Cobert, Beth </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=cobert, beth f.551>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>; Hornung, Daniel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=hornung, daniel065>; Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>
Subject: RE: Clips from Management Agenda Call
Attachments: image001.gif

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Absolutely. Will have shortly.

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 12:18 PM
To: Benenati, Frank; Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Hornung, Daniel; Posner, Steven
Subject: RE: Clips from Management Agenda Call

(b) (5)

Beth, nice job. Thanks team.

0

-----Original Message-----

From: Benenati, Frank
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 11:30 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Hornung, Daniel; Posner, Steven
Subject: Clips from Management Agenda Call

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Wed Mar 05 2014 12:50:59 EST
To: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
CC:
Subject: FW: Budget Editorials
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

15

0

-----Original Message-----

From: Cain, Emily
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 10:00 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: DL-OMB-PADs and Policy Officials
Cc: FN-OMB-Communications Office
Subject: Budget Editorials

Below are the editorials from The Washington Post, USA Today, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Los Angeles Times.

Our rebuttal to the USA Today editorial from Jay Carney is also included below.

Thank you – Emily

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/obama-budget-avoids-needed-entitlement-and-tax-reform/2014/03/04/904d04fc-a3d9-11e3-a5fa-55f0c77bf39c_print.html

Obama budget avoids needed entitlement and tax reform

Washington Post // Editorial Board

IT WAS just bad luck that President Obama unveiled his fiscal 2015 budget in the midst of the most

dangerous geopolitical tensions Europe has faced since the end of the Cold War. The Obama administration began working on the document long before the recent upheaval in Ukraine; Mr. Obama had no way of knowing that its unveiling would compete for headlines with a Russian invasion of the Crimean Peninsula.

There is a lesson in this unexpected juxtaposition nevertheless: No nation can safely base its tax and spending plans on inflexible commitments. Political life, both domestic and international, is too unpredictable. Yet U.S. government spending is mostly on autopilot. The government is scheduled to lay out \$3.8 trillion this fiscal year — 70 percent of which will go to mandatory-spending programs, chiefly Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and interest on the federal debt. Mr. Obama's plan for fiscal 2015 does not change this; it would increase overall spending slightly, paying for it with selected tax increases, while shifting money among priorities here and there. But these tweaks would take place within the same 30 percent of discretionary spending that the current budget contains.

In saying this, we do not necessarily mean to question Mr. Obama's specific priorities; in particular, it's too simplistic to say that events in Ukraine, by themselves, justify a much higher level of defense spending than the Obama administration wants — though some will certainly suggest that. Nor do we mean to demean important policy initiatives in Mr. Obama's budget, particularly his call for an increase in the poverty-fighting earned-income tax credit for childless workers. The latter proposal is among the few ideas in the budget that retains an outside chance of garnering Republican support in Congress, assuming the sincerity of the GOP's recently expressed interest in more efficient methods of battling inequality and poverty.

The point is that a nation must be able to adapt its spending priorities, sometimes swiftly, in response to unforeseen contingencies. That's harder to do when so many resources are pre-committed to a handful of worthy but expensive entitlements. In a federal budget of nearly \$4 trillion, the president and Congress will argue over about \$1 trillion, divided roughly evenly between defense needs and every other federal function. Under these circumstances, even the most modest policy prescription becomes a recipe for political trench warfare.

This structural problem requires credible structural reform — to both entitlements and taxes. In that respect, Mr. Obama's budget is just the latest in a long line of plans, from Democrats and Republicans, that fails to deliver what the country most needs. Sooner or later, change must come, and preferably before a crisis forces it on us.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2014/03/04/president-obamas-budget-proposal-congress-entitlements-taxes-editorial-debates/6046277/>

Obama's budget ducks tough choices: Our view

USA Today // Editorial

Just when smaller deficits should make it easier to reach the sort of bipartisan deal that could solve the government's budget problems for a generation, President Obama and Congress are walking away from the job.

Obama's new budget, released Tuesday, drops his earlier proposal to help fix the long-term finances of Social Security by slowing the growth of cost-of-living increases. That's exactly the sort of step needed to preserve a program that consumes nearly one-fourth of the budget and has lately been running in the red.

Rank-and-file Democrats hated the proposal, though, and Republican leaders never had the nerve to challenge their own base by making a similar concession on taxes. The moment for a "grand bargain" budget deal came and went.

Now election year politics are more important for both parties. The Democrat-led Senate has signaled that it won't bother to pass a budget this year. House Republicans are still a month away from proposing a budget and struggling to get agreement, even among themselves.

Too bad.

In the short run, annual deficits have fallen by more than half since the recession drove them over \$1 trillion. But the long-term trends remain ominous, as entitlements such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid increasingly crowd out defense, infrastructure and other important spending.

As frustrating as it is for Obama to have his hand slapped every time he reaches out to Republicans, history shows that if presidents don't lead, the budget doesn't get fixed. And this is a problem Obama pledged to fix: "The cost of Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security will continue to skyrocket," he said in 2010. "I refuse to pass this problem on to another generation."

The next generation had better get ready. Obama's third-to-last budget is essentially a campaign document that defines Democratic priorities in an election year. For instance, it increases aid to the working poor and pays for it by stripping away tax breaks from hedge fund managers and independent professionals that are defended by Republicans.

It's not that the budget lacks good ideas. It proposes to pay for new spending with specific spending cuts and tax increases. It proposes spending billions on long-delayed infrastructure improvements that would boost the economy. And it encourages investment in education and science, essential to keeping the nation competitive.

None of that will mean much, though, if entitlements gobble up more and more federal spending, a trend Obama's own budget says is inevitable: Entitlements and interest on the debt now consume two-thirds of the budget; 10 years from now that grows to almost 80%, leaving impossibly little for a thousand other things the government does — including most of the investments Obama says he wants to make.

Slashing the popular entitlements is political poison, as is asking people to pay for them. But this obviously can't go on forever — fanciful budgets notwithstanding.

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<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2014/03/04/white-house-president-obama-budget-jay-carney-editorials-debates/6046485/>

White House: Budget promotes fiscal stability

USA Today // Jay Carney

The purpose of the president's budget is to lay out his vision for the country. President Obama's fiscal year 2015 budget does just that. It presents the president's plan for creating jobs, growing the economy, expanding opportunity and ensuring long-term fiscal stability.

To build on the progress we have made in recovering from the Great Recession, the budget invests in research, clean energy, infrastructure, manufacturing and security, creating jobs now and building a foundation for long-term growth.

It supports a quality education for every child and helps give our workers the skills and training they need. It promotes economic opportunity and mobility, calling for an increase in the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour. And it includes a new Opportunity, Growth and Security Initiative, making investments in critical areas — fully paid for with spending reforms and by closing tax loopholes.

The budget does all of this while continuing to reduce deficits as a share of the economy to 1.6% by 2024, stabilizing the debt and putting it on a downward path.

Last year, the administration took an approach, unusual for a president's budget, of including a compromise the president had offered the Republican leadership. That package incorporated ideas such as "chained CPI," which Republicans had asked for, even though it was not the president's preferred approach to deficit reduction. It was meant as a show of good faith that could lead to further negotiations — but Republicans consistently showed a lack of willingness to negotiate, or even identify one tax loophole they would be willing to close.

The president's offer remains on the table if Republicans want a serious discussion on a balanced plan to address our long-term fiscal challenges while supporting growth. But in the meantime, President Obama is laying out his own vision, one that supports needed investments in growth while addressing the long-term drivers of our deficits — with proposals that continue to bring down health care costs, reform our immigration system and close unnecessary tax loopholes.

It is a vision that shows real leadership: by taking on the challenge of strengthening the economy today, investing in our future, and doing it all in a fiscally responsible way.

Jay Carney is White House press secretary.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/05/opinion/the-what-might-have-been-budget.html?ref=todayspaper>

The What-Might-Have-Been Budget

New York Times // THE EDITORIAL BOARD

President Obama's 2015 budget won't survive the solid wall of Republican opposition in Congress, but that doesn't mean it's a useless document. Virtually every section is an important illustration of how many national goals — in particular, reducing inequality and rebuilding the economy — could be achieved if Congress would end unnecessary and unfair tax breaks for the rich.

One of the most important is an expansion of the earned-income tax credit, which for decades has been one of the biggest and most successful antipoverty programs, raising 10.1 million people out of poverty in 2012. Currently, it provides few benefits for childless adults who work, and Mr. Obama proposed to correct that by increasing the number of people who are eligible for the credit, and doubling the credit to about \$1,000.

That would provide a greater incentive to work for 5.8 million people who would be newly eligible for the credit, and would expand the credit for another 7.7 million people who get it now. It would take a half-million people out of poverty and reduce poverty for 10 million. (It is no substitute, however, for raising the minimum wage, and should not be used as an excuse to lower the Democratic proposal to set the higher wage

at \$10.10.)

Expanding the tax credit would cost about \$60 billion through 2024, and the White House proposed to pay for it by eliminating some high-income tax loopholes. The biggest is a dodge used by many wealthy owners of S-corporations to declare low incomes and thus pay less than their share of payroll taxes. The budget would also raise the tax rate on carried interest, income that goes mostly to hedge-fund managers, to the level of ordinary income.

To break free of the austere budget caps demanded by Republicans in 2011, Mr. Obama proposed spending \$56 billion through 2024 on investments evenly divided between defense and domestic programs. The spending would go to initiatives like expanding broadband in schools, increasing research on clean energy, building manufacturing hubs to assist industry in creating new jobs and providing better job training for young people and the unemployed. This would be paid for in several ways, including reducing the cost of crop subsidies for corporate farmers and putting a limit on how much the very rich could set aside in tax-free retirement accounts. (The limit would be about \$3 million per person.)

Mr. Obama's proposal to help states provide preschool for all 4-year-olds — one of the most important tools for reducing education inequality — would cost \$66 billion, and would be financed by raising tobacco taxes.

In all, the president asked for \$651 billion in new revenues over a decade, every dollar of which will be resisted by Republicans. That's because they have failed the test that Mr. Obama laid out Tuesday: "As a country, we've got to make a decision if we're going to protect tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans or if we're going to make smart investments necessary to create jobs and grow our economy, and expand opportunity for every American."

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-budget-obama-fiscal-2015-20140305,0,41242,print.story>

Can Democrats and Republicans agree on anything in Obama's budget?

Republicans don't like much about the president's spending plan. But there are a few areas where the two sides could make common cause.

Los Angeles Times // The Times editorial board

President Obama unveiled a budget proposal Tuesday that's more of a Democratic Party wish list than a realistic spending blueprint for a divided government. Higher taxes on the wealthy? Check. More spending on anti-poverty programs, research, infrastructure and schools? Check. But while Republicans in Congress were quick to dismiss Obama's proposal— "[P]erhaps his most irresponsible budget yet," asserted House Speaker John A. Boehner, conceding only the vague possibility that Obama had done worse before — they should at the very least act on his suggestions for promoting employment and economic growth that dovetail

with their own ideas.

Washington faces at least three intertwined fiscal problems: a sluggish economy that's not creating enough good jobs, large annual budget deficits left over from the recession and rising healthcare costs that could cause the deficit to grow uncontrollably in the not-too-distant future. As in his previous budgets, Obama made no herculean efforts to bring the budget into balance or solve the long-term problems in entitlements. His main effort instead was on breathing more life into the economy now.

That's a perfectly fine thing to focus on, considering how long the economy has been stuck in low gear, how many people remain unemployed and how much a vigorously growing economy will help solve Washington's fiscal problems. Obama's problem is that so many of his ideas for promoting growth — such as spending more on education and training, overhauling U.S. immigration law and extending unemployment benefits — are nonstarters with the House Republican majority.

Within Obama's \$3.9-trillion budget, though, are at least two proposals that make economic and political sense, and that the Republicans might be persuaded to support. One is to expand the tax credit for individual low-income workers without children. Republicans invented the earned income tax credit as an alternative to welfare payments, and unlike some other benefit programs, it gives participants a financial incentive to work their way out of poverty. Although Republicans won't like how Obama proposes to pay for it — by raising taxes on hedge fund managers and some self-employed individuals — they should seize the opportunity to strike a deal to expand the credit.

The president has also called, again, for beefing up infrastructure investments. With more fuel-efficient cars on the road, the amount of gas tax dollars available to repair America's crumbling roads and bridges has been shrinking. Yet lawmakers have been unable to agree on how to replenish those funds. The president offered a temporary fix: using one-time revenue from overhauling the corporate tax code to pay for a new round of projects. This stopgap approach would let lawmakers spend more now while costs are still low, rather than waiting to agree on a long-term solution.

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304360704579419621354912840?mod=ITP_opinion_2&mg=reno64-wsj

The Back to Pelosi Budget

Soaring tax revenues will hit 18.3% of GDP in fiscal 2015.

Wall Street Journal // Editorial

President Obama released his 2015 budget proposal on Tuesday, and the best way to understand it is as a campaign-strategy memo to return Nancy Pelosi as Speaker of the House. After the rude four-year

interruption of a GOP House, Mr. Obama is revving up the tax and spend engines to turn out Democrats this fall and change the debate away from ObamaCare.

One of the President's more amusing fiscal sleights-of-hand is his claim that the federal government has been enduring "austerity." Taxpayers should be so lucky. The nearby table shows the arc of tax revenues and spending during the Obama Presidency, and you can see they are both up. Washington has rarely had it so good.

The feds spent \$2.98 trillion in 2008 and Mr. Obama is proposing to spend \$1 trillion more than that in fiscal 2015. The Pelosi-Obama stimulus blew out the bank in 2009-2011, the GOP House imposed a modicum of restraint in the next two years, but Mr. Obama is going back to the Pelosi future from here on out.

His budget would increase outlays by nearly \$450 billion from fiscal 2013, and almost none of it for defense. Spending in 2015 would hit 21.4% of GDP, up from 20.8% in 2013. Outlays would rise by another \$1 trillion by 2020, much of it fueled by the exploding costs of ObamaCare, and would reach an astonishing \$6 trillion by 2024. If Democrats do take the House and Senate, you can bet spending will rise even faster.

Mr. Obama's budget nonetheless says that the deficit will fall to \$564 billion in 2015, or 3.1% of GDP. How would that happen? Well, because tax revenues are booming. Revenues hit \$2.77 trillion in 2013—a new federal record—and the Obama budget foresees them growing another 20%, to \$3.33 trillion in fiscal 2015. Receipts will hit 18.3% of GDP in 2015, well above the 40-year average of 17.4%, and they'll keep rising to 19.9% a decade from now. But Mr. Obama says the government is starved for revenue and thus any tax reform must raise another \$1 trillion on top of all this.

The President's budget proposes to spread all this cash around to various voter groups and Democratic constituencies. Mr. Obama would fund public preschool for every four year old and create a new fund to underwrite paid family leave in the states. There's more for job training programs that haven't shown they can train workers for jobs, and more for shovel-ready road projects that may or may not be shovel-ready. And don't forget a new \$1 billion fund for efforts to combat climate change, which means more payola for green crony capitalists.

