

Conservative Action Project

The Conservative Action Project, founded by former **Attorney General Edwin Meese** and chaired by **The Honorable Becky Norton Dunlop**, is designed to facilitate conservative leaders working together on behalf of common goals. Participants include the CEO's of over 100 organizations representing all major elements of the conservative movement-economic, social and national security.

Memo for the Movement

STOP FUNDING BAD POLICIES

December 4, 2015
Washington, DC

Once again, Congress is planning to fully fund every one of the priorities of President Barack Obama, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. But there is still time for Members to fight—and the Conservative Movement will stand strongly behind them when they do.

The current Continuing Resolution expires on December 11th, so Congress and the President must enact some sort of appropriations bill before then. Presumably, this bill will take the form of an “omnibus,” a multi-thousand-page bill that funds every federal department, agency, and function. Traditionally, in addition to standard operating expenses of the federal government, this bill is packed with Washington favors for lobbyists and liberal interest groups. Unfortunately, this bill, despite its size and impact, tends to be considered by both houses of Congress without any ability for the rank-and-file Member of Congress to amend the bill. But it does not have to be this way.

One of the most important powers of Congress is the “power of the purse”—the power to determine the details of federal spending. The power of the purse gives Congress the power to send bills to the president that spend money on the items Congress wants and that does not spend money on items Congress does not want.

There are many things in the omnibus that conservatives should insist stop being funded by the federal government including:

- Obamacare
- Syrian refugee resettlement
- Planned Parenthood
- Implementation of the Iran nuclear deal
- President Obama’s executive amnesty
- Sanctuary cities
- Waters of the U.S.
- Any part of the upcoming Paris Protocol

Among the priorities being added as riders to the omnibus spending package is a provision by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell that would allow party committees to spend an unfettered amount of money in coordination with candidates. The provision would apply to political parties only, setting up a different standard between the parties and other multi-candidate committees. Political contribution is a form of free speech, which is protected by our Constitution and should not be limited. There is no doubt that campaign finance restrictions need reform; however, the McConnell rider provides preferential treatment to the Washington establishment, and subordinates the voices of those who contribute to other multi-candidate organizations. Therefore, the Congress should not include this rider.

Additionally, bills should go through regular order and every Member of Congress and the public should have a minimum of 72 hours to review the final bill. If this means that Congress must spend additional time working on this bill, then that's what should be done. The American people deserve no less.

It is important that Republicans fight early, hard, and in a sustained manner for conservative policy priorities, the ones on which Republicans ran and won in 2014 and previously. If the President vetoes the omnibus because he would rather side with crony interests and his fellow ideologues than stand with the American people, then so be it. He and his fellow Democrats will have to answer for it.

We urge Congressional Republicans to fight for conservative priorities. We are ready, willing and able to fight alongside them.

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President Ronald Reagan

The Honorable Tony Perkins

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(All organizations listed for IDENTIFICATION purposes only)