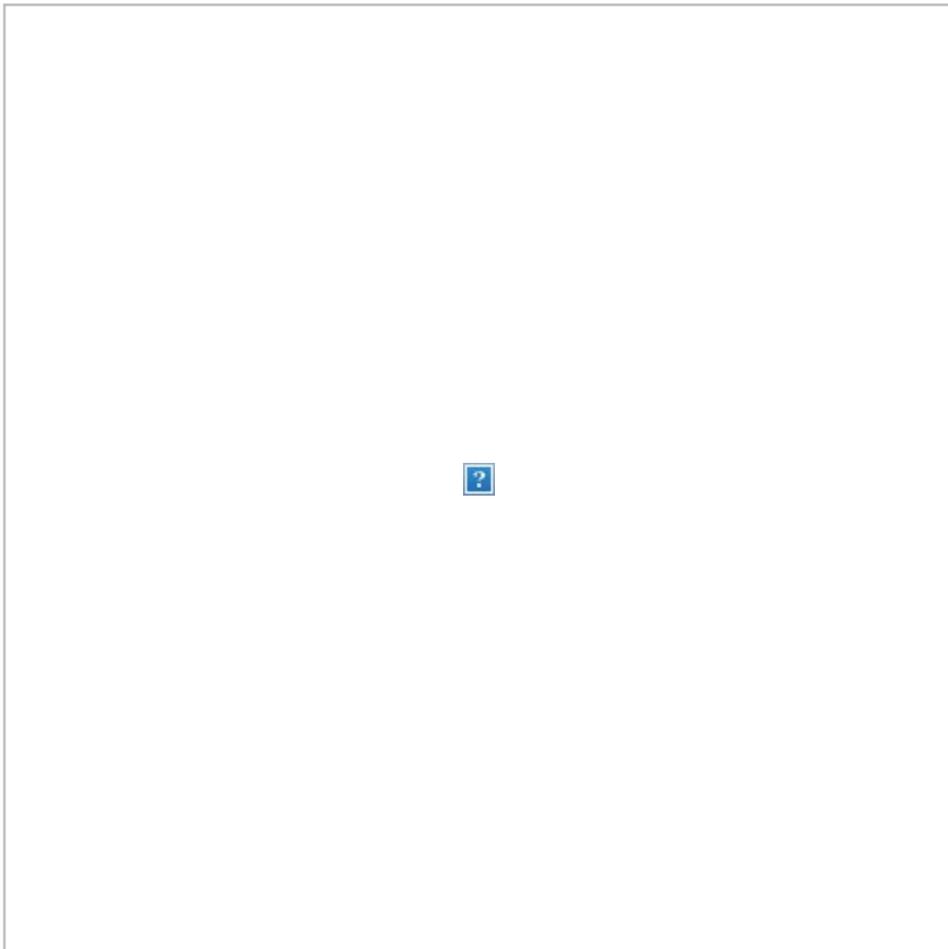
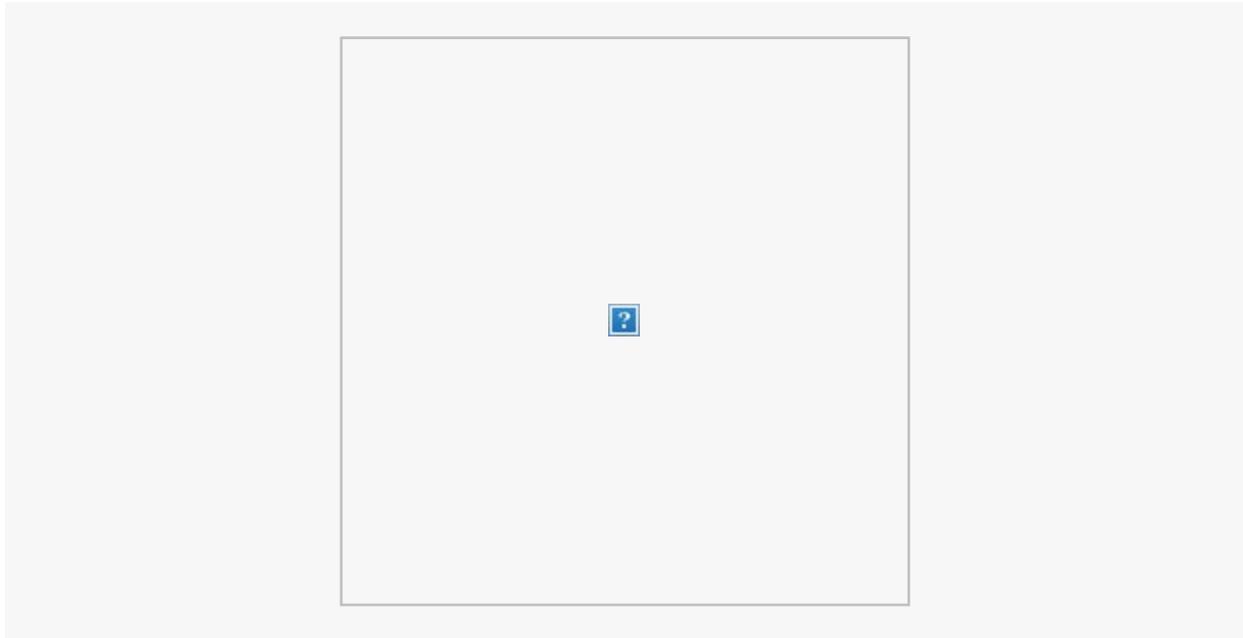