The big spending loser is the military, which will impress Vladimir Putin, though not in a good way. The proposed 2015 \$623 billion defense budget is 3.4% of GDP and would be cut by nearly \$39 billion more in 2016 to 3% and 2.3% by 2023. The last time the U.S. spent that small a share of the economy on defense was 1.7% in 1940. Readers who attended schools that still taught American history may recall that was not a good year for global stability.

By contrast, Mr. Obama's budget leaves entitlement program spending on cruise control. He has dropped

from the budget last year's modest proposal to make the calculation for cost-of-living increases in Social Security more accurate—a bow to the protests by liberal Democrats.

Inequality and class warfare will be big Democratic themes this election year, so Mr. Obama has obliged with more tax increases on business to finance more tax credits for workers. Millions of Americans already pay no income taxes, and Mr. Obama would take more of them off the rolls by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to 13.5 million childless Americans—at a cost of \$60 billion over 10 years. These credits are "refundable," which means you get a check even if you have no net tax liability.

This EITC expansion deserves longer treatment, not least because the Treasury Inspector General reports that the current program loses at least \$11 billion a year to improper payments. But as a policy matter the earned credit was designed to be a substitute for the minimum wage that wouldn't price workers out of the job market. Instead, Mr. Obama wants to expand the EITC and raise the minimum wage.

Mr. Obama's budget doesn't make even a token outreach to the GOP, and in that regard it is at least honest. With Democrats at risk of losing the Senate, Mr. Obama views a revival of tax and spend as his party's best 2014 campaign pitch. Americans will have to decide if they like what about half of them will be paying for.

Emily Cain | THE WHITE HOUSE

Press Secretary, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

@OMBPress | WhiteHouse.gov/OMB

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From: Cobert, Beth </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=cobert, beth f.551>
Sent: Wed Mar 05 2014 12:32:56 EST
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
CC:
Subject: RE: Clips from Management Agenda Call
Attachments: image001.gif

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Thanks – and great job this morning. Good luck this afternoon

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 12:18 PM
To: Benenati, Frank; Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Hornung, Daniel; Posner, Steven
Subject: RE: Clips from Management Agenda Call

(b) (5)

Beth, nice job. Thanks team.

0

-----Original Message-----

From: Benenati, Frank
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 11:30 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Hornung, Daniel; Posner, Steven
Subject: Clips from Management Agenda Call

Sylvia and Brian -

Please see below for the latest roundup of clips from the Management Agenda call yesterday. The call went

very well, and the stories below are positive. Any questions please let me know.

Thank you!

GovExec: Obama Budget Offers a Refreshed Management Agenda

By Charles S. Clark

The Obama administration's long-awaited refreshment of its governmentwide management agenda emerged in the fiscal 2015 budget released on Tuesday, with the legally required presentation of agency priority goals to come next week.

As part of a bid to "create a 21st century government," the new budget documents repeat previous calls for Congress to give the administration authority to reorganize agencies, create a new independent federal property disposal board, continue a crackdown on improper payments and reform Defense Department procurement.. Also included is a vow to enhance the government's ability to recruit a top-talent workforce.

Beth Cobert, deputy director for management at the Office of Management and Budget, told reporters in a Tuesday conference call that the administration's "living" agenda—which she said "is not restricted to what we're outlining today"—is built on four themes: effectiveness, efficiency, economic drivers and people and culture. "We started the agenda by listening to federal workers, Congress, businesses and unions, who gave tremendous input and enormously thoughtful suggestions."

Items on the management agenda, Cobert said, include reducing red tape to accelerate the construction permit approval process, opening more government data to the public, and streamlining and sharing core agency functions such as human resources, information technology and financial transactions. The Housing and Urban Development Department is in the process of moving all its financial management over to the Treasury Department, she noted -- the largest shared services initiative yet.

The administration's ongoing efforts to reduce improper payments of federal funds by agencies such as the Internal Revenue Service and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have succeeded in cutting such payments by 3.5 percent, Cobert said.

In the area of people and culture, the administration seeks "to make sure federal employees have the right tools and are supported by a culture that values innovation and encourages recognition," Cobert said. Acknowledging the frustrations of the pay freeze, sequestration and government shutdown during the past three years, she said the workforce "has continued to persevere and serve the American people with passion, professionalism and skill," whether it be in protecting the homeland, providing veterans benefits, helping hurricane victims or searching for cures to deadly diseases.

Cobert also sketched out coming new pilot programs that will allow agencies across government to learn from each other's programs aimed at improving leadership, recruitment and hiring to narrow skills gaps.

The budget documents released Tuesday ask Congress to revive an authority presidents used from 1932 to 1984 to submit proposals to reorganize the federal government using a fast-track voting procedure. That, OMB said, would allow the executive branch to streamline operations to better serve citizens.

Another Obama proposal would create a Federal Real Property Council to improve the quality of data and performance metrics related to the government's real estate inventory. (A Republican version of such a plan already has passed the House.) And the 2015 budget proposes continued investment in the Pentagon's Better Buying Initiative to overhaul the military weapons acquisition system.

The budget also proposed a reorganization of the government's more than 200 science, technology, engineering and mathematics education programs designed to enable more strategic investment and "more critical evaluation of outcomes."

"That's new and very interesting news," said Jitinder Kohli, a director in Deloitte's public sector practice who headed the Doing What Works project for the liberal-leaning Center for American Progress. Noting that fragmentation in STEM programs has long been criticized by the Government Accountability Office, he told Government Executive that "the devil is in the details, so we'll have to see what Congress does with this politically charged issue. It's good to see the challenge recognized."

Not recognized in the Tuesday budget, Kohli, noted, was the long-anticipated list of new priority goals, as required by the 2010 Government Performance and Results Modernization Act. "I know next week is the intended release, but it's surprising the goals are not there this week."

Correction/Clarification: The original version of this story said that HUD had moved all of its financial management functions to the Treasury Department. HUD is still developing a plan to do this. Also, the article has been updated to clarify the circumstances surrounding the release of agency priority goals next week.

Federal Times: President Obama promotes government reorganization in 2015 budget

By Andy Medici

The administration laid out a broad plan to revamp agency operations and promote efficiency efforts in its 2015 budget request.

The request includes a previous proposal to grant the president the authority to reorganize and consolidate agencies via fast-track legislation. If given the authority President Obama would consolidate a number of jobs and economic growth programs into a new agency.

"By bringing together the core tools to expand trade and investment, grow small businesses, and support innovation, this reorganization would help American businesses compete in the global economy, expand exports, and create more jobs at home," budget documents said.

Beth Cobert, the deputy director for management at the Office of Management and Budget, said the administration's management agenda is "ambitious and cross-cutting."

"In some areas we have already seen progress and we will continue to launch new initiatives," Cobert said.

She said the administration will ensure progress by including performance goals in agency strategic plans and priorities and in government wide efforts.

Other management goals include:

Continuing to reduce improper payments — which have fallen to less than 4 percent in fiscal 2013.

The creation of a civilian BRAC process for underutilized federal property. The administration is proposing \$57 million to help consolidate or sell off federal properties in groups.

Using executive councils to establish cost and quality benchmarks in HR, finance, acquisition, IT and real property issues.

<http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20140304/MGMT/303040011/President-Obama-promotes-government-reorganization-2015-budget>

Federal News Radio: Budget proposal fleshes out OMB's management agenda

Jason Miller

More than six months after President Barack Obama announced his second-term management agenda, the Office of Management and Budget is putting some specifics behind it.

As part of the fiscal 2015 budget request sent to Congress Tuesday, the administration described initiatives around improving customer service at the IRS and the Social Security Administration. OMB also plans to

fund and launch a civilian property realignment board and to include more funding for the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology to make federally funded data more widely available.

OMB said it will also launch new and improved employee training programs and three pilot programs to enhance how agencies hire employees.

"The agenda is focused on delivering a 21st century government that is more effective, efficient and supportive of economic growth," said Beth Cobert, OMB's deputy director for management, Tuesday during a teleconference with reporters. "This is a living agenda and it is not restricted to the initiatives I'm outlining today. As we make progress, we will continue to identify and launch new initiatives and reforms that support the agenda's mission."

Cobert said the management agenda is focused on four themes:

- Effectiveness — delivering better, faster, smarter services to citizens and businesses.
- Efficiency — increasing quality and value in the government's core administrative functions.
- Economic growth — opening government funded data and research to the public to spur innovation and economic growth.
- People and culture — unlocking the full potential of the federal workforce and building the workforce the government needs for the future.

Cobert said the budget proposals would provide "real and lasting change" to how the government works.

Throughout all of these initiatives, technology will continue to play a key role and enabler.

To that end, the administration is requesting \$79.1 billion for federal IT, down from \$81.4 billion in 2014. The Defense Department is responsible for most of the decrease — dropping to \$35.4 billion in 2015 from \$37.6 billion in 2014. The IT budget for civilian agencies remains roughly the same, at \$43.7 billion. Included in that topline figure is more than \$13 billion for agencies to spend on cybersecurity technologies, people and other resources in 2015.

Federal Chief Information Officer Steven VanRoekel said much of the decrease also can be attributed to savings from the use of the PortfolioStat program. Under that initiative, agencies are trying to reduce duplicative spending and consolidate commodity IT services.

VanRoekel pointed to the Small Business Administration as an example of how PortfolioStat is saving money. He said SBA will move its email, calendar and contacts to the cloud.

On the effectiveness front, the budget includes \$100 million for the Social Security Administration for a new customer-service modernization initiative to significantly improve Internet and in-person services.

SSA also would receive another \$150 million as part of the Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative to further reduce wait times and enhance services at SSA.

The Veterans Affairs Department would receive more money to invest in the eBenefits Web portal to improve how veterans manage their benefits. The budget calls for VA to receive \$173.3 million for the Veterans Benefits Management System, which would be used to reduce processing time and the claims backlog, automate claims tracking and facilitate improvements to the quality of the claims processing.

Under the efficiency front, the White House is expanding ongoing initiatives and, once again, is requesting authority to submit proposals to reorganize the Executive Branch under a fast-track procedure.

Cobert said agencies reduced the improper payment rate to 3.5 percent in 2013. OMB is conducting a comprehensive analysis of agency-specific corrective actions to identify programs with the highest return-on-investment or potential for substantially reducing improper payments in order to help shape future guidance on improper payments.

Under the "Freeze the Footprint" initiative, the administration will begin publicly tracking the government's adherence to a fixed baseline — 730.2 million total square feet — composed of office and warehouse space, and agencies will continue to pursue mobile workforce strategies and tighter internal controls on space acquisitions.

"In addition, the budget includes \$57 million to start up the Civilian Property Realignment Act (CPRA)," the documents stated. "CPRA would create an independent board of private- and public-sector real-estate experts that would make recommendations to the Congress on properties that should be sold, consolidated, co-located or reconfigured."

OMB submitted legislation to Congress in 2013 to create a civilian Base Realignment and Closure commission. The bill received attention from lawmakers, but was never passed out of Congress.

As part of its efforts to spur economic growth, the White House is proposing that the National Science Foundation develop a repository where the public can access articles by NSF-funded researchers.

At the same time, NIST would receive \$6 million to accelerate and expand technology transfer across the federal government, which will enhance the competitiveness of U.S. industry by sharing innovations and knowledge from federal laboratories.

And finally under the people and culture piece of the agenda, the administration wants to develop governmentwide enterprise training and resource exchanges to share best practices and increase leadership development opportunities.

"The budget includes funding for the Office of Personnel Management to build a stronger onboarding program for new Senior Executive Service, and leadership and engagement training opportunities for current SES that emphasize diversity and the changing needs of a 21st Century workforce," the documents stated. "Beginning in 2015, the administration will launch demonstration projects to identify promising practices in recruiting, hiring, onboarding, and deploying talent across agencies. The goal of these projects is to increase diversity, reduce skills gaps, and improve organizational outcomes."

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/513/3574844/Budget-proposal-fleshes-out-OMBs-management-agenda>

ExecutiveGOV: Beth Cobert Outlines OMB's FY 2015 Management Goals

Beth Cobert, deputy management director at the Office of Management and Budget, detailed the agency's reform plans on Tuesday as part of the fiscal year 2015 budget proposal, Federal News Radio reported Tuesday.

Jason Miller writes Cobert told reporters Tuesday via teleconference the management agenda includes work to refresh the government's tax collection and social security services.

OMB also wants to also provide funding to establish a civilian property realignment board as well as employee hiring and training programs, Miller writes.

"The agenda is focused on delivering a 21st century government that is more effective, efficient and supportive of economic growth," Cobert said, according to the report.

"As we make progress, we will continue to identify and launch new initiatives and reforms that support the agenda's mission."

The proposal sets aside \$6 million for National Institute of Standards and Technology-run programs designed to facilitate technology sharing among agencies, according to the article.

The White House also proposed building a repository for the public to access data from National Science Foundation-sponsored research projects, the station reports.

<http://www.executivegov.com/2014/03/beth-cobert-outlines-ombs-fy-2015-management-goals/#sthash.eoVTwqj1.dpuf>

Washington Post: Obama's plan for a 1 percent federal pay hike can survive even if his budget doesn't

By Joe Davidson

Presidential budgets frequently are considered DOA — dead on arrival — when they get to Capitol Hill. Congress often ignores them.

But when it comes to federal pay, ignoring President Obama's proposed 1 percent pay raise is the same as passing it.

The president's plan will take effect in January by default if no law setting a different figure is enacted. That happened this January, when workers also received a 1 percent hike.

Congressional Democrats have joined federal employee organizations in complaining about the meager increase. Yet Democrats don't see Congress approving a bigger boost. Republican leaders largely have been silent. If that pattern holds, the 1 percent that feds see now is what they will get next year.

The pay raise was not included in the budget figures released by the White House on Tuesday, but it will be

in documents coming next week.

One percent doesn't keep up with inflation. It would follow a three-year freeze on basic federal pay rates and some pay decreases through budget-cutting furloughs last year.

While the small increase understandably upsets federal employees, this budget plan does represent a shift from previous situations that forced feds to give and give.

Presidents of the two largest federal unions — the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) and the National Treasury Employees Union — praised Obama for investments in federal employee training, among other things. They both cited the \$138 billion the federal workforce has contributed to deficit reduction over 10 years through the freeze and other measures.

Obama administration officials recognize federal workforce sacrifices, but say the 1 percent boost is the best they can do.

"We are pleased we can do the 1 percent," said Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Sylvia Mathews Burwell, drawing attention to "how tight the numbers are."

There are trade-offs that must be made in the budget process, she added: "A 1 percent increase is what we felt we were able to do in the context of the budget constraints."

In a conference call later, Beth Cobert, OMB's deputy director for management, said, "We recognize that the last few years have been challenging for the federal workforce" and listed a range of vital services performed by federal workers. "We are fortunate to be able to rely on a skilled workforce committed to public service. We want to ensure that we retain an engaged, well-prepared and well-trained workforce. . . . We want to recruit the next generation of federal leaders, sustaining our workforce so it can continue to do the work of the nation for decades to come."

