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Weekly Legislative Update April 15, 2024

Congressional Outlook

The House and Senate are in session this week.

Congressional leaders are working on an international aid package following the recent Iranian attack on Israel. Congress has remained stalled on funding for Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan over unsettled differences within parties and chambers. The top leaders of Congress (House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries [D-N.Y.], Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer [D-N.Y.], and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell [R-Ky.]) spoke with President Joe Biden on Sunday regarding the Iranian attack on Israel. House Republicans will meet tonight as Speaker Johnson weighs legislative options for international aid after [vowing to take up aid for Israel this week](#). Ukraine funding remains a key discussion point and source of further negotiation. The Senate already passed an aid package in February including \$60 billion to Ukraine, \$14.1 billion to Israel, \$9.2 billion in humanitarian assistance, and \$4.8 billion to the Indo-Pacific region.

After last week's plans to send impeachment articles for Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas were adjusted, Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-La.) will [deliver the articles to impeach Sec. Mayorkas](#) to the Senate on Tuesday afternoon. In doing so, the Senate must act immediately on the two articles ([H. Res. 863](#)), the first accusing Sec. Mayorkas of "Willful and Systemic Refusal to Comply With the Law" and the second accusing him of "Breach of Public Trust". Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), who serves as president pro tempore of the Senate, will swear-in all 100 senators for a trial. There are several senators on record who have said that Leader Schumer will likely offer a procedural motion to dismiss or table the charges, which requires only 51 votes to succeed. Majority Leader Schumer has yet to share specifics on how he plans to deal with the two impeachment articles.

Congress has until Friday, April 19 to extend the authority of Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act ([FISA](#)). This past Friday, the House passed the **Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act** ([H.R. 7888](#)) by a vote of [273-147](#), which, if

passed through the Senate this week, reauthorizes Section 702 of FISA through mid-April 2026 and places certain restrictions on the program. Specifically, authority within [Section 702 permits the U.S. to gather digital communications of foreigners](#) outside of the U.S. The Senate may consider various amendments to H.R. 7888, including provisions related to additional privacy protections.

The House will consider ten [bills](#) under suspension of the rules, all focused on sanctions related to Iran following the recent drone and missile attack on Israel, in addition to four more bills related to waivers for sanctions on Iran and the imposition of sanctions on Houthis in Yemen. The House will also vote on the **Fourth Amendment Is Not For Sale Act** ([H.R. 4639](#)), which “stops the federal government from circumventing the Fourth Amendment right to privacy by closing loopholes that allow the government to purchase Americans’ data from big tech companies without a search warrant.” The Senate will vote this week on Ramona Manglona's nomination to be a U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern Mariana Islands for a term of ten years.

For the remainder of the week, the House will hold several hearings, including multiple Appropriations Subcommittee [hearings](#) reviewing Fiscal Year 2025 budget requests for the Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Food and Drug Administration, the Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Forest Service, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Justice Department, Labor Department, Department of Defense, and Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Senate will hold several committee [hearings](#), including several Senate Appropriations subcommittee FY25 budget oversight hearings for the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, the Department of Health and Human Services, Justice Department, and the Department of Agriculture. The Senate Banking Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development will hold a [hearing](#) on “**Challenges in Preserving the U.S. Housing Stock**,” and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold a [hearing](#) on “**The Fiscal Year 2025 budget request for the Department of Energy**”. [Rep. Mike Gallagher](#) (R-Wis.) will officially [resign](#) from the House on Friday, shrinking House Republicans' already razor-thin majority by one additional seat. Beginning on Saturday, Republicans will control 217 seats in the House, compared to 213 for the Democratic minority. If all 430 House members are present and voting, 216 votes would be required to pass a bill on the House floor over the next six weeks under regular order, which means that the 217-member House GOP majority could only afford to lose one GOP vote and still pass a bill with only GOP support. Four upcoming special House elections will adjust these narrow margins over the next two months, however. New York’s 26th Congressional District will very likely be filled by a Democrat in an [April 30 special election](#) (resulting in a House composed of 217 Rs and 214 Ds); California’s 20th Congressional District will be filled by a Republican in a [May 21 special election](#) (resulting in a House composed of 218 Rs and 214 Ds); Ohio’s 6th Congressional District will very likely be filled by a Republican in a [June 11 special election](#) (resulting in a House composed of 219 Rs and 214 Ds); and Colorado’s 4th Congressional District will very likely be filled by a Republican in a [June 25 special election](#) (resulting in a House composed of 220 Rs and 214 Ds).

