Legislative Forecast for the 114th Congress

Updated August 3, 2015

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Congress Faces Fights over Ex-Im, Highway Trust Fund in Coming Months

Prospective Items on Legislative Agenda in 114th Congress

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Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Keystone XL: The House and Senate passed a bill approving the Keystone XL pipeline, but failed to override a veto		Immigration: Congress attempted to tie funding for DHS to repeal of President Obama's actions on immigration, but a filibuster in the Senate led to a clean funding bill	Medicare: Congress passed a surprising bipartisan long-term fix for Medicare payment rates and CHIP funding		International Trade: Congress voted to grant the president Trade Promotion Authority to facilitate negotiations of TPP and TTIP trade agreements Export-Import Bank: The bank's charter expired and Congress will make a decision this fall PATRIOT Act: The three key provisions expired, the USA FREEDOM Act is likely to replace it	Highway Trust Fund: Expired and a 3-month patch was enacted as Congress works towards a longer term deal		Tax Reform: Movement on comprehensive tax reform remains unlikely in a Republican Congress, but corporate tax reform is possible Appropriations: A budget for FY2016 was passed in May, and the FY2015 appropriations period ends on Sept 30th. Iranian Nuclear Deal: The 60 day deadline for Congress to vote on the president's deal ends on September 17th		Debt Ceiling: A stronger-than-expected tax season means extraordinary measures to stay under the debt ceiling will likely hold until November

Action Possible, Timing Unknown

Affordable Care Act: Barring more extreme action in the wake of a Supreme Court decision eliminating federal exchange subsidies in King v. Burwell, medical device tax repeal and smaller regulatory changes to coverage requirements are possible; reconciliation authority has been given to repeal the act, but any bill to do that is guaranteed a veto

No Child Left Behind: GOP Senators want to push for less federal involvement in school performance evaluation and move more responsibility to states

Online Sales Tax: Not a high priority, but lobbying efforts from states and small businesses are pushing the GOP to allow for collection of sales taxes for online purchases; multiple bills have been introduced with differing mechanisms to address the issue



Affordable Care Act

Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on the Affordable Care Act

2012 2013 Mar 2015 May 2015

NFIB v. Sebelius

The Supreme Court decided the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate, deciding that penalties imposed are a constitutional application of Congress's taxing and spending power; however, the law's provision stripping all Medicaid funding from states if they did not opt-in to the Medicaid expansion was ruled unconstitutionally coercive.

"Continuing to Implement the ACA in a Careful, Thoughtful Manner"

The Treasury Department issued a memo delaying the employer mandate by one year, leading to criticism from Congress and an eventual lawsuit by the House of Representatives.

Supreme Court Oral Arguments in King v. Burwell

A statutory interpretation case before the Court challenged the IRS's ability to provide subsidies for individuals receiving health care via federal exchanges; oral arguments left the case's outcome uncertain. The case is likely to be decided at the end of June.

FY2016 Budget Resolution

The joint budget resolution passed by both houses of Congress sets forth reconciliation provisions which will give the Senate the ability to write appropriations legislation repealing the Affordable Care Act via a simple majority vote.

- The joint budget resolution includes language allowing for the repeal of the Affordable Care Act via reconciliation (only needing 51 votes for passage without possibility of filibuster); it is possible that both houses will send a key appropriations bill to President Obama with a rider attached repealing (and potentially replacing) the bill.
- It is almost impossible that the president would sign a bill repealing his signature legislative achievement; however, smaller reforms, such as changing the definition of a full-time worker or repealing the medical device tax have bipartisan support
- King v. Burwell is expected to be decided at the end of June; if subsidies are not upheld, Republicans will likely use restoration of subsidies on federal exchanges as a bargaining chip for more significant reforms to the law



Appropriations

Updated July 31, 2015

Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on Appropriations

Jan 2014

Sep 2014

Dec 2014

Feb 2015

Mar 2015

May 2015

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014

Omnibus spending package passed funding for the government through the end of September of 2014, following a temporary government shutdown in December 2013

Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015

A short-term continuing resolution passed funding the government at FY2014 levels through December 11, 2014; this pushed appropriations deadlines into the lame duck session to avoid difficult votes for endangered congressional incumbents.

Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015

Just hours before a potential shutdown, Congress passed an appropriations package funding almost all appropriations categories through the end of FY2015, with a continuing resolution until March for the Department of Homeland Security.

President Obama's FY2016 Budget Request

The president submitted a budget request to Congress in February to begin the FY2016 budget and appropriations process.

Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act

After attempting and failing to use DHS funding to leverage repeal of executive actions on immigration, the House and Senate passed a bipartisan bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security through the end of FY2015.

FY2016 Budget Resolution

The joint budget resolution passed by both houses of Congress sets topline numbers to provide a formal framework for appropriations negotiations; the resolution also includes reconciliation language for use to repeal the Affordable Care Act via a majority vote.

- Although 6 out of 12 appropriations bills have passed the House, Senate Democrats have blocked all spending bills from entering the Senate floor until caps on domestic spending are raised.
- The stalled bills make it likely that the House and Senate will pass an omnibus appropriations package in 2015, though with a Congressional recess in August, a continuing resolution will likely pass in September to allow for more time to negotiate
- If the appropriations package includes repeal of the Affordable Care Act (which can be passed through reconciliation via a simple majority vote in the Senate after the passage of the joint budget resolution), President Obama may veto the package, forcing Congress to renegotiate close to a shutdown deadline



Debt Ceiling

2013

Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on the Debt Ceiling

2011

Budget Control Act of 201 Ì

The BCA was designed to avoid a potential shutdown due to a failure to raise the debt limit in 2011; the act delegated authority to a 'supercommittee' to find an agreement on deficit reduction; however, no agreement was met, and so automatic penalty 'sequestration cuts' were but into effect.

Feb 2013

No Budget, No Pay Act of

A bill which temporarily suspended the debt limit until May 28, 2013 and put Congressional pay on hold until a budget resolution could be bassed.

Oct. 16, 2013

Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014

A continuing resolution bassed in fiscal year 2014, which funded the government and suspended the debt limit until February 2015 to give lawmakers more time to negotiate a compromise proposal.

Feb 2015

Temporary Debt Limit Extension Act

Both houses of Congress bassed a debt ceiling extension, suspending the ceiling until March 15, 2015.

Mar 2015

Debt Limit Reinstated

The suspension of the debt ceiling was lifted in March; the Treasury is currently taking extraordinary measures to keep the government funded.

Potential Actions in 114th Congress

 The Treasury Department will likely exhaust extraordinary measures around November; with Republican control of Congress, the attachment of riders for key Republican legislative priorities may go along with any debt limit hike, including lifting of defense sequestration cuts and ACA reform



Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank

Updated: August 3, 2015

Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on the Export-Import Bank

2007

Consolidated **Appropriations Act, 2008** 2012

Appropriations bill passed for FY2008 for the first time gave the Ex-Im bank the ability to use 2 years, until September 30. funds it collects to pay for the costs of its appropriations, and allows the Bank to hold \$50 million in excess receipts to but towards the following year's appropriation expenses; the bank has been self-sufficient ever since, but still guarantees loans with the full faith and credit of the U.S. government.

Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of

2012

Extended the Bank's charter for 2014, and codified reporting and business plan requirements for the bank.

July 2014

Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2014

A bill, introduced by Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV), to directly extend the Bank's charter through 2019; the bill failed to get a vote in the Senate.

Sep 2014

Continuing **Appropriations** Resolution, 2015

Included in a short-term continuing resolution extending the Bank's charter through June 30, 2015.

July 2015

Export-Import Bank Charter Expires

Congress let the bank's charter expire on June 30. The bank continues to complete loans that are in process and collect outstanding loans, but the bank cannot issue any new insurance, loans, or guarantees. The Senate passed a multi-year highway and infrastructure bill that includes reauthorization of Ex-Im, although the House declined to vote on the Senate's version of the highway bill before the August Recess.

- The House's five-week August recess means that the Ex-Im Bank will not be able to make or guarantee new loans until at least September or October when Congress will have another chance to renew it
- Congress's next chance to renew the Ex-Im Bank coincides with the beginning of FY2016, when Congress will be deliberating a number of issues, including multiple annual spending bills, a long-term transportation infrastructure bill, as well as the extent of the nation's spending and borrowing authorities. Reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank will likely be closely linked to one of these critical issues.



Highway Trust Fund

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Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on the Highway Trust Fund

Feb 2014

Apr 2014

May 2014

July 2014

May 2015

July 2015

Department of **Transportation** Memo

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx sent Congress a memo warning that the fund will be depleted by August 2014 without Congressional intervention

GROW AMERICA Act

Secretary Anthony Foxx sends a draft of a longterm transportation bill to Congress as part of the President's four-year \$302 billion transportation reauthorization proposal

MAP-21 Reauthorization Act

A six-year surface transportation reauthorization bill passed out of the Senate **Environment and Public** Works Committee; the bill stalls and does not bass either chamber

Highway and **Transportation** Funding Act of 2014

A \$10.8 billion law keeping the fund solvent until May 2015, as a temporary patch prior to the August recess and projected insolvency.