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April 26, 2024

Headlines - Aerospace & Defense - Budget & Economy - Advanced Tech - Military Installations & Communities - Homeland Security - Transportation & Infrastructure - Biotech & Healthcare - Climate & Development

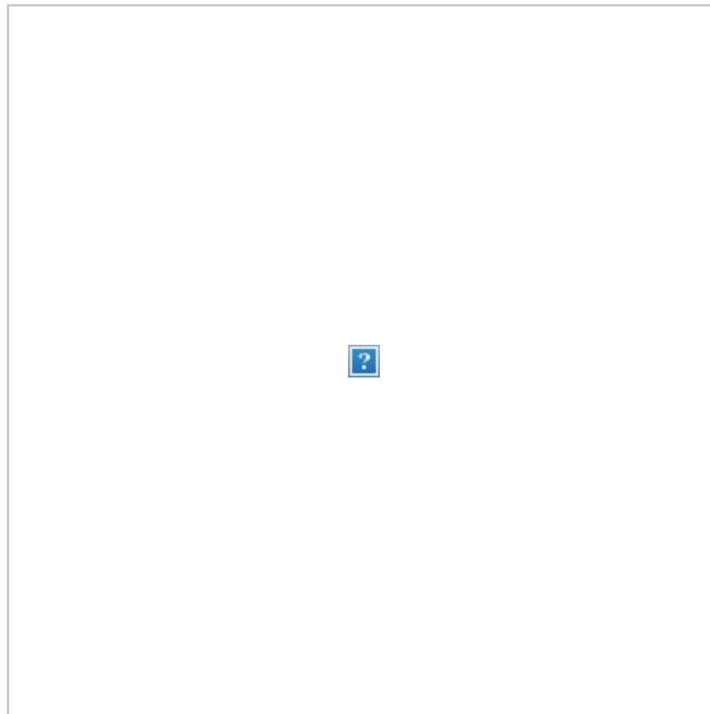
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## Notable Headlines

- [College protests over Gaza sweep across America. Hundreds arrested](#)
- [1 in 5 samples of pasteurized milk had bird flu virus fragments, FDA says](#)
- [Harvey Weinstein's 2020 rape conviction overturned by New York appeals court](#)
- [Attorneys for American imprisoned by Taliban file urgent petitions with U.N.](#)
- [What we learned from Trump's surprisingly good day at the Supreme Court](#)

**Worth reading:** [5 takeaways from the Pennsylvania primaries](#)

## View From The Hill



The House was out of session this week, after spending part of last weekend finishing work on a [\\$95 billion](#) foreign aid supplemental funding package to provide support to Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan. This marked a victory for Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), who passed the funding bill under threat from a handful of GOP rabble rousers, led by Rep. Marjory Taylor Greene (R-GA), to invoke a Motion to Vacate if he went ahead with pushing addition aid to Ukraine. After House passage, however, Speaker Johnson received political cover from most of his conference, former President Trump, and even some House Democrats who offered to help the embattled speaker overcome any effort to oust him

should it materialize.

