

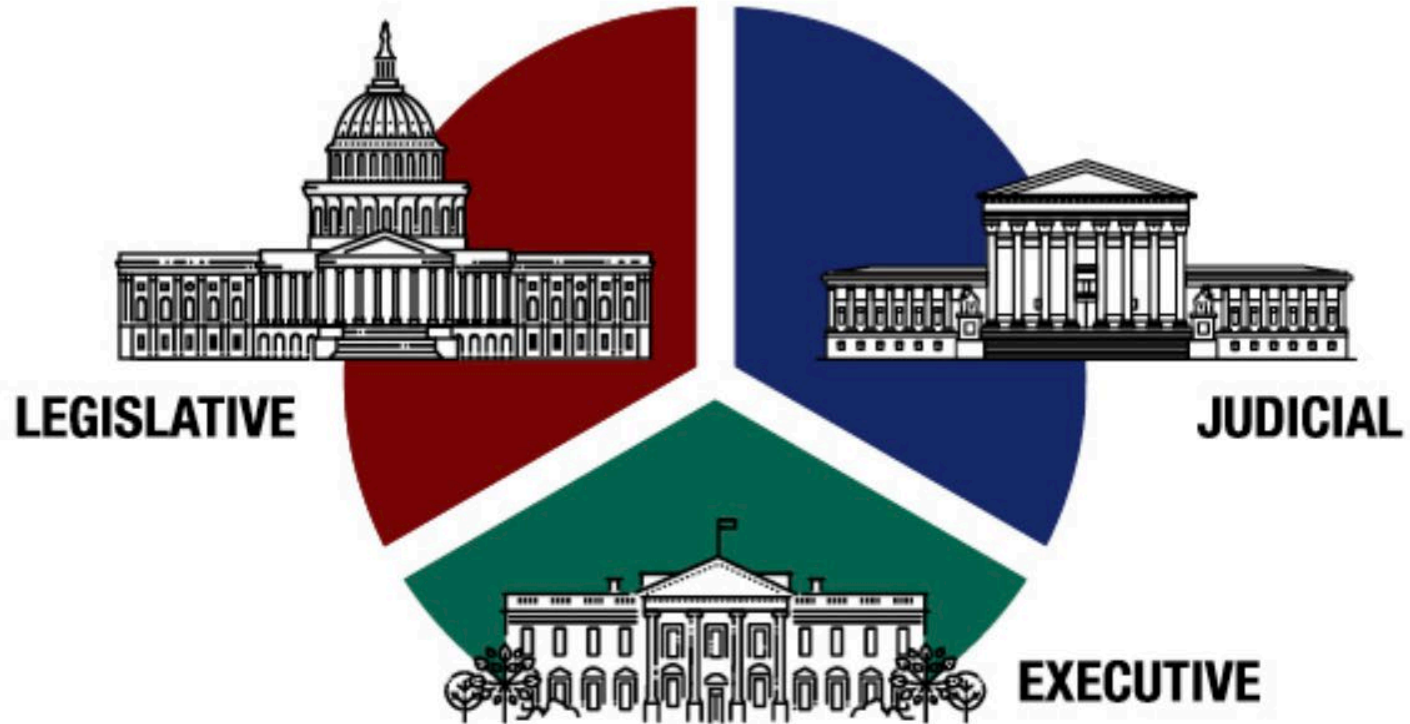


Federal Update

A Perspective from the Inside

By: Emmanuel A. Guillory

Separation of Powers



THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH enacts the laws of the country and raises and distributes the money necessary to operate the government, known as "The Power of the Purse."

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH interprets the U.S. Constitution and bylaws and rules on disputes brought before it by citizens, states, or other branches of government.

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH implements and administers the laws and public policies enacted and funded by the Legislative Branch.

HOW OUR LAWS ARE MADE

"Congress shall have Power... To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper"
U.S. Constitution Article 1 Section 8

Bill

- Representative
- A State Legislature
- The People
- Executive Branch

+ All legislation involving appropriations must originate in HOR.

+ The code of a bill
H. R. 301 [110]
House Of Representatives # in which bill was received Congressional Session

+ CBO or Congressional Budget office is a non-partisan office charged with checking and creating budget estimates.

+ A bill originating in the Senate must go through HOR approval before going to the President.

+ SEN has 100 members and 16 standing committees.