Past pay freezes and furloughs don't make recruitment and retention any easier.

"The president has suggested that the proposed 1 percent pay adjustment is going to allow for the federal government to be more competitive in recruiting top-tier candidates. This line of thinking is flawed because the real income of the federal workforce is decreasing," said William R. Dougan, president of the National Federation of Federal Employees."

"While we applaud the president for protecting federal employees' retirement security in his budget, I believe we are nearing a tipping point for the federal workforce. . . . Workers are becoming increasingly unhappy with their federal employment."

The retirement security protection that Dougan mentioned is not in Obama's current budget proposal. In his two previous budget plans, the president proposed increasing the contribution of employees toward their retirement benefits by 1.2 percentage points over three years.

The training proposal includes development programs for new and current members of the Senior Executive Service. The administration plans demonstration projects "to identify promising practices" in the recruitment and retention of talent, with the goals of increasing diversity, reducing skill gaps and improving service.

In other employee-related budget measures, Obama proposed allowing the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program to cover domestic partners of federal employees and new retirees, including same-sex couples, in 2016.

Obama expects to save \$340 million over 10 years through changes, some opposed by labor, in the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, better known as workers' comp. Among other things, he wants to amend FECA so that in the future, employees on workers comp reaching retirement age would move from disability payments to retirement benefits. Other changes include establishing a waiting period for all beneficiaries and reducing improper payments by authorizing the Labor Department to cross-match FECA and Social Security records.

The president's budget plan promises "to put a stop to short-sighted cuts to Government operations that compromise efficiency and effectiveness and cost money over the long run."

AFGE President J. David Cox Sr. said the administration should do more than that. He wants a 4 percent raise for feds and for Congress to repeal "all the cuts that have been made to federal retirement benefits."

That's not likely. Not now.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/federal_government/obamas-plan-for-a-1-percent-federal-pay-hike-can-survive-even-if-his-budget-doesnt/2014/03/04/6b6b2ea8-a3ba-11e3-8466-d34c451760b9_print.html

GouvernementExecutive: Obama's Fed-Friendly Budget Blueprint

President Obama removed many of the cuts previously aimed at federal employees in his fiscal 2015 budget, instead promising to "unlock the full potential" of the government workforce.

Obama struck a conciliatory tone in the blueprint when referring to federal workers that has been present in the rhetoric of past budgets, but mostly not backed up with substance. The White House on Tuesday announced a new initiative, and corresponding funding, to boost federal employee training and retention.

The budget "invests in the government's most important resource, its workers, ensuring that we can attract and retain the best talent in the federal workforce and foster a culture of excellence."

The proposal would fund the Office of Personnel Management to "build a stronger onboarding program" for new members of the Senior Executive Service, as well as leadership and engagement training for new managers to address the "changing needs of a 21st century workforce." Obama promised his administration will work with labor groups to recruit and retain individuals with "high-demand talents and skills," and will begin "demonstration projects" in 2015 to identify best practices in hiring, increasing diversity and reducing skill gaps.

In his fiscal 2014 budget, Obama proposed federal employees contribute an additional 1.2 percent of their pay toward their retirement pensions. He also suggested switching to a new formula to calculate inflation, which would result in lower cost-of-living adjustments for federal retirees and Social Security beneficiaries. Both of those measures were eliminated from the current budget, in part due to the recent budget agreement putting in place a pension contribution hike for new employees.

Obama has said the so-called "chained-Consumer Price Index" is still on the table, but the gridlock between congressional Republicans and the White House on deficit reduction has prompted him to eliminate the proposal from his fiscal 2015 budget.

Obama will not formally introduce his 1 percent pay raise proposal for civilian employees until next week, according to White House officials.

The budget was not all good news for federal employees; several agencies would face “right-sizing” under the president’s proposals. The intelligence community would face workforce reductions; the Environmental Protection Agency would “modernize” its workforce, resulting in job “consolidations”; the State Department would look to reduce the number of feds overseas at all agencies; the Transportation Security Administration would save \$100 million in 2015 through “staffing efficiencies”; and, as previously announced, the Defense Department will reduce its headquarters funding by 20 percent.

Overall, the Obama budget proposed 136 cuts, consolidations and savings opportunities, which would save \$17 billion. For a full list of the budget’s winners and losers, [click here](#).

Obama recommended a series of changes to the Federal Employees Compensation Act that would generate \$340 million in savings over 10 years. The proposal -- which is nearly identical to language included in a Senate bill to overhaul the U.S. Postal Service -- would reduce benefits to retirement-age employees receiving workers’ compensation, establish an up-front waiting period before those injured on the job begin receiving payments, and attempt to reduce improper payments. Obama also included the cuts in his fiscal 2014 budget.

The president also retained provisions to reform the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. The administration wants to give OPM the power to contract with “modern types of health plans rather than being limited to the current four statutorily-defined plans reflective of the 1950s insurance market.” It would also give OPM the authority to negotiate pharmacy benefits for all FEHBP program participants. Currently, health plans participating in FEHBP contract with pharmacy benefits managers, who negotiate with drug manufacturers and pharmacies on behalf of their enrollees. OPM has said that working directly with a single pharmacy benefits manager would reduce costs to beneficiaries. Overall, the administration estimated the changes would save \$2 billion over 10 years.

<http://www.govexec.com/pay-benefits/2014/03/obamas-fed-friendly-budget-blueprint/79846/?oref=top-story>

Federal Times: IT spending drops in president's budget

By Nicole Blake Johnson

Information technology spending would drop slightly under the president’s fiscal 2015 budget from \$81.3 billion to \$79.1 billion, with the Defense Department poised to absorb the full brunt of those cuts.

Overall defense IT spending would drop 6 percent from \$37.6 billion this year to \$35.4 billion in 2015, federal Chief Information Officer Steven VanRoekel told reporters Tuesday. Civilian IT spending would remain steady at \$43.7 billion, but it isn’t clear how that plays out by agency. The Office of Management and

Budget had not released a breakdown of IT spending as of Tuesday afternoon.

Unlike previous budgets, the president's proposal did not include the analytical perspectives section, which provide analyses on specific topics and data that places the budget in perspective. The administration is expected to release those documents separately next week.

When asked about the proposed decrease in spending, VanRoekel said agencies are driving out costs through efforts like PortfolioStat, which is designed to give CIOs and other executives a departmentwide view of their IT investments and eliminate duplication. Agencies have saved nearly \$1.6 billion since March 2012 through PortfolioStat, according to the president's budget.

The IT budget doesn't call for new initiatives but rather continues ongoing efforts like data center consolidation, cloud computing, strategic sourcing, shared services and improving citizen services.

"There is nothing disruptive here," said Trey Hodgkins, senior vice president of the IT Industry Council's public-sector branch. Hodgkins praised the administration's commitment to following through with existing initiatives.

As an example of shared services, OMB Deputy Director for Management Beth Cobert touted the Housing and Urban Development Department's decision to transition all of its core financial management functions to the Treasury Department, starting in 2015.

In terms of strategic sourcing, Cobert said the administration is looking to expanding strategic sourcing into other areas like maintenance and rental cars. Areas have already been identified for fiscal 2015, she said.

Bolstering citizen services is another key area. The budget would provide \$100 million for a new modernization initiative to improve online and in-person services at the Social Security Administration and an additional \$150 million to help reduce wait times. The Veterans Affairs Department would get \$3.9 billion for information technology, with \$137 million set aside to fund the development of Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS).

<http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20140304/MGMT05/303040012/IT-spending-drops-president-s-budget?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

Federal Computer Week: IT spending dips slightly in Obama budget request

· By Adam Mazmanian

President Barack Obama's fiscal 2015 budget request includes expanded top-level oversight of federal IT projects to prevent surprises like the buggy launch of HealthCare.gov, and a push to create standards for user experience across government websites.

Overall, the \$1.014 trillion request includes slightly more than \$79 billion in federal IT spending, down slightly from the \$81.4 billion enacted for 2014. The savings come on the defense side, with \$35.4 billion in the 2015 request, down from \$37.6 billion last fiscal year, according to federal CIO Steve VanRoekel. Civilian IT spending ticks up a bit to \$43.7 billion. VanRoekel attributed the slight dip in military IT to

savings from initiatives such as data center consolidation.

The administration is rebranding and expanding its oversight of IT. VanRoekel is adding federal IT effectiveness to his oversight responsibilities, such as maintaining the federal IT dashboard of technology investments and conducting TechStat and PortfolioStat reviews of ongoing projects. This Information Technology Oversight and Reform authority includes improving the user experience on federal websites and IT platforms, and potentially developing government-wide website templates or common platforms, and making it easier to deploy talented coders and IT personnel from agency to agency. The administration is requesting \$20 million in funding, up from the \$14 million requested (and the \$8 million actually enacted) in the 2014. The administration also is planning to increase IT oversight personnel from 12 to about 39.

The federal CIO budget request also includes \$2 million to pursue the Cross-Agency Priority goal of securing federal networks, to focus on anti-phishing and malware defense.

While metrics for effectiveness are still in development, VanRoekel told reporters that he's seeking "standards and policies to drive a more effective citizen experience," while improving the way the government accesses tech talent, both in the federal workforce and in the private sector.

"What we find talking to constituents and Americans out there is they really view us not as a collection of agencies or even org chart, but as one government. The approach we're taking is really a one government, outside looking in approach," VanRoekel said.

VanRoekel touted a few new investments in the 2015 budget that exemplify these themes. At the Department of Veterans Affairs, an online benefits portal aims to offer faster, more accurate processing. A \$100 million modernization project at the Social Security Administration includes improved access to online services. The government is also looking to expand platforms around functional rather than departmental areas, like BusinessUSA for companies looking for loan programs and training, and SelectUSA for foreign businesses seeking access to U.S. markets.

The budget also calls for merging the E-Gov program with the Federal Citizens Services Fund, with about \$53.3 million requested for the combined office. That request was made last year as well, but senators' demand to keep the two funds separate ultimately prevailed.

Overall, the budget represents a thematic wish list for the Obama administration more than a blueprint for legislating. Spending levels remain within the limits of the two-year budget deal negotiated by Budget Committee Chairs Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and Sen Patty Murray (D-Wash.). However, the administration is again seeking higher taxes on higher-earning Americans and an expansion of the earned income tax credit for lower-income workers, neither of which is likely to gain traction ahead of the midterm elections.

<http://fcw.com/Articles/2014/03/04/budget-main.aspx?p=1>

Fierce Government IT: The president's 2015 budget request

By Zach Rausnitz

By David Perera and Molly Bernhart Walker

The federal information technology spending proposal for the coming fiscal year totals \$79.1 billion, Federal

Chief Information Officer Steven VanRoekel said Tuesday during a call with reporters.

It includes \$35.4 billion for the Defense Department and \$43.7 billion for civilian agencies. As always with Office of Management and Budget calculations about federal IT spending, that figure doesn't account for classified spending, nor spending on embedded computers within things such as weapons systems or satellites.

Nor is there consistency from one agency to the next on what constitutes "information technology."

Overall federal IT spending is difficult to trace within the public federal budget proposal, since agencies mostly don't formulate budget requests to account for IT as a single chunk of proposed funding – although major projects often get dedicated requests. An exception to that rule is the Veterans Affairs Department, where all spending is controlled by the departmental CIO.

OMB requires agencies to separate out for purposes of further OMB review the IT portions of their budget requests, and typically the release of a White House budget proposal is occasion for the federal CIO to elaborate on OMB oversight and plans – something that officials say for this year won't be ready in greater detail until later this month.

The \$79.1 billion includes about \$13 billion for cybersecurity, both salaries and systems, VanRoekel said during the press call.

A federal cybersecurity priority this year and next will be deploying continuous monitoring sensors across all federal networks, he added. He also cited government work with the private sector to secure the systems of industries considered to be critical infrastructure as a priority. So is addressing security problems advanced by federal adoption of new technologies, he added.

The proposed topline amount of \$79.1 billion is a drop against the enacted current year amount of \$81.4 billion, VanRoekel said. The decline comes mostly from a diminution in proposed defense IT spending, for which this year Congress appropriated \$37.6 billion.

The decrease, VanRoekel said, comes from savings OMB has achieved through its PortfolioStat analysis of agency spending and subsequent consolidation of commodity IT buying and removal of some duplicated spending.

During the call, the federal CIO touted what he said were examples of consolidation, such as a plan by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to obtain core financial reporting software through the Treasury Department, as a shared service. VanRoekel also said the Small Business Administration plans to acquire its email, contacts and calendar services through a cloud-based offering via a blanket purchase agreement set up in 2012 by the General Services Administration.

<http://www.fiercegovernmentit.com/special-reports/presidents-2015-budget-request>

NextGOV: Federal Tech Funding Dips Slightly in Obama's Fiscal 2015 Request

Funding for civilian information technology projects and maintenance is essentially flat in President Obama's proposed budget for the 2015 fiscal year, and the Defense Department's requested technology allowance is down slightly, federal Chief Information Officer Steven VanRoekel said during a conference call on Tuesday.

The 2015 request for information technology spending is about \$79.1 billion, including \$43.7 billion for civilian IT and \$35.4 billion for defense, VanRoekel said. That's down from about \$81.4 billion enacted in the 2014 fiscal year.

The lower number is possible thanks to an increase in shared technology services across government and strategic sourcing for commodity IT such as computers and Internet service, VanRoekel said.

The overall technology spending figure is in line with previous Obama administration budgets, which have flatlined technology spending at around \$80 billion. During the Bush administration, government technology spending grew at about 7 percent annually.

During the coming budget year, VanRoekel's office plans to expand its PortfolioStat initiative, which has saved the government roughly \$1.6 billion so far, according to budget documents released on Tuesday. PortfolioStat is a top-to-bottom review of how agencies are buying commodity IT and managing basic services. The administration aims to save \$2.5 billion through the program by late 2015, according to the document.

During the 2015 fiscal year, VanRoekel's office hopes to expand PortfolioStat to focus more on increasing government efficiency and smoothing visitors' navigation across agencies' websites, contact centers and spheres of responsibility, he said.

"What we find talking to Americans out there is that they really view us not as a collection of agencies or even an org chart, but as one government," he said. "So the approach we're taking will be a one-government, outside-looking-in approach, versus inside-out, figuring out how do we break down those walls and silos to best serve [citizens]."

The government will also be looking for more opportunities to bring private sector technologists into government on a short-term basis in the coming year, VanRoekel said, though the details of the program are still being worked out.

The drive to tap private sector technologists for government work was driven partly by the successes of the Presidential Innovation Fellows, a program launched in 2012 to bring private sector innovators into agencies for six-month tours to focus on specific, thorny problems such as making federal technology contracts more

accessible to small businesses.