With the House in recess, attention was focused on the Senate, where Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) [managed](#) to overcome bipartisan privacy concerns and give final passage to the House's bill reauthorizing federal surveillance authorities, known as FISA. The Senate also overwhelmingly passed the foreign aid supplemental, sending it to President Biden's desk for signature. The package [includes](#) legislation forcing the parent company of TikTok, ByteDance, to divest the popular social media application within six to twelve months or face a ban in the United States. While some lawmakers previously expressed first amendment concerns over the provision, overwhelming data privacy and national security concerns push the bulk of Members to support the measure.

Two senate committees [held](#) hearings this week on the Federal Aviation Administration's safety oversight, following a spate of recent incidents involving Boeing commercial aircraft. The Senate Commerce Committee and the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee both held hearings to underscore bipartisan concern that the agency should step up enforcement of safety standards.

Amidst massive protests occurring at Columbia University, Members of Congress from both political parties [traveled](#) to campus this Passover week to express support for Jewish students facing antisemitism. Jewish Representatives Dan Goldman (D-NY), Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Jared Moskowitz (D-FL), and Kathy Manning (D-NC) visited the school's center for Jewish life, while Speaker Mike Johnson and Representatives Anthony D'Esposito (R-NY), Mike Lawler (R-NY), Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY) and Virginia Foxx (R-NC) also visited campus.

While tensions remain high throughout the House Republican Conference and, indeed, across party battle lines in Washington, an increasingly rare moment of civility was [reported](#) this week in Speaker Johnson seeking out President Biden to apologize for a viral meme of his eyerolling as he was seated behind the President during this year's State of the Union Address. The President reportedly replied in jest: "I'm just grateful you didn't rip my speech up!" in a reference to then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi's actions following an address by former President Trump.

Rep. Donald Payne, Jr. (D-NJ) [passed](#) away Wednesday at age 65, following a heart attack on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The four-term congressman successfully ran for the House after the death of his father in 2012, who had held the seat since 1988, and was a progressive leader within the Congressional Black Caucus.

## Aerospace & Defense

### [Victims' families to urge US prosecute Boeing over fatal crashes \(Reuters\)](#)

Families of the victims of the two fatal Boeing 737 MAX crashes in 2018 and 2019 pressed US Justice Department officials this week to criminally prosecute the planemaker. This comes after the January in-flight blowout, whose repercussions continue to plague Boeing. Lawyers for the families are "expected to argue that Boeing violated a 2021 deal with prosecutors to overhaul its compliance program following the crashes, which killed 346 people." Federal prosecutors agreed to ask a judge to dismiss criminal charges so long as Boeing "complied with the deal's terms over a three-year period." The in-flight blowout

occurred two days before the 2021 agreement expired and the DOJ is now weighing the incident as “part of a broader probe into whether Boeing violated the deal” known as a deferred prosecution agreement (DPA). DOJ officials met with family members’ lawyers earlier this month and “looked at circumstances outlined in the 2021 deal that could put Boeing in breach of the agreement.”

### [China must stop aiding Russia if it seeks good relations with West, NATO says](#)

#### [Raytheon to develop two Standard Missile types with better targeting \(DefenseNews\)](#)

The US Navy awarded Raytheon a \$344 million contract for the “development of two Standard Missile variants with a common guidance section” which will work to bring additional targeting capability to American and foreign fleets. The new SM-2 Block IIICU and SM-6 Block IU missiles will include increased targeting capabilities helping the defensive standard missiles see “additional kinds of threats they’re meant to intercept.” The variants will share a “new guidance section, target-detection device, and other software and electronics.” Raytheon stopped SM-2 production back in 2017 when demand dried up, but restarted in 2021 when demand abroad for the missile returned. The SM-2 IIICU variant will, for the first time, introduce an active radar to the medium-range missile. The development program is largely funded by the Pentagon’s Foreign Military Sales program and that the “US, Australia, Canada, Japan, and South Korea” would be the first to receive them.

## Budget & Economy

#### [Nonprofits take a hit in House earmark rules \(Roll Call\)](#)

Chairman Tom Cole (OK-04) released new guidance for FY25 appropriations that will make it more difficult for members to secure fiscal earmarks for some social services programs in their districts. Nonprofits are now blocked from the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Economic Development Initiative grant program, “which is where lawmakers of both parties turned after earmarks were banned completely from the Labor-HHS-Education bill last year.” Republicans took issue with earmarks that “aided the LGBTQ community that House Democrats had sought in the Transportation-HUD bill last year.” Chairman Cole said he wants to “eliminate political earmarks.” This change in the House puts them on a collision course with the Senate which does allow earmarks in the Labor-HHS-Education bill and for nonprofits under the EDI account. The timeline is also aggressive with project requests due May 3.