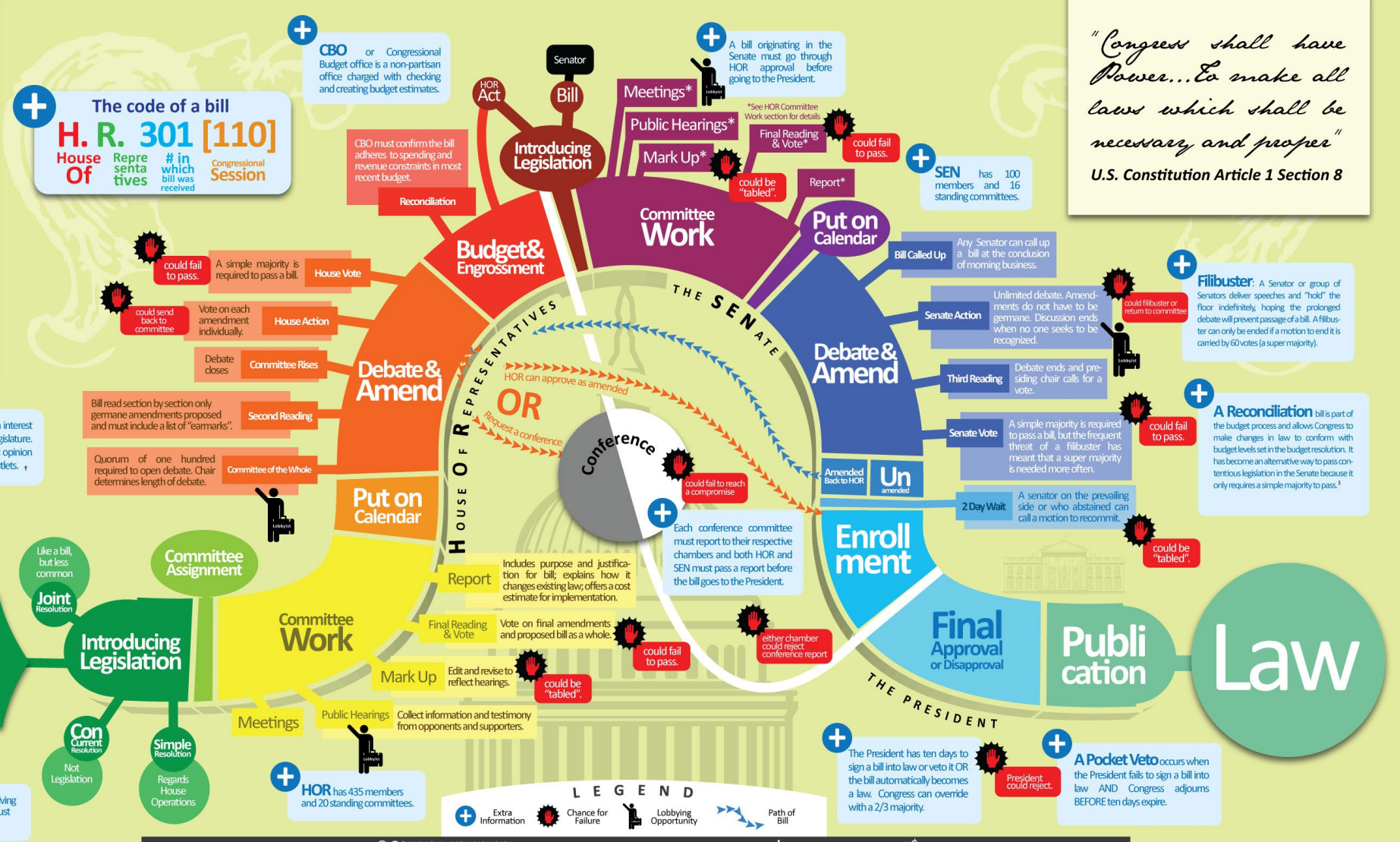
+ **Filibuster:** A Senator or group of Senators deliver speeches and "hold" the floor indefinitely, hoping the prolonged debate will prevent passage of a bill. A filibuster can only be ended if a motion to end it is carried by 60 votes (a super majority).

+ A **Reconciliation** bill is part of the budget process and allows Congress to make changes in law to conform with budget levels set in the budget resolution. It has become an alternative way to pass contentious legislation in the Senate because it only requires a simple majority to pass.⁵

+ The President has ten days to sign a bill into law or veto it OR the bill automatically becomes a law. Congress can override with a 2/3 majority.

+ A **Pocket Veto** occurs when the President fails to sign a bill into law AND Congress adjourns BEFORE ten days expire.

LEGEND
+ Extra Information
Chance for Failure
Lobbying Opportunity
Path of Bill





The background is a dark navy blue. It features several abstract geometric elements: a large solid dark gray circle on the left, a smaller solid dark gray circle on the right, and two large dotted circles that overlap with the solid ones. In the top left corner, there is a small 4x4 grid of white dots. In the top right corner, there is a 4x4 grid of white dots next to a solid dark gray vertical rectangle. In the bottom left corner, there are three vertical lines of white dots. The text 'Legislative Branch' is centered in a white, sans-serif font.