“We also saw other instances, like HealthCare.gov, where bringing in, in a reactive way, external talent to work side by side with agencies can change outcomes,” VanRoekel said, referring to a team of nongovernment workers that helped bring the federal Obamacare marketplace into good working order two months after its disastrous launch.

The government also plans to increase the number of services that are shared across agencies, VanRoekel said. Notably, the Small Business Administration will be transitioning to a cloud-based email and calendar system during the next year rather than operating email on its own servers.

<http://www.nextgov.com/cio-briefing/2014/03/federal-tech-funding-dips-slightly-obamas-fiscal-2015-request/79852/?oref=ng-dropdown>

ExecutiveGOV: Steven VanRoekel: No IT Funding Increase in Obama’s FY 2015 Budget Plan

President Barack Obama has proposed a \$79.1 billion information technology budget for fiscal 2015, down from the fiscal 2014 budget of \$81.4 billion, Nextgov reported Tuesday.

Joseph Marks writes Steven VanRoekel, federal chief information officer, said Tuesday the \$79.1 billion spending plan allocates \$35.4 billion to defense IT projects and \$43.7 billion to civilian IT programs.

VanRoekel seeks to expand PortfolioStat, his office’s IT portfolio management initiative that is intended generate an estimated \$2.5 billion in savings through 2015, according to the report.

“What we find talking to Americans out there is that they really view us not as a collection of agencies or even an org chart, but as one government,” VanRoekel told reporters at a conference call Tuesday.

“So the approach we’re taking will be a one-government, outside-looking-in approach, versus inside-out, figuring out how do we break down those walls and silos to best serve [citizens],” he added, according to the report.

VanRoekel's office also aims to attract private-sector talent for government IT work and increase the number of shared services agreements in the coming fiscal year, Marks writes.

- See more at: <http://www.executivegov.com/2014/03/steven-vanroekel-no-it-funding-increase-in-obamas-fy-2015-budget-plan/#sthash.jdOy8unM.dpuf>

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Thu Mar 06 2014 07:30:03 EST
To: DMCOS </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dmcos791>
CC: Canegallo, Kristie A. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=canegallo, kristie a.068>
Subject: FW: Management Agenda Call and Rollout
Attachments: image001.gif

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

DM

Below is a summary of the Management press we did around the budget release. (b) (5)

SB

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-----Original Message-----

From: Benenati, Frank
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 11:08 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia
Cc: Deese, Brian C.; Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Hornung, Daniel; Posner, Steven
Subject: Management Agenda Call and Rollout

Sylvia,

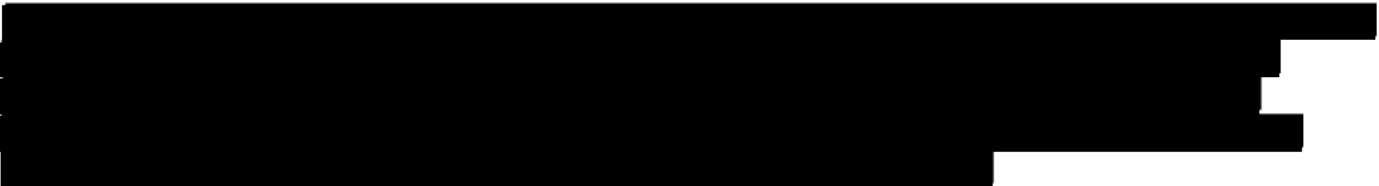
As requested, please see below for a summary of the call, subsequent coverage, and the management roll out.

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Government Executive: Obama Budget Offers a Refreshed Management Agenda

By Charles S. Clark

The Obama administration’s long-awaited refreshment of its governmentwide management agenda emerged in the fiscal 2015 budget released on Tuesday, with the legally required presentation of agency priority goals to come next week.

As part of a bid to “create a 21st century government,” the new budget documents repeat previous calls for Congress to give the administration authority to reorganize agencies, create a new independent federal property disposal board, continue a crackdown on improper payments and reform Defense Department procurement. Also included is a vow to enhance the government’s ability to recruit a top-talent workforce.

Beth Cobert, deputy director for management at the Office of Management and Budget, told reporters in a Tuesday conference call that the administration’s “living” agenda—which she said “is not restricted to what we’re outlining today”—is built on four themes: effectiveness, efficiency, economic drivers and people and culture. “We started the agenda by listening to federal workers, Congress, businesses and unions, who gave tremendous input and enormously thoughtful suggestions.”

Items on the management agenda, Cobert said, include reducing red tape to accelerate the construction permit approval process, opening more government data to the public, and streamlining and sharing core agency functions such as human resources, information technology and financial transactions. The Housing and Urban Development Department is in the process of moving all its financial management over to the Treasury Department, she noted -- the largest shared services initiative yet.

The administration’s ongoing efforts to reduce improper payments of federal funds by agencies such as the Internal Revenue Service and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have succeeded in cutting such payments by 3.5 percent, Cobert said.

In the area of people and culture, the administration seeks “to make sure federal employees have the right tools and are supported by a culture that values innovation and encourages recognition,” Cobert said. Acknowledging the frustrations of the pay freeze, sequestration and government shutdown during the past three years, she said the workforce “has continued to persevere and serve the American people with passion, professionalism and skill,” whether it be in protecting the homeland, providing veterans benefits, helping hurricane victims or searching for cures to deadly diseases.

Cobert also sketched out coming new pilot programs that will allow agencies across government to learn from each other’s programs aimed at improving leadership, recruitment and hiring to narrow skills gaps.

The budget documents released Tuesday ask Congress to revive an authority presidents used from 1932 to 1984 to submit proposals to reorganize the federal government using a fast-track voting procedure. That, OMB said, would allow the executive branch to streamline operations to better serve citizens.

Another Obama proposal would create a Federal Real Property Council to improve the quality of data and performance metrics related to the government’s real estate inventory. (A Republican version of such a plan already has passed the House.) And the 2015 budget proposes continued investment in the Pentagon’s Better Buying Initiative to overhaul the military weapons acquisition system.

The budget also proposed a reorganization of the government’s more than 200 science, technology, engineering and mathematics education programs designed to enable more strategic investment and “more critical evaluation of outcomes.”

“That’s new and very interesting news,” said Jitinder Kohli, a director in Deloitte’s public sector practice who headed the Doing What Works project for the liberal-learning Center for American Progress. Noting that fragmentation in STEM programs has long been criticized by the Government Accountability Office, he told Government Executive that “the devil is in the details, so we’ll have to see what Congress does with this politically charged issue. It’s good to see the challenge recognized.”

Not recognized in the Tuesday budget, Kohli, noted, was the long-anticipated list of new priority goals, as required by the 2010 Government Performance and Results Modernization Act. “I know next week is the

intended release, but it's surprising the goals are not there this week.”

Correction/Clarification: The original version of this story said that HUD had moved all of its financial management functions to the Treasury Department. HUD is still developing a plan to do this. Also, the article has been updated to clarify the circumstances surrounding the release of agency priority goals next week.

Federal Times: President Obama promotes government reorganization in 2015 budget

By Andy Medici

The administration laid out a broad plan to revamp agency operations and promote efficiency efforts in its 2015 budget request.

The request includes a previous proposal to grant the president the authority to reorganize and consolidate agencies via fast-track legislation. If given the authority President Obama would consolidate a number of jobs and economic growth programs into a new agency.

“By bringing together the core tools to expand trade and investment, grow small businesses, and support innovation, this reorganization would help American businesses compete in the global economy, expand exports, and create more jobs at home,” budget documents said.

Beth Cobert, the deputy director for management at the Office of Management and Budget, said the administration’s management agenda is “ambitious and cross-cutting.”

“In some areas we have already seen progress and we will continue to launch new initiatives,” Cobert said.

She said the administration will ensure progress by including performance goals in agency strategic plans and priorities and in government wide efforts.

Other management goals include:

Continuing to reduce improper payments — which have fallen to less than 4 percent in fiscal 2013.

The creation of a civilian BRAC process for underutilized federal property. The administration is proposing \$57 million to help consolidate or sell off federal properties in groups.

Using executive councils to establish cost and quality benchmarks in HR, finance, acquisition, IT and real property issues.

<http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20140304/MGMT/303040011/President-Obama-promotes-government-reorganization-2015-budget>

Federal News Radio: Budget proposal fleshes out OMB's management agenda

Jason Miller

More than six months after President Barack Obama announced his second-term management agenda, the Office of Management and Budget is putting some specifics behind it.

As part of the fiscal 2015 budget request sent to Congress Tuesday, the administration described initiatives around improving customer service at the IRS and the Social Security Administration. OMB also plans to fund and launch a civilian property realignment board and to include more funding for the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology to make federally funded data more widely available.

OMB said it will also launch new and improved employee training programs and three pilot programs to enhance how agencies hire employees.

"The agenda is focused on delivering a 21st century government that is more effective, efficient and supportive of economic growth," said Beth Cobert, OMB's deputy director for management, Tuesday during a teleconference with reporters. "This is a living agenda and it is not restricted to the initiatives I'm outlining today. As we make progress, we will continue to identify and launch new initiatives and reforms that support the agenda's mission."

Cobert said the management agenda is focused on four themes:

- Effectiveness — delivering better, faster, smarter services to citizens and businesses.
- Efficiency — increasing quality and value in the government's core administrative functions.

- Economic growth — opening government funded data and research to the public to spur innovation and economic growth.
- People and culture — unlocking the full potential of the federal workforce and building the workforce the government needs for the future.

Cobert said the budget proposals would provide "real and lasting change" to how the government works.

Throughout all of these initiatives, technology will continue to play a key role and enabler.

To that end, the administration is requesting \$79.1 billion for federal IT, down from \$81.4 billion in 2014. The Defense Department is responsible for most of the decrease — dropping to \$35.4 billion in 2015 from \$37.6 billion in 2014. The IT budget for civilian agencies remains roughly the same, at \$43.7 billion. Included in that topline figure is more than \$13 billion for agencies to spend on cybersecurity technologies, people and other resources in 2015.

Federal Chief Information Officer Steven VanRoekel said much of the decrease also can be attributed to savings from the use of the PortfolioStat program. Under that initiative, agencies are trying to reduce duplicative spending and consolidate commodity IT services.

VanRoekel pointed to the Small Business Administration as an example of how PortfolioStat is saving money. He said SBA will move its email, calendar and contacts to the cloud.

On the effectiveness front, the budget includes \$100 million for the Social Security Administration for a new customer-service modernization initiative to significantly improve Internet and in-person services.

SSA also would receive another \$150 million as part of the Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative to further reduce wait times and enhance services at SSA.

The Veterans Affairs Department would receive more money to invest in the eBenefits Web portal to improve how veterans manage their benefits. The budget calls for VA to receive \$173.3 million for the Veterans Benefits Management System, which would be used to reduce processing time and the claims backlog, automate claims tracking and facilitate improvements to the quality of the claims processing.

Under the efficiency front, the White House is expanding ongoing initiatives and, once again, is requesting authority to submit proposals to reorganize the Executive Branch under a fast-track procedure.

Cobert said agencies reduced the improper payment rate to 3.5 percent in 2013. OMB is conducting a comprehensive analysis of agency-specific corrective actions to identify programs with the highest return-on-investment or potential for substantially reducing improper payments in order to help shape future guidance on improper payments.

Under the "Freeze the Footprint" initiative, the administration will begin publicly tracking the government's adherence to a fixed baseline — 730.2 million total square feet — composed of office and warehouse space, and agencies will continue to pursue mobile workforce strategies and tighter internal controls on space acquisitions.

"In addition, the budget includes \$57 million to start up the Civilian Property Realignment Act (CPRA)," the documents stated. "CPRA would create an independent board of private- and public-sector real-estate experts that would make recommendations to the Congress on properties that should be sold, consolidated, co-located or reconfigured."

OMB submitted legislation to Congress in 2013 to create a civilian Base Realignment and Closure commission. The bill received attention from lawmakers, but was never passed out of Congress.

As part of its efforts to spur economic growth, the White House is proposing that the National Science Foundation develop a repository where the public can access articles by NSF-funded researchers.

At the same time, NIST would receive \$6 million to accelerate and expand technology transfer across the federal government, which will enhance the competitiveness of U.S. industry by sharing innovations and knowledge from federal laboratories.

And finally under the people and culture piece of the agenda, the administration wants to develop governmentwide enterprise training and resource exchanges to share best practices and increase leadership development opportunities.

"The budget includes funding for the Office of Personnel Management to build a stronger onboarding program for new Senior Executive Service, and leadership and engagement training opportunities for current SES that emphasize diversity and the changing needs of a 21st Century workforce," the documents stated. "Beginning in 2015, the administration will launch demonstration projects to identify promising practices in recruiting, hiring, onboarding, and deploying talent across agencies. The goal of these projects is to increase diversity, reduce skills gaps, and improve organizational outcomes."

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/513/3574844/Budget-proposal-fleshes-out-OMBs-management-agenda>

ExecutiveGov: Beth Cobert Outlines OMB's FY 2015 Management Goals

Beth Cobert, deputy management director at the Office of Management and Budget, detailed the agency's reform plans on Tuesday as part of the fiscal year 2015 budget proposal, Federal News Radio reported Tuesday.

Jason Miller writes Cobert told reporters Tuesday via teleconference the management agenda includes work to refresh the government's tax collection and social security services.

OMB also wants to also provide funding to establish a civilian property realignment board as well as employee hiring and training programs, Miller writes.

"The agenda is focused on delivering a 21st century government that is more effective, efficient and supportive of economic growth," Cobert said, according to the report.

"As we make progress, we will continue to identify and launch new initiatives and reforms that support the agenda's mission."

The proposal sets aside \$6 million for National Institute of Standards and Technology-run programs designed

to facilitate technology sharing among agencies, according to the article.

The White House also proposed building a repository for the public to access data from National Science Foundation-sponsored research projects, the station reports.

<http://www.executivegov.com/2014/03/beth-cobert-outlines-ombs-fy-2015-management-goals/#sthash.eoVTwqj1.dpuf>

Washington Post: Obama's plan for a 1 percent federal pay hike can survive even if his budget doesn't

By Joe Davidson

Presidential budgets frequently are considered DOA — dead on arrival — when they get to Capitol Hill. Congress often ignores them.

But when it comes to federal pay, ignoring President Obama's proposed 1 percent pay raise is the same as passing it.

The president's plan will take effect in January by default if no law setting a different figure is enacted. That happened this January, when workers also received a 1 percent hike.

Congressional Democrats have joined federal employee organizations in complaining about the meager increase. Yet Democrats don't see Congress approving a bigger boost. Republican leaders largely have been silent. If that pattern holds, the 1 percent that feds see now is what they will get next year.

The pay raise was not included in the budget figures released by the White House on Tuesday, but it will be in documents coming next week.

One percent doesn't keep up with inflation. It would follow a three-year freeze on basic federal pay rates and some pay decreases through budget-cutting furloughs last year.

While the small increase understandably upsets federal employees, this budget plan does represent a shift from previous situations that forced feds to give and give.