### [Fears about stagflation are mounting in the US. It’s every central banker’s worst nightmare](#)

### [Ways and Means announce Tax Teams to avert 2025 tax cliff \(Press Release\)](#)

As we head into the general election the economy continues to be top of mind for many. Republicans continue to make the argument that Biden is not doing anything to curb inflation and that many of his priorities will place a higher financial strain on everyday Americans. As Trump looks to make a return to office he counts as one of his biggest accomplishments the tax cuts he signed into law as part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in 2017. Even now many Congressional Republicans pride themselves on casting votes for that piece of legislation. Those tax cuts are set to expire in 2025 and Republicans are forming “tax teams” to study key provisions and identify legislative solutions to help families and small businesses. Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Jascon Smith (MO-08) said in a press release “Ways and Means Republicans will not sit idly by and allow Washington to take more out of the pockets of hardworking taxpayers.” The Ways and Means Committee Tax Teams are broken up into ten groups assigned specific areas of tax policy to review. The teams are American Manufacturing, Working Families, American Workforce, Main Street, New Economy, Rural America, Community Development, Supply Chain, US Innovation, and Global Competitiveness.

## Advanced Technologies

### [New technology helps US shale oil industry start to rebuild well productivity \(Reuters\)](#)

Advancement in technology is making it possible for US shale oil and gas companies to reverse years of productivity declines. However, there are a lot of upfront costs which is deterring some companies from utilizing the technology. Decades of “drilling wells relatively close together, resulting in hundreds of thousands of wells, have interfered with underground pressure and made getting oil out of the ground more difficult.” New advancements are changing the way fracking occurs, potentially alleviating some concerns. There is now an ability to double the length of lateral wells to three miles and equipment that can simultaneously frack two or three wells. Fracking is also electrifying with electric pumps that can replace high-cost, high maintenance diesel equipment. Simply put, companies can now complete wells faster and cheaper.

## [Maxar Closes in on the Launch of its WorldView Legion Satellites](#)

### [Alphabet issues first ever dividend, \\$70 billion buyback \(CNBC\)](#)

Alphabet, the parent company of Google made history this week when they announced they would issue a 20 cent per share dividend. This will mark the first dividend Alphabet has ever issued. In the same announcement, they authorized the repurchase of up to \$70 billion shares. In the first hours of trading shares increased 15% and the dividend news came alongside “better-than-expected” first quarter earnings. The dividend is payable to all classes of shares. Co-founder Sergey Brin who owns more than 730 million Class B and C shares “will receive a \$146 million payout” and Co-founder Larry Page who owns 389 million Class B shares “will get a dividend payment of \$78 million.”

## Military Installations & Communities

### [Chaplain of the Coast Guard fired for 'loss of confidence' after not acting on case of sexual misconduct \(Military.com\)](#)

Capt. Daniel Mode who has served as Chaplain of the Coast Guard since 2022 “failed to take action when he was made aware of sexual misconduct by another chaplain that had taken place prior to the other chaplain joining the Navy and serving in the Coast Guard’s chaplain corps.” An investigation determined that Mode’s decisions “did not demonstrate the judgment required of a senior leader and Chaplain of the Coast Guard.” Mode entered active duty in June 2007 with assignments to the carrier USS Harry S. Truman in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mode will be reassigned to the Navy Chaplain Corps with duties outside the Coast Guard. The service said “the investigation found that Mode’s conduct did not violate any laws or policies but was ‘rather a failure of judgment below what is expected from his key leadership position.’”

### [US Army to shift aviation force structure back to tailored brigades](#)

### [Marine killed during operation at Camp Pendleton marking second training death for service in a week \(Military.com\)](#)

During a routine military operation at Camp Pendleton Tuesday evening, a Marine died marking the second death in less than a week. The first came at Camp Lejeune on Monday when a Marine died during a parachuting mishap. The service said the incident at Camp Pendleton is “under investigation” and the identity of the Marine will not be released until at least 24 hours after next-of-kin notification is complete. The Marine passed at 5 PM local time, but the service did not say how the Marine died or under what circumstances. This marks another tragedy for service member deaths during training exercises this year.