Legislative Branch

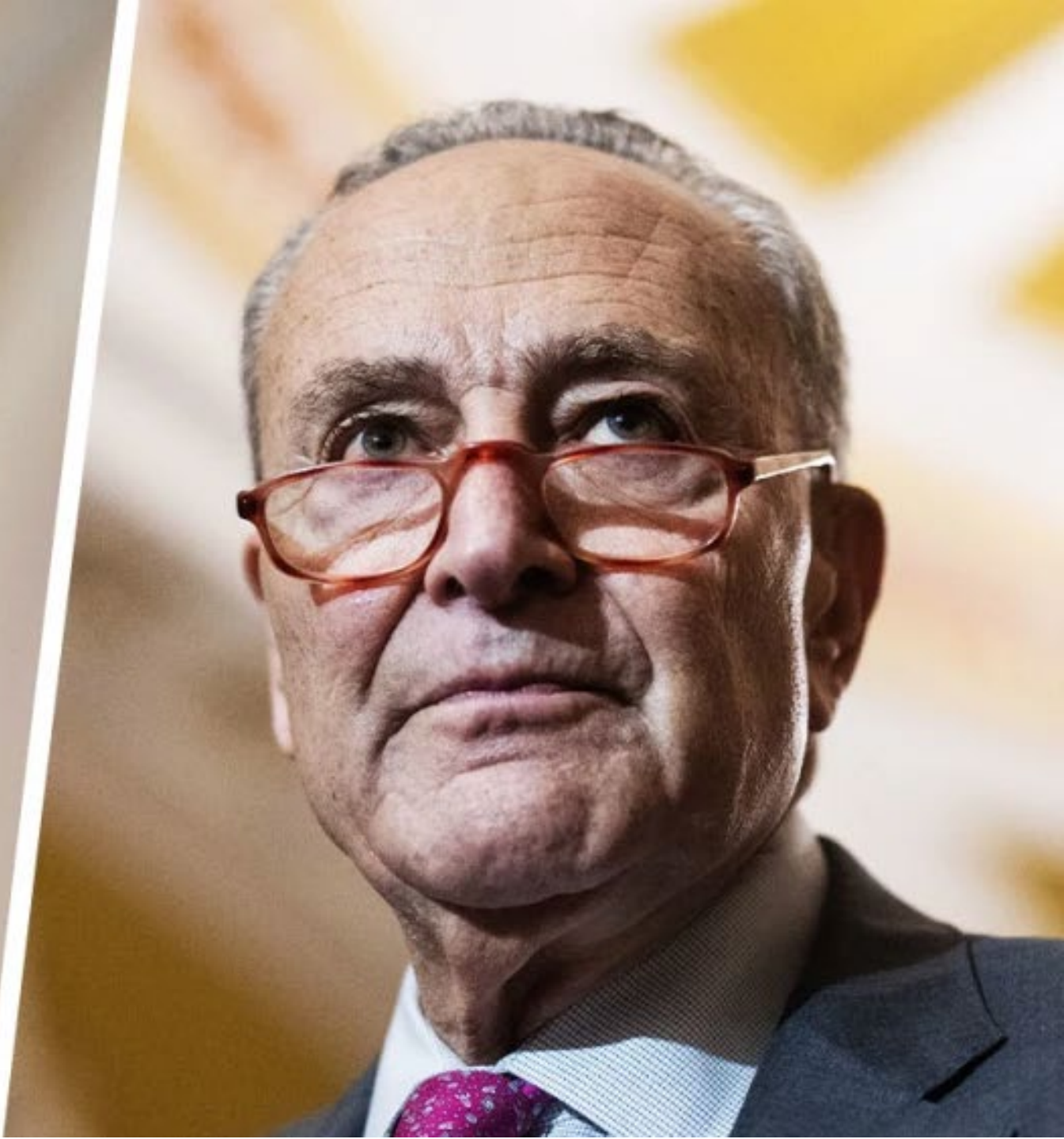
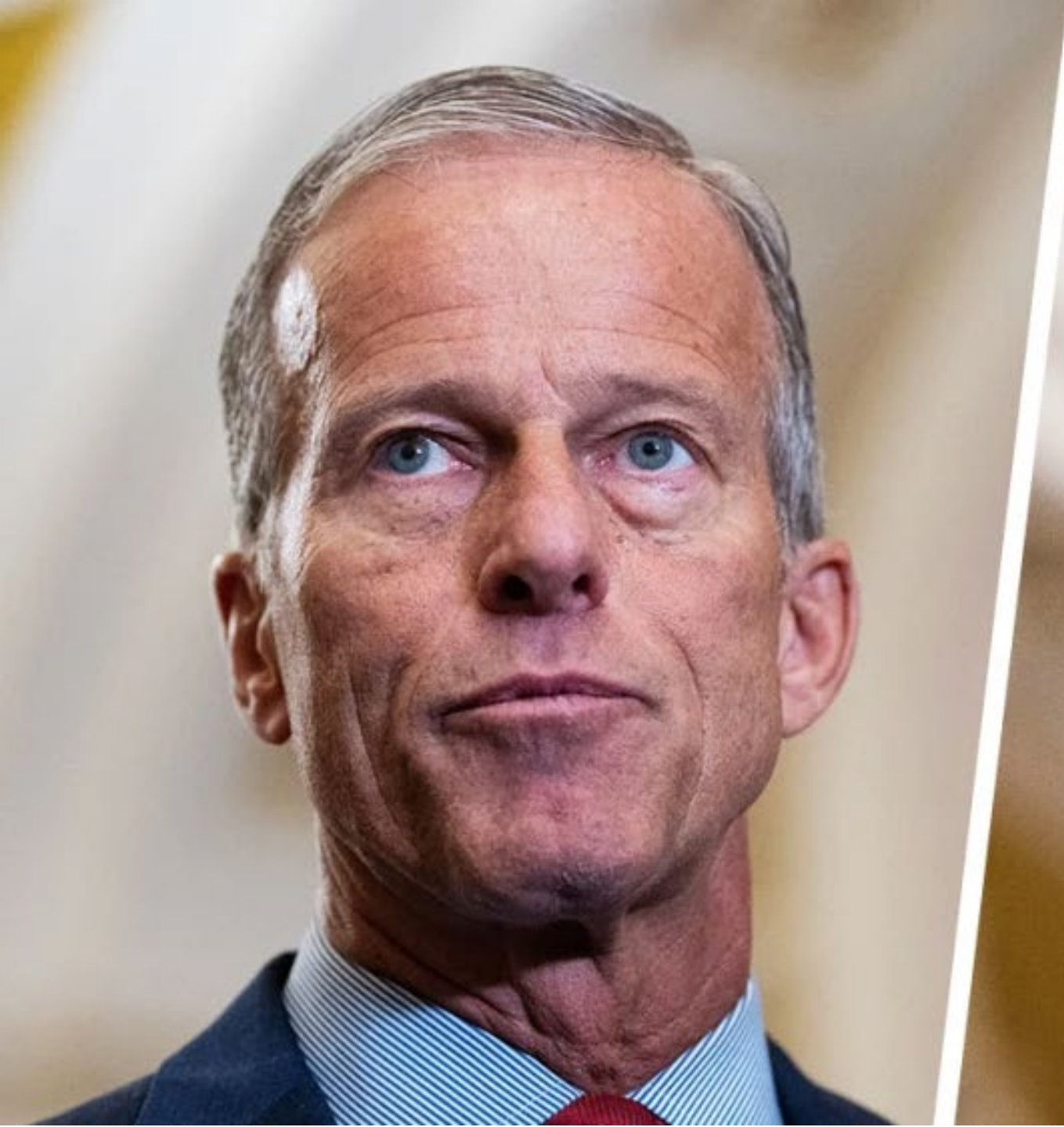
Current Make Up of the 119th Congress