Presidents of the two largest federal unions — the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) and the National Treasury Employees Union — praised Obama for investments in federal employee training, among other things. They both cited the \$138 billion the federal workforce has contributed to deficit reduction over 10 years through the freeze and other measures.

Obama administration officials recognize federal workforce sacrifices, but say the 1 percent boost is the best they can do.

"We are pleased we can do the 1 percent," said Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Sylvia Mathews Burwell, drawing attention to "how tight the numbers are."

There are trade-offs that must be made in the budget process, she added: “A 1 percent increase is what we felt we were able to do in the context of the budget constraints.”

In a conference call later, Beth Cobert, OMB’s deputy director for management, said, “We recognize that the last few years have been challenging for the federal workforce” and listed a range of vital services performed by federal workers. “We are fortunate to be able to rely on a skilled workforce committed to public service. We want to ensure that we retain an engaged, well-prepared and well-trained workforce. . . . We want to recruit the next generation of federal leaders, sustaining our workforce so it can continue to do the work of the nation for decades to come.”

Past pay freezes and furloughs don’t make recruitment and retention any easier.

“The president has suggested that the proposed 1 percent pay adjustment is going to allow for the federal government to be more competitive in recruiting top-tier candidates. This line of thinking is flawed because the real income of the federal workforce is decreasing,” said William R. Dougan, president of the National Federation of Federal Employees.”

“While we applaud the president for protecting federal employees’ retirement security in his budget, I believe we are nearing a tipping point for the federal workforce. . . . Workers are becoming increasingly unhappy with their federal employment.”

The retirement security protection that Dougan mentioned is not in Obama’s current budget proposal. In his two previous budget plans, the president proposed increasing the contribution of employees toward their retirement benefits by 1.2 percentage points over three years.

The training proposal includes development programs for new and current members of the Senior Executive Service. The administration plans demonstration projects “to identify promising practices” in the recruitment and retention of talent, with the goals of increasing diversity, reducing skill gaps and improving service.

In other employee-related budget measures, Obama proposed allowing the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program to cover domestic partners of federal employees and new retirees, including same-sex couples, in 2016.

Obama expects to save \$340 million over 10 years through changes, some opposed by labor, in the Federal Employees’ Compensation Act, better known as workers’ comp. Among other things, he wants to amend FECA so that in the future, employees on workers comp reaching retirement age would move from disability payments to retirement benefits. Other changes include establishing a waiting period for all beneficiaries and reducing improper payments by authorizing the Labor Department to cross-match FECA and Social Security records.

The president’s budget plan promises “to put a stop to short-sighted cuts to Government operations that compromise efficiency and effectiveness and cost money over the long run.”

AFGE President J. David Cox Sr. said the administration should do more than that. He wants a 4 percent raise for feds and for Congress to repeal “all the cuts that have been made to federal retirement benefits.”

That’s not likely. Not now.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/federal_government/obamas-plan-for-a-1-percent-federal-pay-hike-can-survive-even-if-his-budget-doesnt/2014/03/04/6b6b2ea8-a3ba-11e3-8466-d34c451760b9_print.html

Government Executive: Obama's Fed-Friendly Budget Blueprint

President Obama removed many of the cuts previously aimed at federal employees in his fiscal 2015 budget, instead promising to “unlock the full potential” of the government workforce.

Obama struck a conciliatory tone in the blueprint when referring to federal workers that has been present in the rhetoric of past budgets, but mostly not backed up with substance. The White House on Tuesday announced a new initiative, and corresponding funding, to boost federal employee training and retention.

The budget “invests in the government’s most important resource, its workers, ensuring that we can attract and retain the best talent in the federal workforce and foster a culture of excellence.”

The proposal would fund the Office of Personnel Management to “build a stronger onboarding program” for new members of the Senior Executive Service, as well as leadership and engagement training for new managers to address the “changing needs of a 21st century workforce.” Obama promised his administration will work with labor groups to recruit and retain individuals with “high-demand talents and skills,” and will begin “demonstration projects” in 2015 to identify best practices in hiring, increasing diversity and reducing skill gaps.

In his fiscal 2014 budget, Obama proposed federal employees contribute an additional 1.2 percent of their pay toward their retirement pensions. He also suggested switching to a new formula to calculate inflation, which would result in lower cost-of-living adjustments for federal retirees and Social Security beneficiaries. Both of those measures were eliminated from the current budget, in part due to the recent budget agreement putting in place a pension contribution hike for new employees.

Obama has said the so-called “chained-Consumer Price Index” is still on the table, but the gridlock between congressional Republicans and the White House on deficit reduction has prompted him to eliminate the proposal from his fiscal 2015 budget.

Obama will not formally introduce his 1 percent pay raise proposal for civilian employees until next week, according to White House officials.

The budget was not all good news for federal employees; several agencies would face “right-sizing” under the president’s proposals. The intelligence community would face workforce reductions; the Environmental Protection Agency would “modernize” its workforce, resulting in job “consolidations”; the State Department would look to reduce the number of feds overseas at all agencies; the Transportation Security Administration would save \$100 million in 2015 through “staffing efficiencies”; and, as previously announced, the Defense Department will reduce its headquarters funding by 20 percent.

Overall, the Obama budget proposed 136 cuts, consolidations and savings opportunities, which would save \$17 billion. For a full list of the budget’s winners and losers, [click here](#).

Obama recommended a series of changes to the Federal Employees Compensation Act that would generate \$340 million in savings over 10 years. The proposal -- which is nearly identical to language included in a Senate bill to overhaul the U.S. Postal Service -- would reduce benefits to retirement-age employees

receiving workers' compensation, establish an up-front waiting period before those injured on the job begin receiving payments, and attempt to reduce improper payments. Obama also included the cuts in his fiscal 2014 budget.

The president also retained provisions to reform the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. The administration wants to give OPM the power to contract with "modern types of health plans rather than being limited to the current four statutorily-defined plans reflective of the 1950s insurance market." It would also give OPM the authority to negotiate pharmacy benefits for all FEHBP program participants. Currently, health plans participating in FEHBP contract with pharmacy benefits managers, who negotiate with drug manufacturers and pharmacies on behalf of their enrollees. OPM has said that working directly with a single pharmacy benefits manager would reduce costs to beneficiaries. Overall, the administration estimated the changes would save \$2 billion over 10 years.

<http://www.govexec.com/pay-benefits/2014/03/obamas-fed-friendly-budget-blueprint/79846/?oref=top-story>

Federal Times: IT spending drops in president's budget

By Nicole Blake Johnson

Information technology spending would drop slightly under the president's fiscal 2015 budget from \$81.3 billion to \$79.1 billion, with the Defense Department poised to absorb the full brunt of those cuts.

Overall defense IT spending would drop 6 percent from \$37.6 billion this year to \$35.4 billion in 2015, federal Chief Information Officer Steven VanRoekel told reporters Tuesday. Civilian IT spending would remain steady at \$43.7 billion, but it isn't clear how that plays out by agency. The Office of Management and Budget had not released a breakdown of IT spending as of Tuesday afternoon.

Unlike previous budgets, the president's proposal did not include the analytical perspectives section, which provide analyses on specific topics and data that places the budget in perspective. The administration is expected to release those documents separately next week.

When asked about the proposed decrease in spending, VanRoekel said agencies are driving out costs through efforts like PortfolioStat, which is designed to give CIOs and other executives a departmentwide view of their IT investments and eliminate duplication. Agencies have saved nearly \$1.6 billion since March 2012 through PortfolioStat, according to the president's budget.

The IT budget doesn't call for new initiatives but rather continues ongoing efforts like data center consolidation, cloud computing, strategic sourcing, shared services and improving citizen services.

"There is nothing disruptive here," said Trey Hodgkins, senior vice president of the IT Industry Council's public-sector branch. Hodgkins praised the administration's commitment to following through with existing initiatives.

As an example of shared services, OMB Deputy Director for Management Beth Cobert touted the Housing

and Urban Development Department's decision to transition all of its core financial management functions to the Treasury Department, starting in 2015.

In terms of strategic sourcing, Cobert said the administration is looking to expanding strategic sourcing into other areas like maintenance and rental cars. Areas have already been identified for fiscal 2015, she said.

Bolstering citizen services is another key area. The budget would provide \$100 million for a new modernization initiative to improve online and in-person services at the Social Security Administration and an additional \$150 million to help reduce wait times. The Veterans Affairs Department would get \$3.9 billion for information technology, with \$137 million set aside to fund the development of Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS).

<http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20140304/MGMT05/303040012/IT-spending-drops-president-s-budget?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

Federal Computer Week: IT spending dips slightly in Obama budget request

· By Adam Mazmanian

President Barack Obama's fiscal 2015 budget request includes expanded top-level oversight of federal IT projects to prevent surprises like the buggy launch of HealthCare.gov, and a push to create standards for user experience across government websites.

Overall, the \$1.014 trillion request includes slightly more than \$79 billion in federal IT spending, down slightly from the \$81.4 billion enacted for 2014. The savings come on the defense side, with \$35.4 billion in the 2015 request, down from \$37.6 billion last fiscal year, according to federal CIO Steve VanRoekel. Civilian IT spending ticks up a bit to \$43.7 billion. VanRoekel attributed the slight dip in military IT to savings from initiatives such as data center consolidation.

The administration is rebranding and expanding its oversight of IT. VanRoekel is adding federal IT effectiveness to his oversight responsibilities, such as maintaining the federal IT dashboard of technology investments and conducting TechStat and PortfolioStat reviews of ongoing projects. This Information Technology Oversight and Reform authority includes improving the user experience on federal websites and IT platforms, and potentially developing government-wide website templates or common platforms, and making it easier to deploy talented coders and IT personnel from agency to agency. The administration is requesting \$20 million in funding, up from the \$14 million requested (and the \$8 million actually enacted) in the 2014. The administration also is planning to increase IT oversight personnel from 12 to about 39.

The federal CIO budget request also includes \$2 million to pursue the Cross-Agency Priority goal of securing federal networks, to focus on anti-phishing and malware defense.

While metrics for effectiveness are still in development, VanRoekel told reporters that he's seeking "standards and policies to drive a more effective citizen experience," while improving the way the government accesses tech talent, both in the federal workforce and in the private sector.

"What we find talking to constituents and Americans out there is they really view us not as a collection of

agencies or even org chart, but as one government. The approach we're taking is really a one government, outside looking in approach," VanRoekel said.

VanRoekel touted a few new investments in the 2015 budget that exemplify these themes. At the Department of Veterans Affairs, an online benefits portal aims to offer faster, more accurate processing. A \$100 million modernization project at the Social Security Administration includes improved access to online services. The government is also looking to expand platforms around functional rather than departmental areas, like BusinessUSA for companies looking for loan programs and training, and SelectUSA for foreign businesses seeking access to U.S. markets.

The budget also calls for merging the E-Gov program with the Federal Citizens Services Fund, with about \$53.3 million requested for the combined office. That request was made last year as well, but senators' demand to keep the two funds separate ultimately prevailed.

Overall, the budget represents a thematic wish list for the Obama administration more than a blueprint for legislating. Spending levels remain within the limits of the two-year budget deal negotiated by Budget Committee Chairs Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and Sen Patty Murray (D-Wash.). However, the administration is again seeking higher taxes on higher-earning Americans and an expansion of the earned income tax credit for lower-income workers, neither of which is likely to gain traction ahead of the midterm elections.

<http://fcw.com/Articles/2014/03/04/budget-main.aspx?p=1>

Fierce Government IT: The president's 2015 budget request

By Zach Rausnitz

By David Perera and Molly Bernhart Walker

The federal information technology spending proposal for the coming fiscal year totals \$79.1 billion, Federal Chief Information Officer Steven VanRoekel said Tuesday during a call with reporters.

It includes \$35.4 billion for the Defense Department and \$43.7 billion for civilian agencies. As always with Office of Management and Budget calculations about federal IT spending, that figure doesn't account for classified spending, nor spending on embedded computers within things such as weapons systems or satellites.

Nor is there consistency from one agency to the next on what constitutes "information technology."

Overall federal IT spending is difficult to trace within the public federal budget proposal, since agencies mostly don't formulate budget requests to account for IT as a single chunk of proposed funding – although major projects often get dedicated requests. An exception to that rule is the Veterans Affairs Department, where all spending is controlled by the departmental CIO.

OMB requires agencies to separate out for purposes of further OMB review the IT portions of their budget requests, and typically the release of a White House budget proposal is occasion for the federal CIO to elaborate on OMB oversight and plans – something that officials say for this year won't be ready in greater detail until later this month.

The \$79.1 billion includes about \$13 billion for cybersecurity, both salaries and systems, VanRoekel said during the press call.

A federal cybersecurity priority this year and next will be deploying continuous monitoring sensors across all federal networks, he added. He also cited government work with the private sector to secure the systems of industries considered to be critical infrastructure as a priority. So is addressing security problems advanced by federal adoption of new technologies, he added.

The proposed topline amount of \$79.1 billion is a drop against the enacted current year amount of \$81.4 billion, VanRoekel said. The decline comes mostly from a diminution in proposed defense IT spending, for which this year Congress appropriated \$37.6 billion.

The decrease, VanRoekel said, comes from savings OMB has achieved through its PortfolioStat analysis of agency spending and subsequent consolidation of commodity IT buying and removal of some duplicated spending.

During the call, the federal CIO touted what he said were examples of consolidation, such as a plan by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to obtain core financial reporting software through the Treasury Department, as a shared service. VanRoekel also said the Small Business Administration plans to acquire its email, contacts and calendar services through a cloud-based offering via a blanket purchase agreement set up in 2012 by the General Services Administration.

<http://www.fierceregovernmentit.com/special-reports/presidents-2015-budget-request>

NextGov: Federal Tech Funding Dips Slightly in Obama's Fiscal 2015 Request

Funding for civilian information technology projects and maintenance is essentially flat in President Obama's proposed budget for the 2015 fiscal year, and the Defense Department's requested technology allowance is down slightly, federal Chief Information Officer Steven VanRoekel said during a conference call on Tuesday.

The 2015 request for information technology spending is about \$79.1 billion, including \$43.7 billion for civilian IT and \$35.4 billion for defense, VanRoekel said. That's down from about \$81.4 billion enacted in the 2014 fiscal year.

The lower number is possible thanks to an increase in shared technology services across government and strategic sourcing for commodity IT such as computers and Internet service, VanRoekel said.

The overall technology spending figure is in line with previous Obama administration budgets, which have

flatlined technology spending at around \$80 billion. During the Bush administration, government technology spending grew at about 7 percent annually.

During the coming budget year, VanRoekel's office plans to expand its PortfolioStat initiative, which has saved the government roughly \$1.6 billion so far, according to budget documents released on Tuesday. PortfolioStat is a top-to-bottom review of how agencies are buying commodity IT and managing basic services. The administration aims to save \$2.5 billion through the program by late 2015, according to the document.