## Homeland Security

### [Foreign students could face harsher penalties than suspension for anti-Israel rioting: DHS \(Fox\)](#)

The Department of Homeland Security confirmed on Wednesday that foreign students could “potentially face deportation if they are suspended from their courses while on a student visa.” This comes as anti-Israel protests are commencing on campuses across the country from Columbia University, to George Washington, to the University of Texas. DHS said an international student is deemed “in status” if progress is being made in their coursework and that a temporary suspension does not necessarily impact that status. However they did say there is a “path where that suspension leads to removal hearings.” Some GOP lawmakers are voicing their concerns and going a step further. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) said in a tweet to “immediately deport all foreign students that support Hamas and to revoke federal student loans for any American student arrested for supporting Hamas.”

### [House Democrats call on Biden to reinstate Title 42 and ‘Remain in](#)

## [Mexico' immigration policies](#)

### [Homeland Security agency under ICE rebrands to aid its investigations \(ABC\)](#)

An agency with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as their parent is undergoing a rebrand in order to increase cooperation with their external partners. The Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) has a broad mission from “preventing terrorists from entering the country, to supporting victims from child exploitation, and stopping financial fraud.” Being branded as ICE was causing issues for the agency as some cities, counties, and states enacted sanctuary city policies to prevent cooperations with ICE officials. HSI does not engage in the civil immigration enforcement side of ICE, but without the branding change many people did not know that. The HSI Executive Associate Director said, “being branded as ICE, we’re oftentimes not able to partner with law enforcement in certain jurisdictions that aren’t working with ICE, oftentimes college campuses and schools.” One of HSI’s core mission is to “better educate teachers, children, teenagers on a lot of the bad things that can happen online with child predators” and they hope the rebranding will give more opportunities for public outreach, external partners, and communities.

## **Transportation & Infrastructure**

### [Southwest cuts growth plans. warning effect of Boeing airplane delays will last into 2025 \(CNBC\)](#)

In Southwest Airlines first quarter they posted a “wider loss than the same period last year and warned Boeing’s airplane delays will hamper its growth into 2025. Southwest expects to grow capacity 4% which is down from a planned 6% and that growth would sit around 8% to 9% for the second quarter. They also expect revenue to be down to around 3.5%. After the release of their financial information shares were down 8%. The airline said they “expect to receive only 20 Boeing 737 Max 9 plans down from its previous forecast of 46.” They will also be scaling back service in Atlanta and Chicago O’Hare airports. They will shut down operations at some airports including Syracuse, NY; Bellingham International Airport, WA; Cozumel International Airport; and Houston’s George Bush Intercontinental.

## [The Transportation Department’s New Path](#)

### [Baltimore sues owner and manager of ‘unseaworthy’ Dali over bridge collapse \(BBC\)](#)

Grace Ocean Private Limited, the owner of the ship that took out the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore and forced the closure of its busiest maritime transit port, is being sued by the city of Baltimore. In a federal lawsuit Baltimore says the Dali was “clearly unseaworthy” and accuses the ship owners of negligence. The city is asking the US District Court of Maryland for a “jury trial to hold the defendants fully liable.” Ship owners have petitioned the same court to have their liability capped. Baltimore said the Dali “had been experiencing an inconsistent power supply that was not investigated or not fixed.” They also say the ship was manned by an “incompetent crew that was inattentive to its duties and lacked proper training.”

## Biotechnology & Healthcare

### [Women are less likely to die when treated by female doctors, study suggests \(NBC\)](#)

A new study from the Annals of Internal Medicine suggests that “hospitalized women are less likely to die or be readmitted to the hospital if they are treated by female doctors.” In the study they found people ages 65 and older “8.15% of women treated by female physicians died within 30 days, compared with 8.38% of women treated by male physicians.” While the percentage difference is small, it equates to around 5,000 lives each year. While data doesn’t explain why women have better outcomes when treated by other women medical professionals believe they are “less likely to experience miscommunication, misunderstanding and bias.”

### [UnitedHealth paid ransom in Change Healthcare cyberattack, says patient data was compromised](#)

### [New California rule aims to limit health care cost increases to 3% annually \(CBS\)](#)

As medical care costs continue to rise in the US, California is looking for ways to tamp them down. State regulators at the Health Care Advisory Board approved a new rule that “will limit doctors, hospitals, and health insurance companies to annual price increases of 3% starting in 2029.” Health care costs for Californians have increased 5.4% each year for the past 20 years, however income only increased 3%. The state government believed it was too much and decided on the rule. Although there is support from the health care industry in California, they are concerned the end goal of 3% is too low and “nearly impossible” to meet. The cost to practice medicine will increase 4.6% this year. The California Medical Association was also critical of the range of years used citing that 2002 and 2022 included the Great Recession when incomes took a hit and that the past 10 years would be a better gauge when “median household income increased an average of 4.1% a year.