House of Representatives

- 220 Republicans
- 212 Democrats
- 3 Vacancies

Senate

- 53 Republicans
- 45 Democrats
- 2 Independents



Current Senate Leadership

Leadership

- Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD)
- Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-NY)

Appropriations Committee

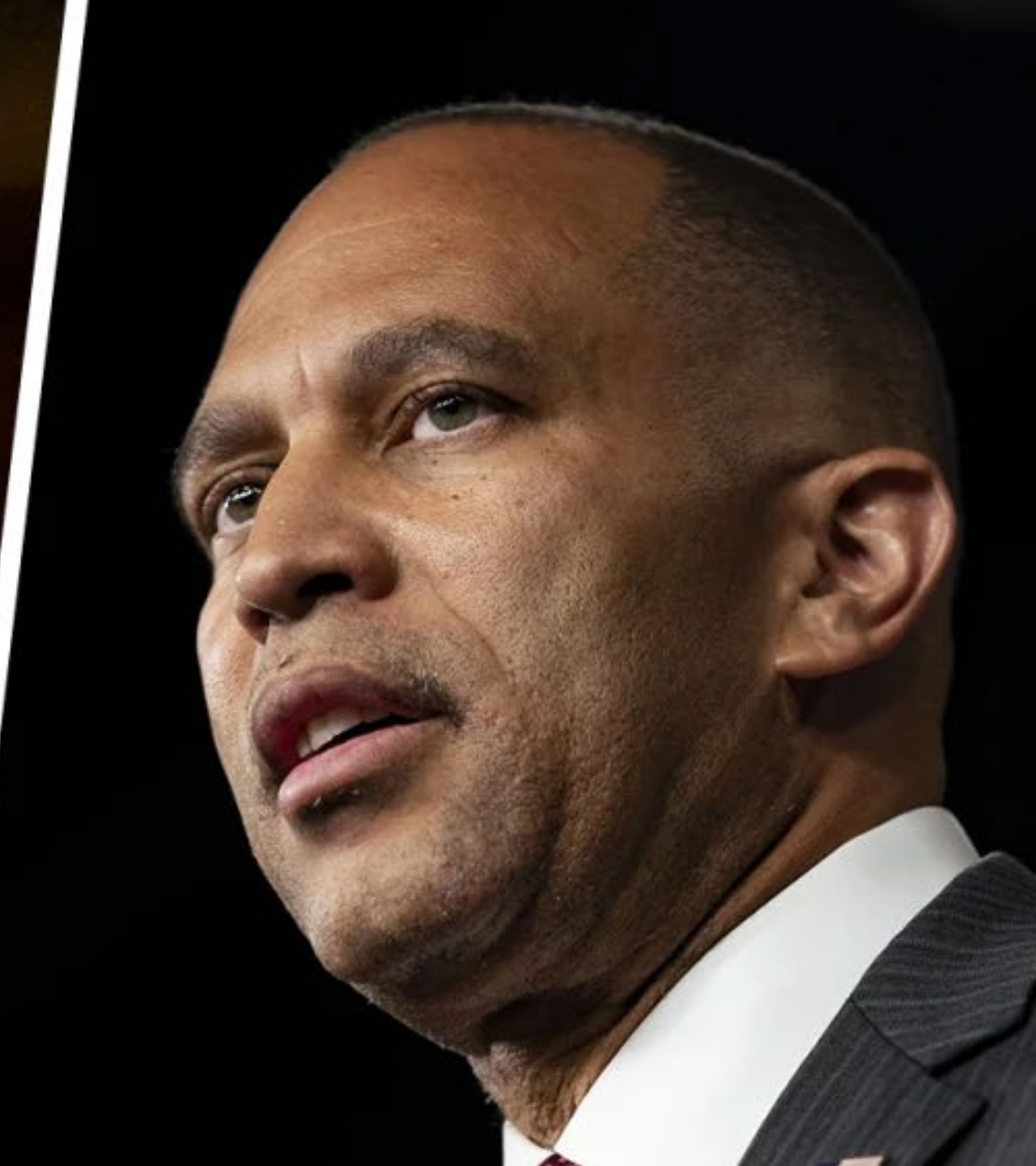
- Susan Collins (R-ME), Chair
- Patty Murray (D-WA), Vice Chair

Education Committee

- Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Chair
- Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Ranking Member

Budget Committee

- Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Chairman
- Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Ranking Member



Current House Leadership

Leadership

- Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA)
- Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA)
- Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)

Appropriations Committee


- Tom Cole (R-OK), Chair
- Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Ranking Member

Education Committee

- Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Chair
- Bobby Scott (D-VA), Ranking Member

Budget Committee

- Jody Arrington (R-TX), Chair
- Brendan Boyle (D-PA), Ranking Member



Key Pieces of Legislation (118th and 119th Congress)

- H.R. 6951, the College Cost Reduction Act—Virginia Foxx (R-NC)
- H.R. 1048, Defending Education Transparency and Ending Rogue Regimes Engaging in Nefarious Transactions (DETERRENT) Act—Rep. Michael Baumgartner (R-WA) and Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC)
- H.R. 6585, the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act—Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY)
- H.R. 8932, the FAFSA Deadline Act—Rep. Erin Houchin (R-IN)

legislation

Key Pieces of Legislation

H.R. 1311, College Cost Transparency and Student Protection Act—Rep. Lisa McClain (R-MI)