During the 2015 fiscal year, VanRoekel's office hopes to expand PortfolioStat to focus more on increasing government efficiency and smoothing visitors' navigation across agencies' websites, contact centers and spheres of responsibility, he said.

"What we find talking to Americans out there is that they really view us not as a collection of agencies or even an org chart, but as one government," he said. "So the approach we're taking will be a one-government, outside-looking-in approach, versus inside-out, figuring out how do we break down those walls and silos to best serve [citizens]."

The government will also be looking for more opportunities to bring private sector technologists into government on a short-term basis in the coming year, VanRoekel said, though the details of the program are still being worked out.

The drive to tap private sector technologists for government work was driven partly by the successes of the Presidential Innovation Fellows, a program launched in 2012 to bring private sector innovators into agencies for six-month tours to focus on specific, thorny problems such as making federal technology contracts more accessible to small businesses.

"We also saw other instances, like HealthCare.gov, where bringing in, in a reactive way, external talent to work side by side with agencies can change outcomes," VanRoekel said, referring to a team of nongovernment workers that helped bring the federal Obamacare marketplace into good working order two months after its disastrous launch.

The government also plans to increase the number of services that are shared across agencies, VanRoekel said. Notably, the Small Business Administration will be transitioning to a cloud-based email and calendar system during the next year rather than operating email on its own servers.

<http://www.nextgov.com/cio-briefing/2014/03/federal-tech-funding-dips-slightly-obamas-fiscal-2015-request/79852/?oref=ng-dropdown>

ExecutiveGov: Steven VanRoekel: No IT Funding Increase in Obama's FY 2015 Budget Plan

President Barack Obama has proposed a \$79.1 billion information technology budget for fiscal 2015, down from the fiscal 2014 budget of \$81.4 billion, Nextgov reported Tuesday.

Joseph Marks writes Steven VanRoekel, federal chief information officer, said Tuesday the \$79.1 billion spending plan allocates \$35.4 billion to defense IT projects and \$43.7 billion to civilian IT programs.

VanRoekel seeks to expand PortfolioStat, his office's IT portfolio management initiative that is intended generate an estimated \$2.5 billion in savings through 2015, according to the report.

"What we find talking to Americans out there is that they really view us not as a collection of agencies or even an org chart, but as one government," VanRoekel told reporters at a conference call Tuesday.

"So the approach we're taking will be a one-government, outside-looking-in approach, versus inside-out, figuring out how do we break down those walls and silos to best serve [citizens]," he added, according to the report.

VanRoekel's office also aims to attract private-sector talent for government IT work and increase the number of shared services agreements in the coming fiscal year, Marks writes.

See more at: <http://www.executivegov.com/2014/03/steven-vanroekel-no-it-funding-increase-in-obamas-fy-2015-budget-plan/#sthash.jdOy8unM.dpuf>

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Thu Mar 06 2014 07:40:04 EST
To: Benenati, Frank </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=benenati, frank j.70c>
Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Cobert, Beth </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=cobert, beth f.551>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>; Hornung, Daniel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=hornung, daniel065>; Posner, Steven </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=posner, steven c.637>
CC:
Subject: RE: Management Agenda Call and Rollout
Attachments: image001.gif

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Thanks. Helpful. Sent to Denis.

From: Benenati, Frank
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 11:09 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia
Cc: Deese, Brian C.; Cobert, Beth; Shlossman, Amy; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya; Hornung, Daniel; Posner, Steven
Subject: Management Agenda Call and Rollout

Sylvia,

As requested, please see below for a summary of the call, subsequent coverage, and the management roll out.

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[Redacted content]

· (b) (5)
[Redacted content]

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Government Executive: Obama Budget Offers a Refreshed Management Agenda

By Charles S. Clark

The Obama administration's long-awaited refreshment of its governmentwide management agenda emerged in the fiscal 2015 budget released on Tuesday, with the legally required presentation of agency priority goals to come next week.

As part of a bid to "create a 21st century government," the new budget documents repeat previous calls for Congress to give the administration authority to reorganize agencies, create a new independent federal property disposal board, continue a crackdown on improper payments and reform Defense Department procurement.. Also included is a vow to enhance the government's ability to recruit a top-talent workforce.

Beth Cobert, deputy director for management at the Office of Management and Budget, told reporters in a Tuesday conference call that the administration's "living" agenda—which she said "is not restricted to what we're outlining today"—is built on four themes: effectiveness, efficiency, economic drivers and people and culture. "We started the agenda by listening to federal workers, Congress, businesses and unions, who gave tremendous input and enormously thoughtful suggestions."

Items on the management agenda, Cobert said, include reducing red tape to accelerate the construction permit approval process, opening more government data to the public, and streamlining and sharing core agency functions such as human resources, information technology and financial transactions. The Housing and Urban Development Department is in the process of moving all its financial management over to the Treasury Department, she noted -- the largest shared services initiative yet.

The administration's ongoing efforts to reduce improper payments of federal funds by agencies such as the Internal Revenue Service and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have succeeded in cutting such payments by 3.5 percent, Cobert said.

In the area of people and culture, the administration seeks "to make sure federal employees have the right tools and are supported by a culture that values innovation and encourages recognition," Cobert said. Acknowledging the frustrations of the pay freeze, sequestration and government shutdown during the past three years, she said the workforce "has continued to persevere and serve the American people with passion, professionalism and skill," whether it be in protecting the homeland, providing veterans benefits, helping hurricane victims or searching for cures to deadly diseases.

Cobert also sketched out coming new pilot programs that will allow agencies across government to learn from each other's programs aimed at improving leadership, recruitment and hiring to narrow skills gaps.

The budget documents released Tuesday ask Congress to revive an authority presidents used from 1932 to 1984 to submit proposals to reorganize the federal government using a fast-track voting procedure. That, OMB said, would allow the executive branch to streamline operations to better serve citizens.

Another Obama proposal would create a Federal Real Property Council to improve the quality of data and performance metrics related to the government's real estate inventory. (A Republican version of such a plan already has passed the House.) And the 2015 budget proposes continued investment in the Pentagon's Better Buying Initiative to overhaul the military weapons acquisition system.

The budget also proposed a reorganization of the government's more than 200 science, technology, engineering and mathematics education programs designed to enable more strategic investment and "more critical evaluation of outcomes."

"That's new and very interesting news," said Jitinder Kohli, a director in Deloitte's public sector practice who headed the Doing What Works project for the liberal-learning Center for American Progress. Noting that fragmentation in STEM programs has long been criticized by the Government Accountability Office, he told Government Executive that "the devil is in the details, so we'll have to see what Congress does with this politically charged issue. It's good to see the challenge recognized."

Not recognized in the Tuesday budget, Kohli, noted, was the long-anticipated list of new priority goals, as required by the 2010 Government Performance and Results Modernization Act. "I know next week is the intended release, but it's surprising the goals are not there this week."

Correction/Clarification: The original version of this story said that HUD had moved all of its financial management functions to the Treasury Department. HUD is still developing a plan to do this. Also, the article has been updated to clarify the circumstances surrounding the release of agency priority goals next week.

Federal Times: President Obama promotes government reorganization in 2015 budget

By Andy Medici

The administration laid out a broad plan to revamp agency operations and promote efficiency efforts in its 2015 budget request.

The request includes a previous proposal to grant the president the authority to reorganize and consolidate agencies via fast-track legislation. If given the authority President Obama would consolidate a number of jobs and economic growth programs into a new agency.

“By bringing together the core tools to expand trade and investment, grow small businesses, and support innovation, this reorganization would help American businesses compete in the global economy, expand exports, and create more jobs at home,” budget documents said.

Beth Cobert, the deputy director for management at the Office of Management and Budget, said the administration’s management agenda is “ambitious and cross-cutting.”

“In some areas we have already seen progress and we will continue to launch new initiatives,” Cobert said.

She said the administration will ensure progress by including performance goals in agency strategic plans and priorities and in government wide efforts.

Other management goals include:

Continuing to reduce improper payments — which have fallen to less than 4 percent in fiscal 2013.

The creation of a civilian BRAC process for underutilized federal property. The administration is proposing \$57 million to help consolidate or sell off federal properties in groups.

Using executive councils to establish cost and quality benchmarks in HR, finance, acquisition, IT and real property issues.

<http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20140304/MGMT/303040011/President-Obama-promotes-government-reorganization-2015-budget>

Federal News Radio: Budget proposal fleshes out OMB's management agenda

Jason Miller

More than six months after President Barack Obama announced his second-term management agenda, the Office of Management and Budget is putting some specifics behind it.

As part of the fiscal 2015 budget request sent to Congress Tuesday, the administration described initiatives around improving customer service at the IRS and the Social Security Administration. OMB also plans to fund and launch a civilian property realignment board and to include more funding for the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology to make federally funded data more widely available.

OMB said it will also launch new and improved employee training programs and three pilot programs to enhance how agencies hire employees.

"The agenda is focused on delivering a 21st century government that is more effective, efficient and supportive of economic growth," said Beth Cobert, OMB's deputy director for management, Tuesday during a teleconference with reporters. "This is a living agenda and it is not restricted to the initiatives I'm outlining today. As we make progress, we will continue to identify and launch new initiatives and reforms that support the agenda's mission."

Cobert said the management agenda is focused on four themes:

- Effectiveness — delivering better, faster, smarter services to citizens and businesses.
- Efficiency — increasing quality and value in the government's core administrative functions.
- Economic growth — opening government funded data and research to the public to spur innovation and economic growth.
- People and culture — unlocking the full potential of the federal workforce and building the workforce the government needs for the future.

Cobert said the budget proposals would provide "real and lasting change" to how the government works.

Throughout all of these initiatives, technology will continue to play a key role and enabler.

To that end, the administration is requesting \$79.1 billion for federal IT, down from \$81.4 billion in 2014. The Defense Department is responsible for most of the decrease — dropping to \$35.4 billion in 2015 from \$37.6 billion in 2014. The IT budget for civilian agencies remains roughly the same, at \$43.7 billion. Included in that topline figure is more than \$13 billion for agencies to spend on cybersecurity technologies, people and other resources in 2015.

Federal Chief Information Officer Steven VanRoekel said much of the decrease also can be attributed to savings from the use of the PortfolioStat program. Under that initiative, agencies are trying to reduce duplicative spending and consolidate commodity IT services.

VanRoekel pointed to the Small Business Administration as an example of how PortfolioStat is saving money. He said SBA will move its email, calendar and contacts to the cloud.

On the effectiveness front, the budget includes \$100 million for the Social Security Administration for a new customer-service modernization initiative to significantly improve Internet and in-person services.

SSA also would receive another \$150 million as part of the Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative to further reduce wait times and enhance services at SSA.

The Veterans Affairs Department would receive more money to invest in the eBenefits Web portal to improve how veterans manage their benefits. The budget calls for VA to receive \$173.3 million for the Veterans Benefits Management System, which would be used to reduce processing time and the claims backlog, automate claims tracking and facilitate improvements to the quality of the claims processing.

Under the efficiency front, the White House is expanding ongoing initiatives and, once again, is requesting authority to submit proposals to reorganize the Executive Branch under a fast-track procedure.

Cobert said agencies reduced the improper payment rate to 3.5 percent in 2013. OMB is conducting a comprehensive analysis of agency-specific corrective actions to identify programs with the highest return-on-investment or potential for substantially reducing improper payments in order to help shape future guidance on improper payments.

Under the "Freeze the Footprint" initiative, the administration will begin publicly tracking the government's adherence to a fixed baseline — 730.2 million total square feet — composed of office and warehouse space, and agencies will continue to pursue mobile workforce strategies and tighter internal controls on space acquisitions.

"In addition, the budget includes \$57 million to start up the Civilian Property Realignment Act (CPRA)," the documents stated. "CPRA would create an independent board of private- and public-sector real-estate experts that would make recommendations to the Congress on properties that should be sold, consolidated, co-located or reconfigured."

OMB submitted legislation to Congress in 2013 to create a civilian Base Realignment and Closure commission. The bill received attention from lawmakers, but was never passed out of Congress.

As part of its efforts to spur economic growth, the White House is proposing that the National Science Foundation develop a repository where the public can access articles by NSF-funded researchers.

At the same time, NIST would receive \$6 million to accelerate and expand technology transfer across the federal government, which will enhance the competitiveness of U.S. industry by sharing innovations and knowledge from federal laboratories.

And finally under the people and culture piece of the agenda, the administration wants to develop governmentwide enterprise training and resource exchanges to share best practices and increase leadership development opportunities.

"The budget includes funding for the Office of Personnel Management to build a stronger onboarding program for new Senior Executive Service, and leadership and engagement training opportunities for current SES that emphasize diversity and the changing needs of a 21st Century workforce," the documents stated. "Beginning in 2015, the administration will launch demonstration projects to identify promising practices in recruiting, hiring, onboarding, and deploying talent across agencies. The goal of these projects is to increase diversity, reduce skills gaps, and improve organizational outcomes."

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/513/3574844/Budget-proposal-fleshes-out-OMBs-management-agenda>

ExecutiveGov: Beth Cobert Outlines OMB's FY 2015 Management Goals

Beth Cobert, deputy management director at the Office of Management and Budget, detailed the agency's reform plans on Tuesday as part of the fiscal year 2015 budget proposal, Federal News Radio reported Tuesday.

Jason Miller writes Cobert told reporters Tuesday via teleconference the management agenda includes work to refresh the government's tax collection and social security services.

OMB also wants to also provide funding to establish a civilian property realignment board as well as employee hiring and training programs, Miller writes.

"The agenda is focused on delivering a 21st century government that is more effective, efficient and supportive of economic growth," Cobert said, according to the report.

"As we make progress, we will continue to identify and launch new initiatives and reforms that support the agenda's mission."

The proposal sets aside \$6 million for National Institute of Standards and Technology-run programs designed to facilitate technology sharing among agencies, according to the article.

The White House also proposed building a repository for the public to access data from National Science

Foundation-sponsored research projects, the station reports.

<http://www.executivegov.com/2014/03/beth-cobert-outlines-ombs-fy-2015-management-goals/#sthash.eoVTwqj1.dpuf>

Washington Post: Obama's plan for a 1 percent federal pay hike can survive even if his budget doesn't

By Joe Davidson

Presidential budgets frequently are considered DOA — dead on arrival — when they get to Capitol Hill. Congress often ignores them.

But when it comes to federal pay, ignoring President Obama's proposed 1 percent pay raise is the same as passing it.

The president's plan will take effect in January by default if no law setting a different figure is enacted. That happened this January, when workers also received a 1 percent hike.

Congressional Democrats have joined federal employee organizations in complaining about the meager increase. Yet Democrats don't see Congress approving a bigger boost. Republican leaders largely have been silent. If that pattern holds, the 1 percent that feds see now is what they will get next year.

The pay raise was not included in the budget figures released by the White House on Tuesday, but it will be in documents coming next week.

One percent doesn't keep up with inflation. It would follow a three-year freeze on basic federal pay rates and some pay decreases through budget-cutting furloughs last year.