## Climate & Development

### [The Biden Administration makes big moves to conserve public lands \(Inside Climate News\)](#)

On Monday this week the Biden Administration announced \$7 billion in funding to deliver residential solar projects for 60 state and local governments. This is part of the Environmental Protection Agency’s “Solar for All” initiative. Tribes and nonprofits are also able to take part in the initiative. However, some of the moves Biden is making are not being welcomed by those in industry. Last week the Department of the Interior announced they will ban drilling in roughly “13 million acres of northwestern Alaska.” Sen. Dan Sullivan said the move was “national security suicide.” But as Biden looks to shore up his environmental record as we move closer to the general election, the federal Bureau of Land Management will now allow leasing of public lands to those seeking to restore degraded ecosystems.

## [Biden cracks down on power plants' climate emissions, pollution](#)

### [Climate politics and the bottom line \(CBS\)](#)

In the realm of politics addressing climate change has been framed as “an economic tradeoff: could we afford to do it, even if we think it’s otherwise a good idea, or would it cost jobs and money in a world so dependent on fossil fuels?” Many are more likely to oppose efforts to combat climate change if they think those efforts will hurt their personal finances. According to a new poll, “a majority of those who think efforts to reduce climate change will hurt them financially are in principle opposed to the US taking steps on climate change” anyway. These individuals are also sensitive to gas prices which is an immediate way people measure impact. For those who report the price of gas has been a hardship or difficulty for them “they are – by a double-digit-point difference – more likely to think efforts to reduce climate change hurt them.” And those who have suffered from natural disasters like hurricanes, floods, fires and extreme heat are more likely to favor efforts to fight climate change. As the saying goes, perception is reality.

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## Next Week's Hearings

### **Armed Service Committee:**

**House:** None

**Senate:**

- 4/30, 2:30 PM - DOD's efforts to ensure servicemembers' access to safe, high-quality pharmaceuticals
- 5/1, 4:30 PM - Navy and Marine Corps investment programs in review of FY2025 Defense Authorization Request
- 5/2, 9:30 AM - Testimony on worldwide threats

### **Appropriations Committee:**

**House:**

- 4/30, 10:00 AM - Customs and Border Protection FY2025 Request
- 4/30, 10:00 AM - National Guard and Reserves Forces FY2025 Request
- 4/30, 10:00 AM - Environmental Protection Agency FY2025 Request
- 4/30, 10:00 AM - Dept. of Transportation FY2025 Request
- 4/30, 10:30 AM - Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related

Agencies (Member Day)

- 4/30, 2:00 PM - Air Force and Space Force FY2025 Request
- 4/30, 2:00 PM - Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency FY2025 Request
- 5/1, 10:00 AM - Indian Health Service FY2025 Request
- 5/1, 10:00 AM - Dept. of Housing and Urban Development FY2025 Request
- 5/1, 10:00 AM - Coast Guard FY2025 Request
- 5/1, 10:30 AM - Defense (Member Day)
- 5/1, 1:00 PM - Arts and Humanities FY2025 Request
- 5/1, 1:00 PM - US Dept. of Agriculture FY2025 request for Farm and Production Conservation Mission Area
- 5/1, 2:00 PM - Army Military Construction and Family Housing FY2025 Request
- 5/2, 10:00 AM - Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies (Member Day)

**Senate:**

- 4/30, 10:00 AM - Dept. of Education FY2025 Request
- 4/30, 2:30 PM - Dept. of Housing and Urban Development FY2025 Request
- 5/1, 2:00 PM - Military Construction and Family Housing FY2025 Request
- 5/1, 2:00 PM - Environmental Protection Agency FY2025 Request
- 5/2, 10:00 AM - Dept. of Transportation FY2025 Request
- 5/2, 10:30 AM - Dept. of Veterans Affairs FY2025 Request and FY2026 Advance Appropriations Request

**Homeland Security Committee:**

**House:** 5/1, 2:00 PM - Surveying CIRCIA: Sector Perspectives on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

**Senate:** 5/1, 11:45 AM - Business Meeting



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