S. 1972, Lowering Education Costs and Debt Act—Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA)

S. 1963, College for All Act—Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-VT)



Key Pieces of Legislation

H.R. 3724, End Woke Higher Education Act—Rep. Burgess Owens (R-UT)

H.R. 8070/S.4638, National Defense Authorization Act—Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL)/Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)

H.R. 5646, Stop Campus Hazing Act.—Rep. Lucy McBath (D-GA). Became law on December 23, 2024

H.R. 9747, FY 2025 Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act

Budget and Appropriations

H.R. 9747, FY 2025 Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act



H.Con.Res. 14 (House Budget Resolution)
S.Con.Res. 7 (Senate Budget Resolution)

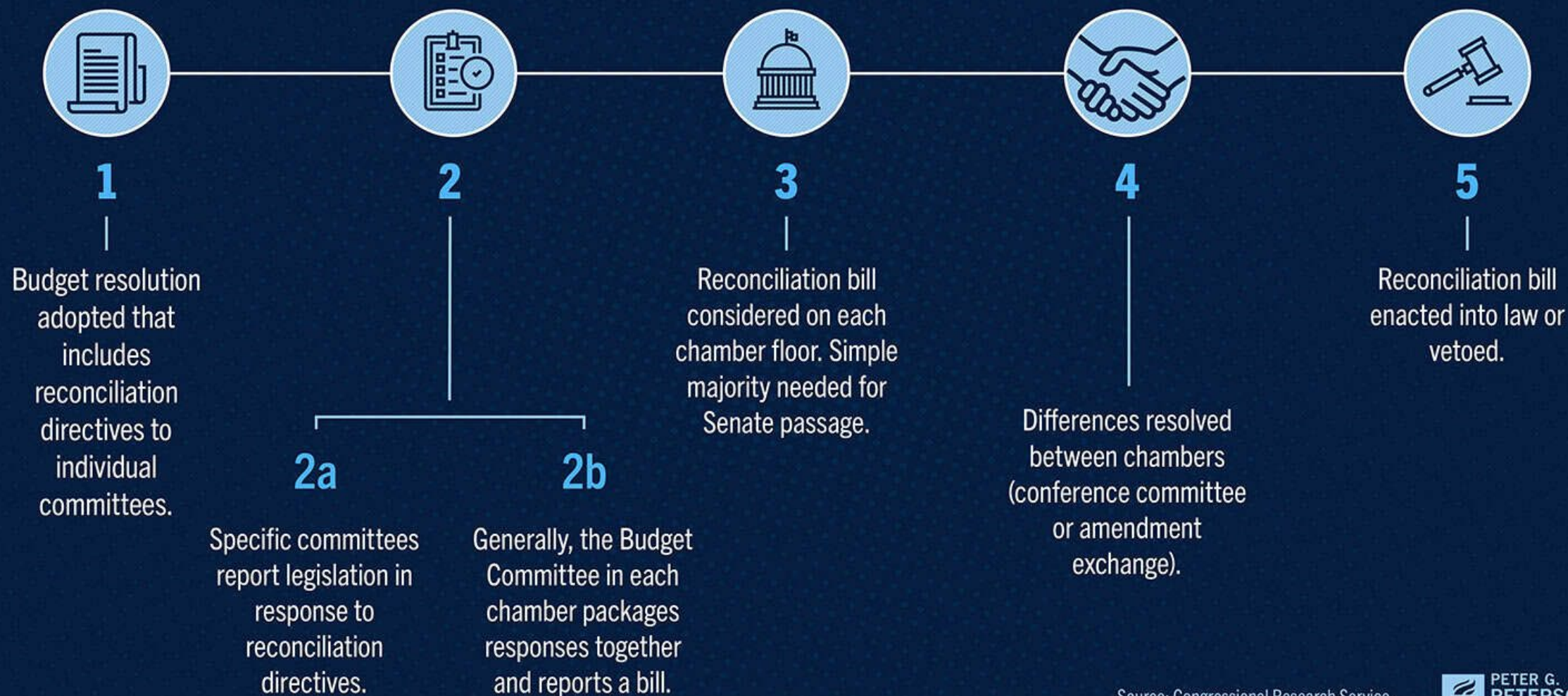


H.R. 1, One Big Beautiful Bill Act



FY 2026 President's Budget Request

HOW DOES BUDGET RECONCILIATION WORK?



Source: Congressional Research Service.

Budget Reconciliation: Key Higher Education Proposals

The House passed H.R. 1, One Big Beautiful Bill, and the Senate HELP Committee has introduced their education reconciliation bill.

Changes to Subsidized Loans (House)

- The House bill proposes to eliminate subsidized loans starting July 1, 2026.
 - In Award Year 2024-2025, over 3.6 million students received subsidized student loans. Eliminating subsidized loans will have a disproportionate impact on low-income students, making college more expensive by increasing student loan debt by roughly \$6,000.

Elimination of Grad PLUS Loans (House and Senate)

- Both the Senate and House bills proposes to eliminate Grad PLUS Loans, impacting almost 400,000 students who borrowed these loans in Award Year 2024-2025.
 - Borrowers take out ~\$19 billion annually in Grad PLUS loans and eliminating these loans will remove a major financing tool for graduate education.
 - CBO estimates graduate unsubsidized loan borrowing will increase by 25% due to the termination of Grad PLUS, but this won't be enough to offset loss for many students in high-cost programs.