While the small increase understandably upsets federal employees, this budget plan does represent a shift from previous situations that forced feds to give and give.

Presidents of the two largest federal unions — the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) and the National Treasury Employees Union — praised Obama for investments in federal employee training, among other things. They both cited the \$138 billion the federal workforce has contributed to deficit reduction over 10 years through the freeze and other measures.

Obama administration officials recognize federal workforce sacrifices, but say the 1 percent boost is the best they can do.

"We are pleased we can do the 1 percent," said Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Sylvia Mathews Burwell, drawing attention to "how tight the numbers are."

There are trade-offs that must be made in the budget process, she added: "A 1 percent increase is what we felt we were able to do in the context of the budget constraints."

In a conference call later, Beth Cobert, OMB's deputy director for management, said, "We recognize that the last few years have been challenging for the federal workforce" and listed a range of vital services performed

by federal workers. “We are fortunate to be able to rely on a skilled workforce committed to public service. We want to ensure that we retain an engaged, well-prepared and well-trained workforce. . . . We want to recruit the next generation of federal leaders, sustaining our workforce so it can continue to do the work of the nation for decades to come.”

Past pay freezes and furloughs don’t make recruitment and retention any easier.

“The president has suggested that the proposed 1 percent pay adjustment is going to allow for the federal government to be more competitive in recruiting top-tier candidates. This line of thinking is flawed because the real income of the federal workforce is decreasing,” said William R. Dougan, president of the National Federation of Federal Employees.”

“While we applaud the president for protecting federal employees’ retirement security in his budget, I believe we are nearing a tipping point for the federal workforce. . . . Workers are becoming increasingly unhappy with their federal employment.”

The retirement security protection that Dougan mentioned is not in Obama’s current budget proposal. In his two previous budget plans, the president proposed increasing the contribution of employees toward their retirement benefits by 1.2 percentage points over three years.

The training proposal includes development programs for new and current members of the Senior Executive Service. The administration plans demonstration projects “to identify promising practices” in the recruitment and retention of talent, with the goals of increasing diversity, reducing skill gaps and improving service.

In other employee-related budget measures, Obama proposed allowing the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program to cover domestic partners of federal employees and new retirees, including same-sex couples, in 2016.

Obama expects to save \$340 million over 10 years through changes, some opposed by labor, in the Federal Employees’ Compensation Act, better known as workers’ comp. Among other things, he wants to amend FECA so that in the future, employees on workers comp reaching retirement age would move from disability payments to retirement benefits. Other changes include establishing a waiting period for all beneficiaries and reducing improper payments by authorizing the Labor Department to cross-match FECA and Social Security records.

The president’s budget plan promises “to put a stop to short-sighted cuts to Government operations that compromise efficiency and effectiveness and cost money over the long run.”

AFGE President J. David Cox Sr. said the administration should do more than that. He wants a 4 percent raise for feds and for Congress to repeal “all the cuts that have been made to federal retirement benefits.”

That’s not likely. Not now.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/federal_government/obamas-plan-for-a-1-percent-federal-pay-hike-can-survive-even-if-his-budget-doesnt/2014/03/04/6b6b2ea8-a3ba-11e3-8466-d34c451760b9_print.html

Government Executive: Obama’s Fed-Friendly Budget Blueprint

President Obama removed many of the cuts previously aimed at federal employees in his fiscal 2015 budget, instead promising to “unlock the full potential” of the government workforce.

Obama struck a conciliatory tone in the blueprint when referring to federal workers that has been present in the rhetoric of past budgets, but mostly not backed up with substance. The White House on Tuesday announced a new initiative, and corresponding funding, to boost federal employee training and retention.

The budget “invests in the government’s most important resource, its workers, ensuring that we can attract and retain the best talent in the federal workforce and foster a culture of excellence.”

The proposal would fund the Office of Personnel Management to “build a stronger onboarding program” for new members of the Senior Executive Service, as well as leadership and engagement training for new managers to address the “changing needs of a 21st century workforce.” Obama promised his administration will work with labor groups to recruit and retain individuals with “high-demand talents and skills,” and will begin “demonstration projects” in 2015 to identify best practices in hiring, increasing diversity and reducing skill gaps.

In his fiscal 2014 budget, Obama proposed federal employees contribute an additional 1.2 percent of their pay toward their retirement pensions. He also suggested switching to a new formula to calculate inflation, which would result in lower cost-of-living adjustments for federal retirees and Social Security beneficiaries. Both of those measures were eliminated from the current budget, in part due to the recent budget agreement putting in place a pension contribution hike for new employees.

Obama has said the so-called “chained-Consumer Price Index” is still on the table, but the gridlock between congressional Republicans and the White House on deficit reduction has prompted him to eliminate the proposal from his fiscal 2015 budget.

Obama will not formally introduce his 1 percent pay raise proposal for civilian employees until next week, according to White House officials.

The budget was not all good news for federal employees; several agencies would face “right-sizing” under the president’s proposals. The intelligence community would face workforce reductions; the Environmental Protection Agency would “modernize” its workforce, resulting in job “consolidations”; the State Department would look to reduce the number of feds overseas at all agencies; the Transportation Security Administration would save \$100 million in 2015 through “staffing efficiencies”; and, as previously announced, the Defense Department will reduce its headquarters funding by 20 percent.

Overall, the Obama budget proposed 136 cuts, consolidations and savings opportunities, which would save \$17 billion. For a full list of the budget’s winners and losers, [click here](#).

Obama recommended a series of changes to the Federal Employees Compensation Act that would generate \$340 million in savings over 10 years. The proposal -- which is nearly identical to language included in a Senate bill to overhaul the U.S. Postal Service -- would reduce benefits to retirement-age employees receiving workers’ compensation, establish an up-front waiting period before those injured on the job begin receiving payments, and attempt to reduce improper payments. Obama also included the cuts in his fiscal 2014 budget.

The president also retained provisions to reform the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. The

administration wants to give OPM the power to contract with “modern types of health plans rather than being limited to the current four statutorily-defined plans reflective of the 1950s insurance market.” It would also give OPM the authority to negotiate pharmacy benefits for all FEHBP program participants. Currently, health plans participating in FEHBP contract with pharmacy benefits managers, who negotiate with drug manufacturers and pharmacies on behalf of their enrollees. OPM has said that working directly with a single pharmacy benefits manager would reduce costs to beneficiaries. Overall, the administration estimated the changes would save \$2 billion over 10 years.

<http://www.govexec.com/pay-benefits/2014/03/obamas-fed-friendly-budget-blueprint/79846/?oref=top-story>

Federal Times: IT spending drops in president's budget

By Nicole Blake Johnson

Information technology spending would drop slightly under the president’s fiscal 2015 budget from \$81.3 billion to \$79.1 billion, with the Defense Department poised to absorb the full brunt of those cuts.

Overall defense IT spending would drop 6 percent from \$37.6 billion this year to \$35.4 billion in 2015, federal Chief Information Officer Steven VanRoekel told reporters Tuesday. Civilian IT spending would remain steady at \$43.7 billion, but it isn’t clear how that plays out by agency. The Office of Management and Budget had not released a breakdown of IT spending as of Tuesday afternoon.

Unlike previous budgets, the president’s proposal did not include the analytical perspectives section, which provide analyses on specific topics and data that places the budget in perspective. The administration is expected to release those documents separately next week.

When asked about the proposed decrease in spending, VanRoekel said agencies are driving out costs through efforts like PortfolioStat, which is designed to give CIOs and other executives a departmentwide view of their IT investments and eliminate duplication. Agencies have saved nearly \$1.6 billion since March 2012 through PortfolioStat, according to the president’s budget.

The IT budget doesn’t call for new initiatives but rather continues ongoing efforts like data center consolidation, cloud computing, strategic sourcing, shared services and improving citizen services.

“There is nothing disruptive here,” said Trey Hodgkins, senior vice president of the IT Industry Council’s public-sector branch. Hodgkins praised the administration’s commitment to following through with existing initiatives.

As an example of shared services, OMB Deputy Director for Management Beth Cobert touted the Housing and Urban Development Department’s decision to transition all of its core financial management functions to the Treasury Department, starting in 2015.

In terms of strategic sourcing, Cobert said the administration is looking to expanding strategic sourcing into other areas like maintenance and rental cars. Areas have already been identified for fiscal 2015, she said.

Bolstering citizen services is another key area. The budget would provide \$100 million for a new modernization initiative to improve online and in-person services at the Social Security Administration and an additional \$150 million to help reduce wait times. The Veterans Affairs Department would get \$3.9 billion for information technology, with \$137 million set aside to fund the development of Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS).

<http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20140304/MGMT05/303040012/IT-spending-drops-president-s-budget?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

Federal Computer Week: IT spending dips slightly in Obama budget request

· By Adam Mazmanian

President Barack Obama's fiscal 2015 budget request includes expanded top-level oversight of federal IT projects to prevent surprises like the buggy launch of HealthCare.gov, and a push to create standards for user experience across government websites.

Overall, the \$1.014 trillion request includes slightly more than \$79 billion in federal IT spending, down slightly from the \$81.4 billion enacted for 2014. The savings come on the defense side, with \$35.4 billion in the 2015 request, down from \$37.6 billion last fiscal year, according to federal CIO Steve VanRoekel. Civilian IT spending ticks up a bit to \$43.7 billion. VanRoekel attributed the slight dip in military IT to savings from initiatives such as data center consolidation.

The administration is rebranding and expanding its oversight of IT. VanRoekel is adding federal IT effectiveness to his oversight responsibilities, such as maintaining the federal IT dashboard of technology investments and conducting TechStat and PortfolioStat reviews of ongoing projects. This Information Technology Oversight and Reform authority includes improving the user experience on federal websites and IT platforms, and potentially developing government-wide website templates or common platforms, and making it easier to deploy talented coders and IT personnel from agency to agency. The administration is requesting \$20 million in funding, up from the \$14 million requested (and the \$8 million actually enacted) in the 2014. The administration also is planning to increase IT oversight personnel from 12 to about 39.

The federal CIO budget request also includes \$2 million to pursue the Cross-Agency Priority goal of securing federal networks, to focus on anti-phishing and malware defense.

While metrics for effectiveness are still in development, VanRoekel told reporters that he's seeking "standards and policies to drive a more effective citizen experience," while improving the way the government accesses tech talent, both in the federal workforce and in the private sector.

"What we find talking to constituents and Americans out there is they really view us not as a collection of agencies or even org chart, but as one government. The approach we're taking is really a one government, outside looking in approach," VanRoekel said.

VanRoekel touted a few new investments in the 2015 budget that exemplify these themes. At the Department of Veterans Affairs, an online benefits portal aims to offer faster, more accurate processing. A \$100 million

modernization project at the Social Security Administration includes improved access to online services. The government is also looking to expand platforms around functional rather than departmental areas, like BusinessUSA for companies looking for loan programs and training, and SelectUSA for foreign businesses seeking access to U.S. markets.

The budget also calls for merging the E-Gov program with the Federal Citizens Services Fund, with about \$53.3 million requested for the combined office. That request was made last year as well, but senators' demand to keep the two funds separate ultimately prevailed.

Overall, the budget represents a thematic wish list for the Obama administration more than a blueprint for legislating. Spending levels remain within the limits of the two-year budget deal negotiated by Budget Committee Chairs Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and Sen Patty Murray (D-Wash.). However, the administration is again seeking higher taxes on higher-earning Americans and an expansion of the earned income tax credit for lower-income workers, neither of which is likely to gain traction ahead of the midterm elections.

<http://fcw.com/Articles/2014/03/04/budget-main.aspx?p=1>

Fierce Government IT: The president's 2015 budget request

By Zach Rausnitz

By David Perera and Molly Bernhart Walker

The federal information technology spending proposal for the coming fiscal year totals \$79.1 billion, Federal Chief Information Officer Steven VanRoekel said Tuesday during a call with reporters.

It includes \$35.4 billion for the Defense Department and \$43.7 billion for civilian agencies. As always with Office of Management and Budget calculations about federal IT spending, that figure doesn't account for classified spending, nor spending on embedded computers within things such as weapons systems or satellites.

Nor is there consistency from one agency to the next on what constitutes "information technology."

Overall federal IT spending is difficult to trace within the public federal budget proposal, since agencies mostly don't formulate budget requests to account for IT as a single chunk of proposed funding – although major projects often get dedicated requests. An exception to that rule is the Veterans Affairs Department, where all spending is controlled by the departmental CIO.

OMB requires agencies to separate out for purposes of further OMB review the IT portions of their budget requests, and typically the release of a White House budget proposal is occasion for the federal CIO to elaborate on OMB oversight and plans – something that officials say for this year won't be ready in greater detail until later this month.

The \$79.1 billion includes about \$13 billion for cybersecurity, both salaries and systems, VanRoekel said during the press call.

A federal cybersecurity priority this year and next will be deploying continuous monitoring sensors across all federal networks, he added. He also cited government work with the private sector to secure the systems of

industries considered to be critical infrastructure as a priority. So is addressing security problems advanced by federal adoption of new technologies, he added.

The proposed topline amount of \$79.1 billion is a drop against the enacted current year amount of \$81.4 billion, VanRoekel said. The decline comes mostly from a diminution in proposed defense IT spending, for which this year Congress appropriated \$37.6 billion.

The decrease, VanRoekel said, comes from savings OMB has achieved through its PortfolioStat analysis of agency spending and subsequent consolidation of commodity IT buying and removal of some duplicated spending.

During the call, the federal CIO touted what he said were examples of consolidation, such as a plan by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to obtain core financial reporting software through the Treasury Department, as a shared service. VanRoekel also said the Small Business Administration plans to acquire its email, contacts and calendar services through a cloud-based offering via a blanket purchase agreement set up in 2012 by the General Services Administration.

<http://www.fiercegovernmentit.com/special-reports/presidents-2015-budget-request>

NextGov: Federal Tech Funding Dips Slightly in Obama's Fiscal 2015 Request

Funding for civilian information technology projects and maintenance is essentially flat in President Obama's proposed budget for the 2015 fiscal year, and the Defense Department's requested technology allowance is down slightly, federal Chief Information Officer Steven VanRoekel said during a conference call on Tuesday.

The 2015 request for information technology spending is about \$79.1 billion, including \$43.7 billion for civilian IT and \$35.4 billion for defense, VanRoekel said. That's down from about \$81.4 billion enacted in the 2014 fiscal year.

The lower number is possible thanks to an increase in shared technology services across government and strategic sourcing for commodity IT such as computers and Internet service, VanRoekel said.

The overall technology spending figure is in line with previous Obama administration budgets, which have flatlined technology spending at around \$80 billion. During the Bush administration, government technology spending grew at about 7 percent annually.

During the coming budget year, VanRoekel's office plans to expand its PortfolioStat initiative, which has saved the government roughly \$1.6 billion so far, according to budget documents released on Tuesday. PortfolioStat is a top-to-bottom review of how agencies are buying commodity IT and managing basic services. The administration aims to save \$2.5 billion through the program by late 2015, according to the document.

