

Scorecard 117-3

The Congressional Scorecard is a nationwide educational program of The John Birch Society. Its purpose is to create an informed electorate on how members of Congress are voting. The Scorecard is nonpartisan; it is not meant to promote any candidate or political party. Bills are selected for their constitutional implications and cost to the taxpayers.

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U.S. Constitution, Amendment I --- 11 C.F.R. §114(4)(c)(4) --- 616 F.2d 45 (2d Cir. 1980)

The following scorecard lists several key votes in the current 117th Congress (January 3, 2021 – January 3, 2023) and ranks congressmen based on his or her fidelity to constitutional and limited-government principles.

Federal Debt Equals \$243,797 per taxpayer, as of August 12, 2022.



Angus King

Senator

Maine

Independent

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Lifetime Score

This legislator voted constitutionally on **0%** of the votes shown below.

CPH: Estimated cost per household.

| ★ Constitutional | ✗ Unconstitutional | ⊖ Did not Vote | CPH | Vote |
|--|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1. S 610 Debt Limit Increase (Passed 59 to 35 on 12/9/2021, Roll Call 491). Allowed the the Senate to pass a \$2.5 trillion debt-limit increase, bypassing the filibuster and other normal obstacles to passage. | | | \$19,716 | None |
| 2. Senator Mike Lee's (R-Utah) amendment to H.R. 2471 Vaccine Mandates (Rejected 49 to 50 on 3/10/2022, Roll Call 75). Would "prohibit funding for COVID-19 vaccine mandates." See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8; amend. 10. | | | | No |
| 3. HR 2471 Omnibus Appropriations (Passed 68 to 31 on 3/10/2022, Roll Call 78). Spends \$1.5 trillion on multiple unconstitutional programs and agencies. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8. | | | \$11,830 | Yes |
| 4. HR 7691 Ukraine Aid (Passed 86 to 11 on 4/7/2022, Roll Call 191). Unconstitutionally spends \$40.1 billion in aid to Ukraine. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8. | | | \$316 | Yes |
| 5. S 4004 Covid Aid (Cloture rejected 52 to 43 on 5/19/2022, Roll Call 192). Unconstitutionally spends \$48 billion in grants to small businesses harmed by government Covid restrictions. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8. | | | \$379 | Yes |
| 6. S 2938 Gun Control (Passed 65 to 33 on 6/24/2022, Roll Call 242). Implements new federal gun controls and mental-health programs. See U.S. Const., amend. 2. | | | \$36 | Yes |



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1. Debt Limit Increase

This House amendment to S. 610 would delay multiple planned Medicare payment reductions and policy proposals. Most significantly, the bill included a provision to expedite consideration of a proposal to increase the debt limit, including by limiting debate time, prohibiting the consideration of amendments, and bypassing the filibuster for passage. (Five days later, the Senate used this provision to pass a \$2.5 trillion increase in the debt limit.)

Continuing reckless spending and debt accumulation will result in economic catastrophe, and most federal spending is for programs not authorized by the Constitution.

2. Vaccine Mandates

During consideration of the Omnibus Appropriations bill (H.R. 2471), Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah) offered an amendment "to prohibit funding for COVID-19 vaccine mandates," including for (but not limited to) military employees, federal workers, federal contractors, and health workers.

A president has no lawmaking power via executive orders, and therefore cannot impose vaccine mandates without an act of Congress. Even with an act of Congress, Covid-19 vaccine mandates would not be automatically considered constitutional due to the lack of constitutional authority for Congress to pass such a law.

3. Omnibus Appropriations

H.R. 2471, officially known as the "Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022," would provide \$1.5 trillion in discretionary appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022. Among the many unconstitutional and wasteful spending provisions in the bill was \$13.6 billion in assistance to Ukraine against Russia, over \$100 billion on Green New Deal-based initiatives, and \$45 billion for the National Institutes of Health, which amounts to a 10-percent increase for the NIH from the previous fiscal year.

With this omnibus bill, members of Congress are again failing to address their fiscally and constitutionally irresponsible budgeting and appropriating process that is currently yielding record-high inflation and increasing the already ballooning federal deficits, in addition to minimizing their accountability to their constituents by combining all discretionary federal spending for fiscal 2022 into one gigantic "go big or go home" bill.

4. Ukraine Aid

H.R. 7691 would provide \$40.1 billion in fiscal year 2022 "emergency supplemental appropriations for activities to respond to Russia's invasion of Ukraine."

Foreign aid (military or otherwise) is unconstitutional. The aid would further interject the United States in the Russia-Ukraine war, and would increase the likelihood of the war broadening to fully include as combatants the United States as well as the rest of NATO. Instead of acting as a global cop, America would be best served by returning to our traditional and constitutionally sound foreign policy of staying clear of foreign quarrels.

5. Covid Aid

S. 4008, "A bill to provide COVID relief for restaurants, gyms, minor league sports teams, border businesses, live venue service providers, exclave businesses, and providers of transportation services," would provide \$48 billion for Small Business Administration grants to help small businesses that were harmed by the Covid pandemic.

Not only is such spending not authorized anywhere in the Constitution, but this additional deficit spending would contribute to the ruinous inflation that is currently plaguing Americans. The economic harms to restaurants and other small businesses that S. 4008 is supposed to remedy were due to the unconstitutional federal and state Covid-19 lockdowns and vaccine mandates in the first place.

6. Gun Control

S. 2938, the "Bipartisan Safer Communities Act," would provide more than \$4.6 billion in funding through 2026 to address gun violence and mental health. Among other provisions, the bill would implement extreme risk protection orders (ERPOs), also known as red flag laws, and expand background checks for firearm purchases.

Increased spending and red flag laws are a direct violation of the U.S. Constitution, especially the Second Amendment-protected right to keep and bear arms, and this is one step closer to a disarmed America. Also, Congress is failing to address its fiscally irresponsible spending habits, which are far outside of Congress' constitutional limits.