Higher Education Items Being Considered for Reconciliation

Caps on Undergraduate and Parent PLUS Loans (House and Senate)

- The House proposes to reduce student loan borrowing limits for undergraduate students to \$50,000, impacting over 4.6 million students currently enrolled.
- The House proposes to cap the Parent PLUS loans program at \$50,000, impacting over 520,000 students and shrinking Parent PLUS borrowing by 70% from \$13 billion to \$4 billion per year. The Senate proposes to cap Parent PLUS at \$65,000.
- The House bill changes cost of attendance to the median cost of attendance by program of study. This change would reduce annual Grad PLUS borrowing by 8 percent and Parent PLUS borrowing by 13 percent, primarily for borrowers with the highest cost of attendance.

Student Loan Repayment Changes (House and Senate)

- In both the Senate and House proposals, the current student loan repayment plans are phased out and a new standard repayment plan, and an income-based repayment assistance plan, are created.
- The new income-based repayment assistance plan requires a \$10 minimum payment and a repayment term of 30 years before forgiveness and the standard repayment plan.

Higher Education Items Being Considered for Reconciliation

Pell Grant Restrictions (House and Senate)

- The House bill proposes to increase full-time enrollment from 12 credit hours to 15 credit hours a semester to qualify for the maximum Pell Grant award, impacting over 7 million Pell Grant recipients.
- The House bill proposes to prohibit Pell eligible students who are enrolled less than half-time from utilizing the Pell Grant, cutting off access to the Pell Grant for over 1.2 million students. Over 2.5 million students would receive a smaller Pell Grant amount due to the proposed changes.
- The Senate bill would turn the Pell Grant program into a first dollar program.

Institutional Risk-Sharing (House)

- Institutions are required to make annual “risk-sharing” payments based on borrower loan outcomes, institutional price, and earnings.
- A total of 98% of institutions would be required to make an annual risk-sharing payment with 75% of institutions having an overall net loss.
- Institutions will be charged \$5.3 billion in “risk-sharing payments”, with projected loan volumes dropping by 20% as schools exit federal programs or shut down programs entirely.

Higher Education Items Being Considered for Reconciliation

Gainful Employment for All (Senate)

- The Senate creates an accountability framework using the earnings of students who enroll. Institutions are penalized if the earnings are less than a person 25-34 years-old with either a high school diploma or a bachelor's degree.

Modification of Endowment Tax (House)

The 1.4 percent excise tax on net investment income ("endowment tax") is replaced with a four-tiered system.

- 1.4 percent for institutions with an endowment of \$500,000 to less than \$750,000 per student;
- 7 percent for institutions with an endowment in excess of \$750,000 and less than \$1,250,000 per student;
- 14 percent for institutions with an endowment in excess of \$1,250,000 and less than \$2,000,000 per student; and
- 21 percent for institutions with an endowment in excess of \$2,000,000 per student.

[How to Use This Toolkit](#)[Learn the Issues](#)[Contact Congress](#)[Share on Social Media](#)[Contact Us](#)

ADVOCATE FOR STUDENTS AND CAMPUSES IN THE 2025 BUDGET RECONCILIATION BILL

How to Use This Toolkit

The House has passed a sweeping reconciliation bill that threatens to upend college access, affordability, and student support.

Now under Senate consideration, the bill would impose deep cuts to student aid, new taxes on higher education, and harmful Medicaid rollbacks that could devastate students and institutions alike.

Make Your Voice Heard

Click the links below to send a message to your lawmakers.

**CUTS TO STUDENT AID AND
INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT >**

<https://www.acenet.edu/Policy-Advocacy/Pages/2025-Reconciliation-Toolkit.aspx>

Contact Congress NOW to Oppose Cuts to Student Aid Programs

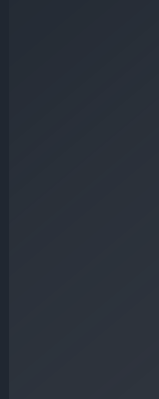
House Republicans wrote a budget reconciliation bill that will cut \$349.1 billion over 10 years from higher education and reduce access to Pell Grants and student loans for undergraduate and graduate students.

For undergraduate students, the bill reduces access to Pell Grants and makes college more expensive for student loan borrowers by doing the following:

- Making it harder for undergraduate students to qualify for Pell Grants by eliminating eligibility for Pell Grants for students who attend less than half-time; increasing the requirement for full-time credits from 12 to 15 hours; and ratably reducing Pell Grant awards for credits below 15 hours; and
- Eliminating subsidized loans for undergraduate students, which means students will have to pay interest on their student loans while in school and graduate with higher student loan debt. Also, restrictions are placed on the Parent PLUS loan program, limiting the number of families who can utilize such loan and increasing the overall financial burden on low-income families.

For graduate students, the bill eliminates the Grad PLUS program, which ensures that graduate students who are pursuing advanced degrees can access needed student financial aid with lower interest rates and more favorable student loan repayment options. In particular, the elimination of Grad PLUS will have a disparate impact on graduate students enrolled in certain health professions such as medical and health sciences degrees to meet the shortage needs of our country. Some students will be forced to borrow in the private market, but others will either not qualify to borrow in the private market, will face much more expensive loan terms, or be asked for parents to cosign the loans.

[https://studentaidalliance.org/
contact-congress/](https://studentaidalliance.org/contact-congress/)



Judicial Branch





Litigation Tracker: Legal Challenges to Trump Administration Actions

By [Just Security](#)

Published on June 3, 2025

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This public resource tracks legal challenges to Trump administration actions. If you think we are missing anything, you can email us at lte@justsecurity.org.

The Tracker is part of the [Collection: Just Security's Coverage of the Trump Administration's Executive Actions](#).