Highway and Act of 2015

A further two month extension of the Highway Trust Fund is passed by Congress; Republicans, including House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and House Ways and Méans Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) suggest paying for a more permanent extension of the fund by generating revenue through tax reform.

Surface Transportation Transportation Funding and Veterans Health Care **Choice Improvement Act** of 2015

On the brink of insolvency, the House passes a short term 3month extension to allow for more time to negotiate a 6-year bill. The bill passed in the Senate as well, right after the Senate passed the DRIVE Act, which reauthorizes highway spending for 6 years but only plans 3 years of funding. The President signs the 3-month patch.

- Next steps: The House will draft and pass a long-term bill post-recess; a conference committee will then negotiate a compromise bill
- GOP leadership wants to provide more permanent revenue for the Highway Trust Fund by attaching tax reform proposals to the bill
- It is possible that tax reform proposals, such as a tax repatriation holiday, could help fund a more permanent extension
- Provisions for long-term or short-term funding may also be attached to an omnibus budget package that would be effective October 1st



Immigration

Updated: August 3, 2015

Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on Immigration

July 2015 2012 2013 2014 Feb 2015 Mar 2015

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

An executive action signed into law by Barack Obama. Suspended deportation of certain immigrants who arrived in the U.S. illegally as children. Obama's use of executive action signaled lack of bipartisan support for the measure.

Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and **Immigration** Modernization Act

A bipartisan reform proposal to create a path to citizenship conditional on increased border security, as well as new visa classifications; passed the Senate on a 68-32 vote, but was never taken up by the House.

Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA)

An executive action signed into law by Barack Obama expanding the pool of eligible recipients of DACA and providing deportation relief to certain parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents.

Texas and 16 other states

filed a lawsuit in federal court seeking to block implementation of DAPA, and a judge issued a preliminary injunction on the actions.

Texas v. United States Department of **Homeland Security Appropriations Act**

The House voted to end both DACA and DAPA as a condition of funding DHS, but the Senate filibustered the measure; the House eventually passed a bill funding DHS without conditions.

Enforce the Law for Sanctuary Cities Act

The House voted, mostly along party lines, to deny some federal funding for jurisdictions that prohibit law enforcement from asking people about their citizenship or immigration status. The bush for this legislation was fueled by the July I San Francisco murder of Kathryn Steinle, allegedly by an individual with a criminal history who was residing in the country unlawfully.

- While the Republicans muted criticism after a federal court put a stay on the immigration action in February, if the actions are ultimately upheld, immigration hawks will likely again attach a provision or rider to appropriations items to block the actions from being enacted
- It is unclear what action the Senate will take in response to the issue of sanctuary cities, although Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-IA) introduced Kate's Law, which would impose a mandatory five-year prison sentence on undocumented immigrants who are deported and then return to the United States
- The White House threatened to veto such legislation and prefers Congress act on a comprehensive immigration reform package



Updated August 3, 2015

Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on International Trade

2012 2014 June 12, 2015 2002 May 14, 2015 June 29, 2015

Trade Act of 2002

Gave the president Trade Promotion Authority, also known as fast-track authority, which allows the initially requested fastadministration to negotiate international trade agreements with only an up-or-down vote needed from Congress to enact agreements; the provision expired in 2007.

White House Issues Request For Trade **Promotion Authority**

track authority again during negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in 2012.

Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014

The Obama administration Bill introduced by Rep. Dave Bill that reauthorizes Camp (R-MI) and Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) to provide the administration trade promotion authority to assist passes in the Senate with ongoing TPP and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations; the bill was referred to committee and no further action was taken.

Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015

customs and border patrol enforcement (H.R. 644) passes in the House, it later an amendment. The House did not approve the amendment, and the bill will TPA. Though Democrats go to conference.

Trade Act of 2015 Fails to Pass

The Trade Act of 2015 Promotion Authority (TPA) and Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA). While it passed in the Senate, the House voted on the parts separately and only passed overwhelmingly support TAA, they voted against it in the House in order to kill the entire bill.

"Fast Track" Enacted and Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 contained two parts: Trade After the Trade Act of 2015 failed to bass. Congress passed fast-track authority and TAA separately by attaching them to other bills

(H.R. 1295 and H.R. 2146).

