



KATHERINE CLARK
DEMOCRATIC WHIP



WHIP QUESTION

“CONSUMER WEEK” REDUX; REPUBLICANS ROLL BACK TITLE IX PROTECTIONS, ATTACK ELECTION INTEGRITY AND VOTING RIGHTS AGAIN; ANOTHER PARTISAN APPROPS BILL; VETO OVERRIDE OF SEC BULLETIN CRA

Next week, House Republicans will bring [H.R. 7700](#) – Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards (SUDS) Act (Rep. Langworthy – Energy and Commerce) and [H.R. 7637](#) – Refrigerator Freedom Act (Rep. Miller-Meeks – Energy and Commerce) to the Floor.

These bills, which were originally noticed along with the overarching **H.R. 6192** – Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act back in May of this year, amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) to hinder the Department of Energy’s (DOE) ability to effectively issue energy efficiency standards for dishwashers in the former and refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers in the latter. Despite what House Republicans claim, DOE energy efficiency standards must already be cost-effective, result in significant savings, and be technologically feasible and economically justified under current law.

House Republicans’ proposals add duplicative requirements for standards-setting in an effort to hamper a process that already takes place over a number of years. In addition, this unserious effort does not specify when the bills would go into effect, does not include definitions for any of the terms in the bills, and completely ignores the agreement on standards that home appliance manufacturers and energy efficiency advocates reached in September 2023. Additionally, H.R. 7700 and H.R. 7637 are totally unnecessary after the passage of the Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act. The Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act creates similar obstacles to DOE’s standards-setting process, and covers all appliances, including those targeted by H.R. 7700 and H.R. 7637.

Ranking Member Pallone strongly opposes these bills.

Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on H.R. 7700 and H.R. 7637.

We also expect House Republicans to bring [H.J.Res. 165](#) – Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance" (Rep. Miller (IL) – Education and the Workforce) to the Floor next week.

This Congressional Review Act (CRA) legislation would nullify the Department of Education's final rule that was published on April 29, 2024. This rule clarifies that sex discrimination covered under Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) includes "discrimination on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity." This would prohibit schools that receive federal funding from discriminating on the basis of sex, inclusive of those individuals who identify as transgender. The rule also requires institutions of higher education (IHEs) to address off-campus sex discrimination if the incident contributed to a hostile environment in the IHE's educational activity.

Additionally, the rule clarifies all non-confidential employees have a duty to report possible sex-based harassment or discrimination; this is a sharp distinction from a Trump Administration rule established in 2020 (which will be the standard we revert to if this resolution is adopted) that only mandated reporting for a smaller group of employees if they had "actual" knowledge of harassment or discrimination. This standard put a higher burden of proof on the victims of these acts instead of protecting them.

As a reminder, any joint resolution of disapproval that qualifies under the CRA has the force of law and prohibits agencies from issuing any rules that are "substantially the same" in the future.

Ranking Member Bobby Scott strongly opposes this resolution.

Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on H.J.Res. 165.

House Republicans will also bring [H.R. 8281](#) – Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act (Rep. Roy – House Administration) to the Floor next week.

As we've seen a number of times this Congress, House Republicans continue to irresponsibly call into question the credibility of our elections. Despite numerous recounts, challenges in court, and deep-dives by conservative think-tanks, there has been zero evidence of the widespread fraud that this bill purports to target. It is already illegal under current law for noncitizens to register to vote or to vote in federal elections.

Once again, the "party of states' rights" would supersede individual state law by amending the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) to require voters in all states to show "documentary proof of citizenship" (DPOC) in order to register to vote. These changes would prevent Americans from registering to vote with their drivers' license alone, as REAL ID does not indicate citizenship and is in fact available to noncitizens. Under the SAVE Act, for the overwhelming majority of Americans, the only acceptable standalone form of identification for use in voter registration would be a passport (or passport card). A REAL ID drivers' license, a Tribal ID, or a military ID would be unacceptable unless coupled with additional documentation, such as a birth certificate or an extract from a birth record that proves the applicant was born in the United States. This would be an extreme burden for countless Americans, including military voters, Native voters, people who have changed their names (including tens of millions of American women), the elderly, the young, the poor, and naturalized citizens.

Notably, the bill also allows election officials to be sued for registering any applicant who doesn't provide DPOC and subjects those same election officials to a penalty of up to 5-years in federal prison and hefty fines, even if that registrant is an eligible American citizen. The bill also requires the Social Security Administration (SSA) – which is already stretched thin and receives no additional funding in this bill – to provide any state election official with "such information as may be necessary" to prove that a voter is a citizen. By opening avenues to further intimidate election officials and overburden states' abilities to enroll new voters, House Republicans make it clear who they believe should be allowed the right to vote and, more importantly, who they believe should not.

Ranking Member Morelle strongly opposes this bill as written.

Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on H.R. 8281.

Additionally, House Republicans are expected to bring [H.R. 8772](#) – Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025 (Rep. Valadao – Appropriations) to the Floor next week.

Though this bill is a 3.5% increase over FY24 levels, the underlying text contains many of the same partisan policy riders as last year. The bill bars funding for any diversity, equity, and inclusion training or implementation, a clear prohibition on the return of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODI) that was eliminated last year; contains the now-familiar clause prohibiting discrimination against any person with a “sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman,” opening the door for discrimination against LGBTQI+ Members and staff; and fails to confront the climate crisis by removing a longstanding provision to eliminate or reduce plastic waste across the Legislative Branch and the requirement for Members to lease low-emission vehicles.

Ranking Members DeLauro and Espaillat strongly oppose the bill as written.

Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on H.R. 8772.

Lastly, it's possible that House Republicans will bring the **Veto Message to Accompany [H.J.Res. 109](#)** – Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to "Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121" (Rep. Flood – Financial Services) to the Floor next week.

The House originally [passed](#) H.J.Res. 109 on May 8, 2024. This Congressional Review Act (CRA) legislation would eliminate the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) Staff Accounting Bulletin (SAB) No. 121, which provides guidance to entities that are custodians of crypto assets. Namely, SAB 121 advises entities on how to record crypto assets held for their customers. It also advises these custodians to disclose the nature and quantity of these crypto assets to inform investors and the market. Both of these recommendations protect consumers and investors from the “unique risks and uncertainties” surrounding crypto assets, as the SEC laid out in SAB 121.

As a reminder, any joint resolution of disapproval that qualifies under the CRA has the force of law and prohibits agencies from issuing any rules that are “substantially the same” in the future. This is particularly concerning in the case of **H.J.Res. 109** because it targets internal staff guidance that does not carry the force of law as opposed to an agency-issued rule; adopting this CRA would generally undermine the SEC's ability to clarify its rules.

Ranking Member Waters strongly opposes this resolution.

Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on the Veto Override of H.J.Res. 109.