NEW: To get important litigation updates delivered to your inbox at the end of every weekday, sign up for [“Today on Just Security.”](#) That weekday newsletter also includes our articles from the day. Readers may also be interested in [signing up](#) for our free Early Edition roundup of global and national news each workday morning. (Both sign-ups are free and we respect your privacy; we do not use your email address for any other purpose except to automatically send you the requested email).

Total number of cases currently tracked: 255 (including 10 closed cases)



<https://www.justsecurity.org/107087/tracker-litigation-legal-challenges-trump-administration/> Branch



Supreme Court Cases

- *Students For Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President And Fellows Of Harvard College*
- *Students For Fair Admissions, Inc. v. University of North Carolina, et al.*

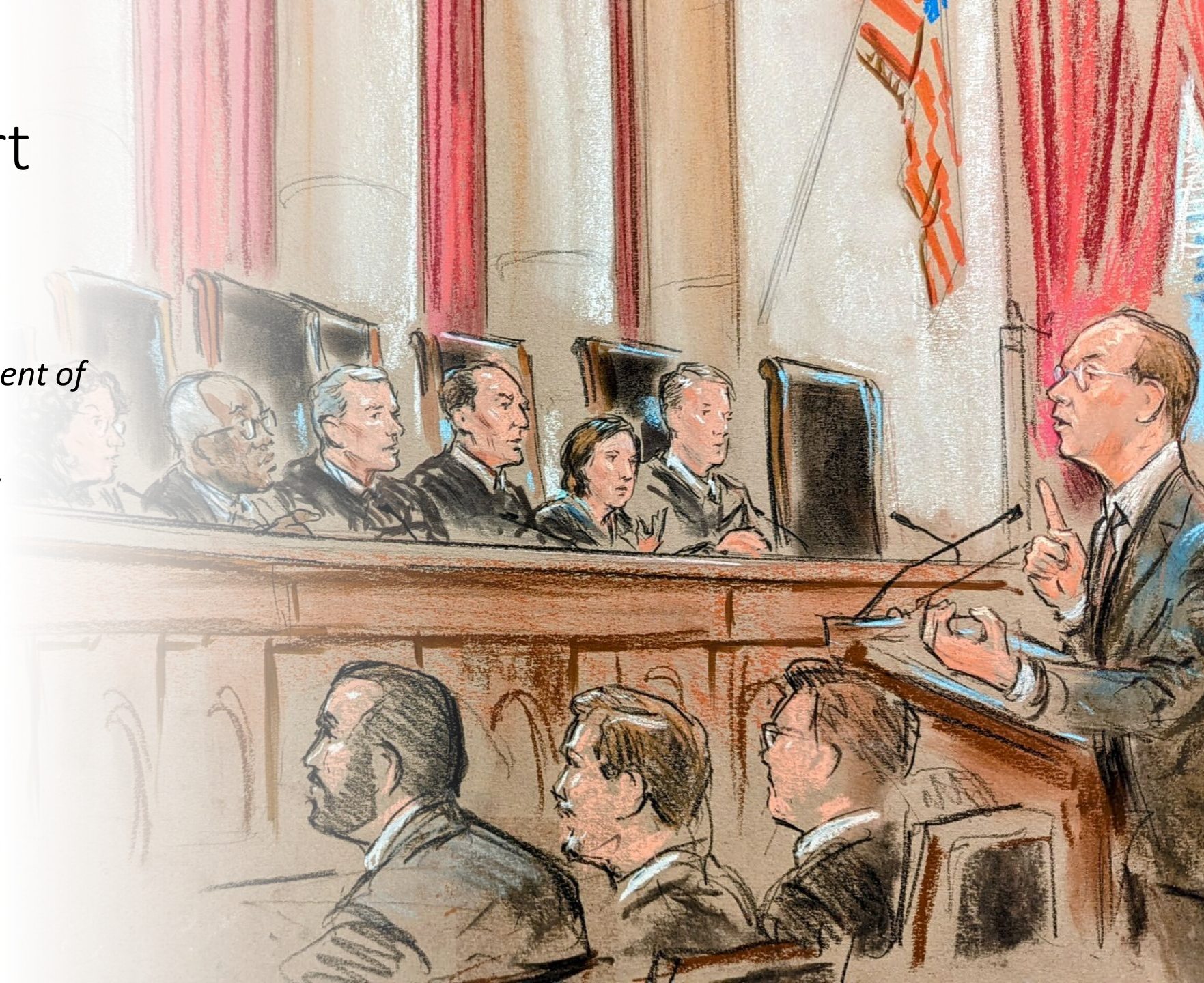
Supreme Court Cases

- *Biden v. Nebraska*
- *Department of Education v. Brown.*

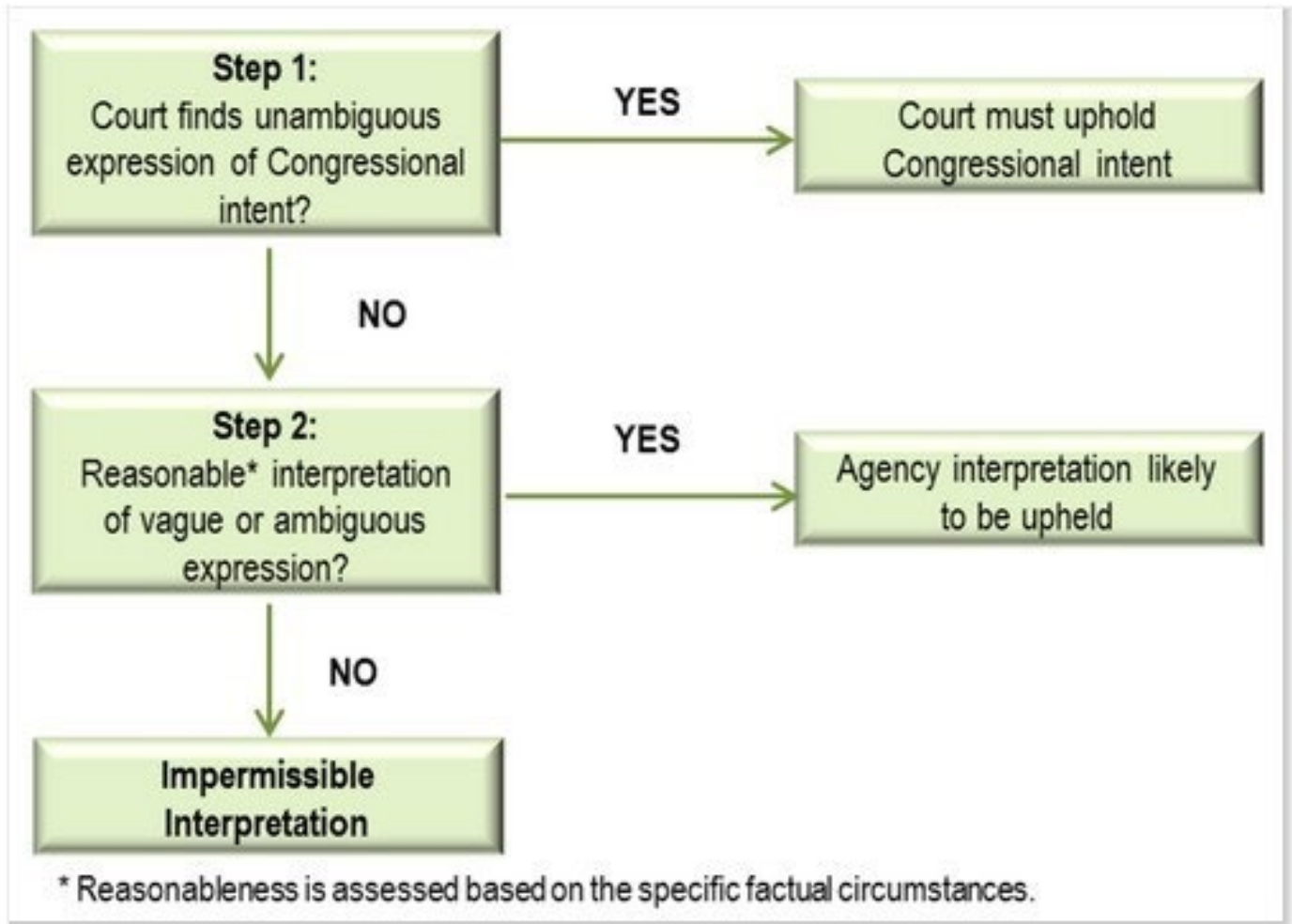


Supreme Court Cases

- *Relentless, Inc. v. Department of Commerce*
- *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*



Chevron Deference



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Executive Branch



A photograph of the White House in Washington, D.C., taken from a low angle. The building is white with a prominent portico supported by tall columns. The sky is a soft, hazy orange, suggesting sunset or sunrise. Large green trees are visible in the foreground and to the sides of the building.

White House

- 37 executive orders related to higher education
 - DEI
 - Antisemitism/Title VI
 - Immigration
 - Title IX
 - Sustainability
 - Endowments
 - PSLF
 - Government Operations
 - Termination of ED

The background of the slide features a large, faded seal of the Department of Education, United States of America. The seal is circular with a blue border containing the text "DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION" at the top and "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" at the bottom, separated by two stars. In the center of the seal is a green oak leaf wreath. Overlaid on the left side of the seal is the text "Department of Education" in a white, outlined, sans-serif font.

