
Repeal the Impoundment Control Act

Since the Founding, Congress's power of the purse has been understood to establish a ceiling on Executive spending, not a floor, and certainly not an authority for Congress to compel the President to expend the full amount of an appropriation. Multiple Presidents used unilateral impoundment authority to reduce or decline spending prior to President Nixon's attempts and the resulting Impoundment Control Act, so there is historical precedent dating back to the Founding. If America's national debt is to be brought to heel, inflation tamed, and deficits eliminated, the constitutional power of the Executive Branch to impound funds is a critical tool to accomplish this task. The incoming Trump administration and its allies in the United States Congress is eager to use its constitutional authority to restore this balance of power and finally bring fiscal sanity back to Washington, D.C. Presidential impoundments, if used aggressively, would result in meaningful spending cuts and a reduction in waste, fraud, and abuse in federal spending, and the Trump Admin will be well-suited with experienced conservative officials to carry out this objective.

Bill Specifics:

The Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is repealed

- Impoundment is the President's constitutional authority under Article II of the Constitution to refuse to fully spend funds appropriated by Congress. This power was used by presidents from George Washington to Richard Nixon to cut wasteful spending, address emergencies, and protect taxpayer dollars.
- The Impoundment Control Act of 1974 was passed in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal and significantly constrained the President's ability to impound funds, marking a fundamental shift in the separation of powers.
- Over the past five decades, federal spending has skyrocketed, contributing to a \$36 trillion national debt, soaring interest payments, and persistently high inflation.