- Now that President Obama has Trade Promotion Authority, the Trans-Pacific Partnership will likely be supported by a majority vote in both chambers; however, trade ministers' failure to reach a final agreement during July negotiations in Hawaii means that the next round of negotiations will be pushed into 2016. This mean that TPP may become a Presidential campaign issue and could bleed into Senate debates, since five Senators are also Presidential candidates
- The Senate has appointed conferees for the customs reauthorization, including Sens. Hatch (R-UT) and Wyden (D-OR). The House has not voted on a motion to conference yet, and with the August recess, the conference on the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 will likely be delayed until the fall



Iranian Nuclear Negotiations

Updated: August 3, 2015

Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on Iranian Nuclear Negotiations

2013

Executive Order 13645

An executive order which increased sanctions against Iran by targeting currency trading for the rial (Iran's currency) and dealings with the Iranian automotive sector; this action built upon several other prior sanctions actions taken against Iran's nuclear program.

Mar 2015

Senate Open Letter to Iran

Sen.Tom Cotton (R-AR) sent a letter to Iran's senior leadership, cosigned by 46 other Senators, to convey that an executive agreement on nuclear proliferation could be overturned by a future president unless ratified by the Senate.

Apr 2015

Framework Agreement on Nuclear Program

President Obama announced a framework for an agreement on Iran's nuclear program, including a phase-out of sanctions in exchange for reductions in and regular inspections of centrifuges and uranium stockpiles.

May 2015

Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015

A law which subjects an Iranian nuclear deal to congressional review; The president is required to keep Congress informed on a quarterly basis of Iranian compliance with any deal, and if Iran breaches the agreement or the president fails to issue a quarterly certification, sanctions may be restored by Congress.

July 2015

Deal Reached with Iran

On July 14, the White House announced a deal with Iran to cap, restrict, monitor, and roll back Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of international sanctions. On July 20, the United Nations Security Council unanimously voted in favor of the Iran deal.

- The deal was formally introduced to Congress on July 20, 2015. As of this date, Congress has 60 days to review the agreement and approve or disapprove of the deal
- · The President has stated that he intends to veto any resolution of disapproval
- Congress has the ability to override his veto, although it is unlikely that lawmakers will have the two-thirds supermajority required to implement this decision
- Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY), who is the likely Democratic leader for 2017 and one of the Senate's strongest supporters of Israel, is positioned to have an influential opinion on the Iran Deal



Keystone XL

Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on the Keystone XL Pipeline

Jul 2010

Dec 2011

lan 2012

Mar/Apr 2013

Nov 2014

Feb 2015

EPA Comments on **State Department** Draft Environmental **Impact Report**

The EPA suggested that the State Department's review of the pipeline should include harms from heightened greenhouse gas emissions from oil-sands crude.

Temporary Payroll Tax Cut **Continuation Act of** 2011

An end-of-year bill temporarily extending payroll tax cuts is signed into law with a rider requiring President Obama to make a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline permit.

State Department Permit Rejection

President Obama, acting with guidance from the Department of State. denied a permit to Keystone XL on the grounds that the 60-day window provided by Congress was not enough time to gain necessary additional information needed to give approval to the project.

Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

The State Department issued a supplemental environmental impact statement arguing that a proposed alternative route would cause no significant imbacts to resources: the EPA released a letter challenging the conclusions of the statement.

Keystone XL **Pipeline**

The Senate voted to directly approve the Keystone XL pipeline during the 2014 lame duck session, but the bill failed to pass by one vote.

A Bill to Approve the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act

The House and Senate passed a bill to directly approve the Keystone XL pipeline after the new Republican-controlled Senate was sworn in, but President Obama vetoed the legislation, arguing that approval should be up to the executive branch. The Senate tried and failed to override the veto.

- The veto (and failed override) of the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act likely means no further action will be taken to pass legislation with a focal point of approving the pipeline by Congress in 2015; approval or denial of the project may come through administrative review
- Republicans have threatened, post-veto, to attach approval of the pipeline as a rider to must-pass appropriations legislation in order to force the president's hand on approving the pipeline project



Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on Medicare

2008 Mar 2014

Apr 2014

Mar 2015

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010

Major health care law passed in 2010; in addition to reforming the market for private insurance, it reduced payments to Medicare Advantage plans and created the Independent Payment Advisory Board to regulate Medicare costs, among other reforms.

SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014

Bill proposed as a way to permanently end the Medicare SGR growth rate and replace it with a system which would, after a grace period, reward providers for participating in Alternative Payment Models (APM); the bill included a provision delaying the implementation of the ACA's individual mandate to buy health insurance for five years. It was never taken up by the Senate.

Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014

One in a long line of annual delays (often called "doc fixes") to cuts to Medicare reimbursement rates via the Sustainable Growth Rate; the bill delayed the implemented SGR reimbursement rate cuts for one year. The bill was paid for primarily through targeted Medicare cuts to specialized providers.

Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015

A bill similar to the SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014 without a delay of the individual mandate, the law permanently repeals the SGR growth rate, replacing it with a plan which will reward providers who participate in alternative payment models and increase Medicare premium rates on certain higher-income individuals, among other reforms.

- Further changes to Medicare are unlikely after unexpected passage of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act, which reformed Medicare and ended the SGR; however, the joint budget resolution passed in May calls for the cost of that law to be fully offset, increasing the likelihood of further reforms
- Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO) introduced the Medicaid Audit Improvement Act of 2015 in late April, which would replace Recovery Audit Contractor contingency payments, put more oversight on auditors whose audits are frequently overturned on appeal, and eliminate the one-year filing limit on Medicare Part B claims; the legislation has bipartisan co-sponsors, but appears to have stagnated in the House



No Child Left Behind

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Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on No Child Left Behind

2007

2011

July 8, 2015

July 16, 2015

No Child Left Behind Act 'Expires'

No Child Left Behind was nominally set to expire on September 30, 2007, with a goal of rewriting and reauthorizing the bill. The law remained in-effect due to a provision that the law would continue in its original form if Congress didn't act after the 'expiration date.' The original expiration date made the initial bill appear cheaper in CBO scoring.

Obama Administration Begins Waiver Program

Without a clear path towards replacement or revision of the law, and with the law's original 2014 deadline for proficiency in reading and math looming, the Obama Administration offered to waive the proficiency deadline and other requirements for states which overhaul low-performing schools and enact more stringent teacher evaluation systems.

Student Success Act

The House passed a NCLB replacement bill which would eliminate federal mandates for educational standards and poor performing schools, allow schools and parents to opt out of standardized testing, and change the funding formula to have money follow individual low-income students rather than stay at schools with the most low-income students. The bill passed with no Democratic support.

Every Child Achieves Act of 2015

The Senate passed a bipartisan bill put together by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA), which would maintain annual standardized tests and funding for low-income schools while reducing the Education Department's oversight and regulatory authority over state programs designed to improve educational outcomes for low-income and minority students.

- Now that the House and Senate have passed different versions of a NCLB rewrite, a conference committee chaired by Rep. John Kline (R-MN) will begin negotiating a compromise bill in September
- · Obama has threatened to veto the House bill due to the changes it would make to distribution of funding
- Democrats and the Obama administration want an accountability measure that both bills currently lack, in order to ensure that states
 will be able to define and help struggling schools and students



Online Sales Tax

Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on an Online Sales Tax

2011 2013 lan 2015 Mar 2015

Marketplace Fairness Act of 2011

A bill introduced by Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY) which would have allowed states operating under the Streamlined Sales Tax and Use Agreement to require businesses which collect more than \$500,000 in gross remote sales receipts to collect sales taxes on goods sold to residents of their states, even if the business is located in another state The bill stalled in the Senate.

Marketplace Fairness Act of 2013

A bill which passed the Senate in 2013 which would have allowed states operating under the Streamlined Sales Tax and Use Agreement to require businesses which collect more than \$1,000,000 in gross remote sales receipts to collect sales taxes on goods sold to residents of their states, even if the business is located in another state. The bill was never taken up by the House.

Online Sales Simplification Act of 2015

A draft bill released in the House by Reps. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) and Anna Eshoo (D-CA); in contrast to the Marketplace Fairness Act, the bill would enable states to have out-ofstate buyers pay sales tax to the state in which the seller is located rather than the seller remitting collected sales tax to the purchaser's state.