Department of Education

- Formation of antisemitism taskforce
- DEI Actions
- Institutional investigations
 - Title IX
 - Title VI
- Reduction in Force
- \$900 million in IES contracts and cancellation of restricted use
- Negotiated Rulemaking
 - PSLF qualifying employer
 - Restructuring repayment plan provisions/family size
 - June 30-July 2, 2025.

Department of Labor

- Overtime Rule
 - Raises standard salary threshold from \$35,568 annually to \$43,888 as of July 1, 2024 and then up to \$58,656 as of January 1, 2025.
 - Increases salary level for the highly compensated exemption in a two step process: \$151,164 as of January 1, 2025. Current level is \$107,432.
- Effective July 1st
- Struck down in court ruling. Reset to \$35,568.





Department of Justice

- Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability; Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities.
 - The Department adopts an internationally recognized accessibility standard for web access, the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (“WCAG”) 2.1 published in June 2018
- Effective June 24th.
- A public entity, other than a special district government, with a total population of 50,000 or more shall begin complying with this rule April 24, 2026

Federal Communication Commission

- Safeguarding and Securing the Open Internet; Restoring Internet Freedom
 - Classifies broadband internet access service as a telecommunications service under Title II of the Communications Act
 - Currently, internet service providers are considered information services under Title I
- Effective July 22nd
- 6th Circuit Court of Appeals overturns last year's FCC vote





Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

- CFPB vs. Climb Credit, Inc.
 - Lender of private loans for quality short-term vocational programs at IHEs.
 - Defrauded students and IHEs.
- Federal student loan return to payment.
 - Oversight of student loan servicing practices in the early months of the resumption of federal student loan repayments.
- Subject to reduction in force.



Federal Trade Commission

- Final “Click-to-Cancel” Rule Making
 - Focuses on disclosures and subscription-based services and cancellation processes
 - Begins July 14th



gettyimages
Credit: PAUL J. RICHARDS

Questions