Bills and Regulations of Interest to You

Bill	Title	Sponsors	Background
<u>H.R. 7889</u>	Supporting the Abused by Learning Options to Navigate Survivor (SALONS) Stories Act	Rep. Laurel Lee (R-FL-15)	Amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to increase grants to combat domestic violence for States that implement domestic violence prevention training in the cosmetologist and barber licensing process.
<u>H.R. 7894</u> & <u>S.4084</u>	Supporting Theater and the Arts to Galvanize the Economy (STAGE) Act of 2024	Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA-30) & Sen. Peter Welch (D-VT)	Amends the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make grants to professional nonprofit theaters for the purposes of supporting operations, employment, and economic development.
<u>H.R. 7901</u>	Housing Vouchers Fairness Act	Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ-3)	The Housing Vouchers Fairness Act corrects this disparity by authorizing an additional \$2 billion in funding for HUD for the Housing Choice Voucher program to ensure the public housing authorities that represent the country's 25 fastest-growing cities.
<u>H.R. 7907</u> & <u>S.4088</u>	Health Care Workforce Act	Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL-8) & Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)	Authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for career support for a skilled, internationally educated health care workforce.
<u>H.R. 7916</u>	Removing Nitrate and Arsenic in Drinking Water Act	Rep. Norma Torres (D-CA-35)	Amends the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide grants for nitrate and arsenic reduction, by providing \$15 million for FY25 and every fiscal year thereafter.

H.R. 7918	CREATE Art Act	Rep. Maxwell Frost (D-FL-10)	Creates federal grant programs to support the work of emerging artists
H.R. 7922	Water Risk and Resilience Organization (WRRO) Establishment Act	Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR-1)	Establishes a Water Risk and Resilience Organization to develop risk and resilience requirements for the water sector.
H.R. 7930	Teen Dating Violence Prevention Act	Rep. Ann Kuster (D-NH-2)	Requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a program to award grants for providing to or developing for schools and youth-serving organizations educational resources or training on preventing teen dating violence.
H.R. 7946 & S.4177	Climate Change Education Act	Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI-6) & Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA)	Establishes a Climate Change Education Program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to provide grants and technical assistance to state and local education agencies, institutions of higher learning, professional associations and academic societies, and youth corps organizations.
H.R. 7972 & S.3914	Affordable Housing and Area Median Income Fairness Act of 2024	Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY-9) & Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)	Increases the supply of, and lower rents for, affordable housing and to assess calculations of area median income for purposes of Federal low-income housing assistance.

Agency	Title	Proposed Regulation	Comment Deadline
FHWA	Highway Safety Improvement Program	Amends the regulatory language to incorporate the Safe System Approach, clarify the scope of the HSIP to focus on the safety of all	April 22, 2024

		road users on the entire public road network, improve evaluation practices, streamline reporting efforts, and ensure States are collecting Model Inventory of Roadway Elements (MIRE) fundamental data elements.	
USTR	Promoting Supply Chain Resilience	USTR requests comments to inform objectives and strategies that advance U.S. supply chain resilience in trade negotiations, enforcement, and other initiatives.	April 22, 2024
HHS	Elder Justice Coordinating Council Priorities	The Administration for Community Living (ACL) seeks information on recommended area(s) and or issue(s) for which elder justice stakeholders believe the Elder Justice Coordinating Council (Council) can be the most beneficial to promoting elder justice and have the greatest positive impact for survivors of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation and their communities.	April 24, 2024
OMB	Methods and Leading Practices for Advancing Public Participation and Community Engagement With the Federal Government	OMB seeks input on the experiences of individuals and organizations, including from underserved communities, with informing Federal Government decision-making and participating in engagement activities with government agencies; examples of leading practices in this space; and other recommendations on available methods, approaches, and tools that could assist in the effort to develop and implement a Federal framework for participation and engagement.	May 17, 2024
HUD	Reducing Barriers to HUD-Assisted Housing	The proposed amendments would revise existing regulations that govern admission for applicants with criminal records or a history of involvement with the criminal justice system and eviction or termination of assistance of persons on the basis of	June 10, 2024

		illegal drug use, drug-related criminal activity, or other criminal activity.	
DOT	National Multimodal Freight Network	DOT request RFI from public on the best approach to identify critical freight facilities and corridors that will make up a National Multimodal Freight Network (NMFN) that is vital to achieving the national multimodal freight policy goals of the United States.	June 11, 2024
FEMA	Individual Assistance Program Equity	Amending its regulations governing the Individual Assistance program to increase equity by simplifying processes, removing barriers to entry, and increasing eligibility for certain types of assistance under the program.	July 22, 2024

Week in Review

[House plans to send Mayorkas impeachment articles to Senate on Tuesday](#)

[House approves surveillance authority reauthorization bill](#)

[Rep. Tom Cole tapped to serve as House Appropriations Committee chair](#)

[House to act on Israel aid, but Ukraine up in the air, after Iran's attack](#)