Marketplace Fairness Act of 2015

A bill which has been introduced by Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY) in the Senate in 2015; it is exactly the same as the 2013 version of the bill that passed the Senate. The bill has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

- House and Senate are divided on how to approach the issue; the Marketplace Fairness Act, which has been the model for online sales tax legislation for the past several sessions, has not been taken up by the House, in part due to concerns over allowing states to tax businesses located elsewhere
- An alternative plan put forward by Reps Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) and Anna Eshoo (D-CA) may help to alleviate those concerns, but there is no clear coalition backing one plan or the other
- Given the pressing nature of several issues with clear deadlines, and no clear consensus on the right policy mechanism, an online sales tax is a low-priority item in 2015



PATRIOT Act

Updated: August 3, 2015

Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on the PATRIOT Act

2011

PATRIOT Sunsets Extension Act of 2011

The act was renewed for four vears until July 1, 2015, preventing the expiring of three key provisions: roving wiretaps, lone wolf surveillance for terrorism suspects, and the ability to access a wide array of personal records of terrorism suspects (often called the 'library provision'.)

2013

H.Amdt. 413 to **Department of Defense** Appropriations Act, 2014

An amendment proposed by Michigan Reps. Justin Amash (R) and John Conyers (D) in the aftermath of the Edward Snowden NSA leaks, the amendment would have restricted governmental authority to mass collect metadata on Americans; it failed in the House on a vote of 217-205.

2014

USA FREEDOM Act of 2014

A bill proposed by Sen. Patrick Leahy which would require the NSA to request specific data from phone companies and limited the amount and distance of connections the NSA could gain from a court. The bill would also have appointed public advocates for privacy rights and civil liberties failed a Senate cloture vote. in federal surveillance courts. The bill failed to achieve cloture in the Senate by a vote of 58-42.

May 2015

USA Freedom Act of 2015; Temporary Extension (S. 1357)

The USA FREEDOM Act of 2015 includes a provision that requires the government to identify a specific person or account from a provider rather than allowing for mass collection of data; the measure passed the House but Senate Maj. Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) introduced a temporary two-month extension (S. 1357) for the PATRIOT Act's expiring provisions, but the vote also failed to achieve cloture.

June 2015

Congress Allows Key **Provisions of PATRIOT** Act to Expire

With the help of Sen. Rand Paul's (R-KÝ) parliamentary maneuvers, three key provisions of the PATRIOT act expired on July 1, 2015. On June 2, the Senate passed the USA Freedom Act, which ended government collection of telephone metadata and instead mandated phone companies to store the records.

- On June 29, 2015, The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court approved a government request to renew the National Security Agency's bulk collection of Americans' phone records for six months, or until November 29, 2015, even though the program lapsed with the expiration of the PATRIOT ACT.
- While the USA Freedom Act calls for the eventual end to the NSA's bulk collection of Americans' information, the legislation contains language that calls for a six-month transition period, giving the NSA time to implement a more limited and targeted surveillance regime.



Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on Tax Reform

2009 2012 Feb 2014 Sep 2014 lan 2015 2004

American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 American Recovery

A law which repealed certain excise taxes and trade subsidies and created tax credits for various businesses and products, including biolfuels.The act also included a tax repatriation holiday to attempt to generate economic stimulus.

S.Amdt. II2 to the and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Bipartisan amendment proposed by Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and John Ensign (R-NV) to include another tax repatriation period in the 2009 stimulus package; the amendment failed, 42-55.

American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012

A law which made a series of Bush administration tax cuts tax rates on dividends. estate taxes, and payroll taxes; the bill also extended certain certain tax breaks for lower-income families.

Tax Reform Act of 2014

A comprehensive draft proposal for tax reform which was released by then-House Wavs and Means Committee permanent, but increased Chair, Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI); the bill would have lowered corporate and individual tax rates and simplified the tax code, but corporate tax breaks and faced wide opposition and was only ceremonially but to the floor at the end of December of 2014.

Treasury Actions on Inversion

Treasury Secretary Jack Lew put forward a series of measures designed to reduce benefits of tax inversions, including blocking inverted companies from transferring assets to parent companies and accessing foreign earnings.

Senate Finance Committee Tax Working Groups

The Senate Finance committee created a series of 'working groups' on different issue areas to create proposals for tax reform in the 114th Congress.

- Though there were originally proposals to use FY2016 budgetary reconciliation authority to address comprehensive tax reform, the joint budget resolution tied reconciliation language to repeal of the Affordable Care Act
- Plans for more modest tax reform are likely to be tied to renewal of the Highway Trust Fund as a way to fund the program, which is set to expire in September; the Senate Finance Committee's working groups are attempting to quickly develop bipartisan proposals to attach to the Trust Fund's renewal
- Comprehensive tax reform is unlikely in a short window; the most likely scenario for reform is likely to be another repatriation holiday or other international tax reforms