During the 2015 fiscal year, VanRoekel's office hopes to expand PortfolioStat to focus more on increasing government efficiency and smoothing visitors' navigation across agencies' websites, contact centers and spheres of responsibility, he said.

"What we find talking to Americans out there is that they really view us not as a collection of agencies or even an org chart, but as one government," he said. "So the approach we're taking will be a one-government, outside-looking-in approach, versus inside-out, figuring out how do we break down those walls and silos to best serve [citizens]."

The government will also be looking for more opportunities to bring private sector technologists into government on a short-term basis in the coming year, VanRoekel said, though the details of the program are still being worked out.

The drive to tap private sector technologists for government work was driven partly by the successes of the Presidential Innovation Fellows, a program launched in 2012 to bring private sector innovators into agencies for six-month tours to focus on specific, thorny problems such as making federal technology contracts more accessible to small businesses.

"We also saw other instances, like HealthCare.gov, where bringing in, in a reactive way, external talent to work side by side with agencies can change outcomes," VanRoekel said, referring to a team of nongovernment workers that helped bring the federal Obamacare marketplace into good working order two months after its disastrous launch.

The government also plans to increase the number of services that are shared across agencies, VanRoekel said. Notably, the Small Business Administration will be transitioning to a cloud-based email and calendar system during the next year rather than operating email on its own servers.

<http://www.nextgov.com/cio-briefing/2014/03/federal-tech-funding-dips-slightly-obamas-fiscal-2015-request/79852/?oref=ng-dropdown>

ExecutiveGov: Steven VanRoekel: No IT Funding Increase in Obama's FY 2015 Budget Plan

President Barack Obama has proposed a \$79.1 billion information technology budget for fiscal 2015, down from the fiscal 2014 budget of \$81.4 billion, Nextgov reported Tuesday.

Joseph Marks writes Steven VanRoekel, federal chief information officer, said Tuesday the \$79.1 billion spending plan allocates \$35.4 billion to defense IT projects and \$43.7 billion to civilian IT programs.

VanRoekel seeks to expand PortfolioStat, his office's IT portfolio management initiative that is intended generate an estimated \$2.5 billion in savings through 2015, according to the report.

"What we find talking to Americans out there is that they really view us not as a collection of agencies or even an org chart, but as one government," VanRoekel told reporters at a conference call Tuesday.

"So the approach we're taking will be a one-government, outside-looking-in approach, versus inside-out, figuring out how do we break down those walls and silos to best serve [citizens]," he added, according to the report.

VanRoekel's office also aims to attract private-sector talent for government IT work and increase the number of shared services agreements in the coming fiscal year, Marks writes.

See more at: <http://www.executivegov.com/2014/03/steven-vanroekel-no-it-funding-increase-in-obamas-fy-2015-budget-plan/#sthash.jdOy8unM.dpuf>

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Thu Mar 13 2014 17:22:44 EDT
To: Harris, Julian </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=harris, julian j.88f>; Shelanski, Howard </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shelanski, howard a.d69>; Greenawalt, Andrei </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=greenawalt, andrei m.b66>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
CC: Martin, Kathryn </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kathrynmartin15107475>; Reilly, Tom </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=thomasm.reilly54276557>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy l.058>; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=sackner-bernstein, sonya e.5dc>
Subject: RE: RC: GOP Could Force Vote to Negate Obamacare Carve-Out for Unions
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Do we have the letter?

From: Harris, Julian
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 2:57 PM
To: Shelanski, Howard; Burwell, Sylvia; Greenawalt, Andrei; Deese, Brian C.; Sarri, Kristen
Cc: Martin, Kathryn; Reilly, Tom
Subject: FW: RC: GOP Could Force Vote to Negate Obamacare Carve-Out for Unions

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 2:55 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Healthcare; Clavel, Lise; Jimenez, Luis A.; Kochman, Kate; Lachman, Sherry; Lopez, Rafael; Rosenbaum, Amy; Schultz, Greg; Tamarin, Nate; Twigg, Carri
Subject: RC: GOP Could Force Vote to Negate Obamacare Carve-Out for Unions

<http://blogs.rollcall.com/wgdb/gop-could-force-vote-to-negate-obamacare-carveout-for-unions/>

GOP Could Force Vote to Negate Obamacare Carve-Out for Unions

Roll Call // Niels Lesniewski

Posted at 2:37 p.m. today

Senate Republicans have at least one arrow in their quiver to force an uncomfortable Obamacare vote for Democrats seeking re-election in 2014.

That's one takeaway from a new letter signed by 25 GOP senators led by John Thune of South Dakota, Orrin G. Hatch of Utah and Lamar Alexander of Tennessee. The letter sent to Office of Management and Budget Director Sylvia Burwell criticized an exemption from a re-insurance fee for self-insured health plans, calling the maneuver a carve-out for labor unions that run such plans.

"We demand that the rule be immediately rescinded or we will consider using options such as the Congressional Review Act ... to stop the rule from going into effect. The CRA is an important backstop against executive branch excess and overreach," the senators wrote. "It is regulations such as this one that demonstrate why a Republican-led Congress enacted this law in 1996."

The CRA established an expedited procedure that isn't subject to filibuster in the Senate to overturn department and agency rules. Substantively, the CRA almost never works because even if a joint resolution of disapproval makes it through the House and the Senate, the president could still veto it.

The process under the CRA has worked only once, when a GOP-led Congress joined with President George W. Bush to nullify an Occupational Safety and Health Administration ergonomics rule made near the end of the Clinton administration.

It isn't the first time Senate Republicans have gone down this road on health care. Sen. Michael B. Enzi, R-Wyo., offered a disapproval resolution back in 2010 to nullify a rule about the grandfathering of health care plans under the Affordable Care Act. Senate Democrats turned back that effort.

A CRA resolution by the GOP senators would grant special status for a simple-majority floor vote (on a motion to proceed, at least) in the middle of a contentious midterm election cycle.

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Fri Mar 14 2014 06:07:10 EDT
To: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Cobert, Beth </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=cobert, beth f.551>; Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>
CC:
Subject: FW: RC: GOP Could Force Vote to Negate Obamacare Carve-Out for Unions
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

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-----Original Message-----

From: Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 05:36 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Harris, Julian; Shelanski, Howard; Greenawalt, Andrei; Deese, Brian C.; Sarri, Kristen
Cc: Martin, Kathryn; Reilly, Tom; Shlossman, Amy
Subject: RE: RC: GOP Could Force Vote to Negate Obamacare Carve-Out for Unions

<http://www.help.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/?id=35fa1118-8a5f-4510-8e66-02185e1a9330&groups=Ranking>

March 13, 2014

Mrs. Sylvia Mathews Burwell

Director

Office of Management and Budget

301 G Street, Southwest

Washington, DC 20024

RE: Final Rule No. RIN 0938-AR89

Dear Director Burwell:

We write to express deep disappointment that your agency has approved a final rule creating an unwarranted special carveout benefitting certain unions over other Americans. We demand that the rule be immediately rescinded or we will consider using options such as the Congressional Review Act (“CRA”) to stop the rule from going into effect. The CRA is an important backstop against executive branch excess and overreach. It is regulations such as this one that demonstrate why a Republican-led Congress enacted this law in 1996.

On September 18 and November 13, 2013, 21 U.S. Senators wrote to ask that you not authorize the release of any regulation that would create any special exemptions from Obamacare for labor unions who are now unhappy with a law they once supported. Those letters not only went unanswered, they were blatantly ignored. The American people deserve answers when their own government proposes to undermine their right to equal treatment under law. Carving out some unions from a multi-billion dollar reinsurance fee, the cost of which will ultimately be borne by every other American with private health insurance, is unacceptable.

Obamacare is not working. This regulation is the most recent in a long line of confusing delays, exemptions, and politically motivated crony rewards. Obamacare should be repealed and replaced with step-by-step, patient-centered reforms that drive down costs and that Americans actually want. We reiterate what we communicated to you in September: We stand willing to work with anyone who will help enact common-sense laws that could actually lower premiums and insure more people.

###

From: Burwell, Sylvia

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 5:23 PM

To: Harris, Julian; Shelanski, Howard; Greenawalt, Andrei; Deese, Brian C.; Sarri, Kristen

Cc: Martin, Kathryn; Reilly, Tom; Shlossman, Amy; Sackner-Bernstein, Sonya

Subject: RE: RC: GOP Could Force Vote to Negate Obamacare Carve-Out for Unions

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From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Mon Mar 17 2014 17:53:02 EDT
Strom, Shayna L. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shaynal.strom07375433>; Jones, Lisa M. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=lisam.jones25676184>; Greenawalt, Andrei </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=greenawalt, andrei m.b66>; Mancini, Dominic J. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=dominicj.mancini46525741>; Shelanski, Howard </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shelanski, howard a.d69>; Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>; Hornung, Daniel </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=hornung, daniel065>; Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
CC:
Subject: SMB Weekly Touch Base with OIRA
Attachments: RE: RC: GOP Could Force Vote to Negate Obamacare Carve-Out for Unions (1).msg; SMB 3.18.pptx
Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

From: Sarri, Kristen </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kristen_j_sarri>
Sent: Sat Mar 22 2014 12:48:13 EDT
To: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>;Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
CC: Shlossman, Amy </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=shlossman, amy 1.058>
Subject: RE: TheHill: House to consider Ryan budget in April
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Following up on Brian's email. (b) (5)



The House passed all 4 bills. On the 3 that Brian mentions below, the votes were overwhelmingly Republicans with a few Democrats.

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2014 7:48 AM
To: Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Shlossman, Amy; Sarri, Kristen
Subject: RE: TheHill: House to consider Ryan budget in April

Thanks Brian.

Kris we should make sure (b) (5) Thanks,

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-----Original Message-----

From: Deese, Brian C.
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 08:46 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia
Cc: Shlossman, Amy
Subject: Re: TheHill: House to consider Ryan budget in April

The three are fair value, dynamic scoring, and changing the discretionary baseline to wish away inflation.

I will check but (b) (5)

--

Representative Rob Woodall's Baseline Reform Act (H.R. 1871). This bill would require CBO and OMB, when scoring legislation, to assume that the baseline does not increase or decrease for discretionary programs. Under current law, CBO and OMB must assume that current spending will continue and grow by inflation. In 2013, this added \$1.2 trillion to the base line.

? Representative Tom Price's Pro-Growth Budgeting Act (H.R. 1874). Current CBO estimates do not take into account the overall impact on the economy. This legislation would require CBO, when scoring major legislation, to create a secondary report detailing the economic impact on key aspects of the economy.

? Representative Scott Garrett's Budget and Accounting Transparency Act (H.R. 1872). Fair value accounting will bring off-budget programs on-budget to provide a more accurate accounting of these programs.

From: Burwell, Sylvia
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 05:33 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Deese, Brian C.
Cc: Shlossman, Amy
Subject: FW: TheHill: House to consider Ryan budget in April

(b) (5)

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-----Original Message-----

From: Brown, Jamal
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 04:41 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Sarri, Kristen; Shlossman, Amy; O'Connor, Devin; Vorhaus, Dave; Posner, Steven; FN-OMB-Communications Office
Subject: Fw: TheHill: House to consider Ryan budget in April

From: Allen, Jessica
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 04:37 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: DL-WHO-Press; DL-WHO-Financial
Subject: TheHill: House to consider Ryan budget in April

<http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/budget/201409-house-to-consider-ryan-budget-in-april>

House to consider Ryan budget in April

The Hill // Russell Berman

3:34 PM

House Republicans in April will consider a budget authored by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) that sticks to a bipartisan spending level for 2015 but balances within a decade, Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.) told lawmakers on Friday.

Cantor's announcement sets up what could be the most difficult budget vote since 2011 for the Republican majority, since it would require dozens of conservatives to endorse a \$1.014 trillion spending level that they opposed in December. Ryan, the Budget Committee chairman, will propose deeper cuts in future years to keep the party's commitment to erasing the federal deficit within 10 years.

"We owe it to the American people to demonstrate how we will allocate their tax dollars and balance the budget," Cantor wrote in a Friday memo to the House GOP outlining the agenda for the next three weeks after Congress returns from a recess.

"While the president's budget blows past the spending limit previously agreed to, the House Republican budget, under the leadership of Chairman Paul Ryan, will adhere to the agreed upon spending limits and balance in ten years, as we did last year."

While Cantor commits to the top-line number he doesn't specify whether Ryan's budget will seek to raise the defense cap by lowering domestic spending. Ryan this week blasted defense cuts in the wake of the Ukraine crisis at a meeting in Wisconsin. Raising defense spending would technically violate the December budget deal.

Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) had previously said the party hoped to adopt a budget resolution but held back from a firm commitment. Senate Democrats are skipping a budget this year, after Congress passed a two-year agreement in December negotiated by Ryan and Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), which set a top-line level for fiscal 2015. Sixty-two Republicans voted against that agreement, but party leaders will need many of their votes for the Ryan budget because Democrats are likely to unanimously oppose it.

Cantor said the House would also consider three bills to reform the budgeting process, including a proposal from Rep. Tom Price (R-Ga.) that would require the Congressional Budget Office to consider broader economic impacts, known as "dynamic scoring," when making its projections for major legislation.

In addition to the budget bills, the House GOP will take aim at the 30-hour workweek provision in ObamaCare, along with a bill to reduce regulations on coal mining. And Cantor said the House plans further action to sanction Russia and bolster Ukraine after approving \$1 billion in loan guarantees for Ukraine earlier this month.

Erik Wasson contributed.

From: Burwell, Sylvia </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=burwell, sylvia m.801>
Sent: Mon Mar 31 2014 17:30:05 EDT
To: Deese, Brian C. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=deese, brian c.ad5>
CC:
Subject: FW: GOP contrast
Attachments:

Importance: Normal
Priority: Normal
Sensitivity: None

(b) (5)

From: Harris, Julian
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 2:54 PM
To: Burwell, Sylvia; Deese, Brian C.; Sarri, Kristen; Coven, Martha B.
Subject: Fw: GOP contrast

From: Rosenbaum, Amy
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 02:40 PM
To: Lambrew, Jeanne; Schiliro, Philip M.; McGuinness, Tara; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Harris, Julian; Bianchi, Sarah
Subject: FW: GOP contrast

From: Wall, Anne
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 2:31 PM
To: Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Rosenbaum, Amy; Asen, Jonathan; Hedger, Stephen; Pollack, Joshua; Maher, Jess; Elhassani, Layth
Subject: RE: GOP contrast

Rs want to offer the following amendments to UI (per Cornyn). Absurd.

(b) (5)



From: Wall, Anne
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 2:23 PM
To: Beirne Fallon, Katie
Cc: Rosenbaum, Amy; Asen, Jonathan; Hedger, Stephen; Pollack, Joshua; Maher, Jess; Pollack, Joshua
Subject: GOP contrast

Listening to Cornyn's open of today's session of the Senate, here's what I think the Rs will be discussing this week:

(b) (5)

