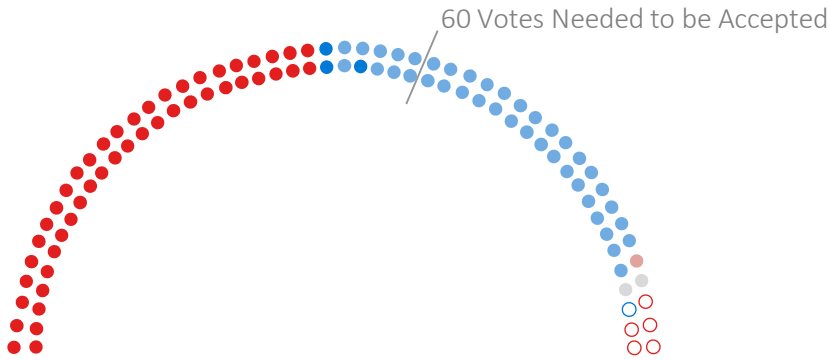


Senate Dems Block Defense Appropriations Due to Concerns About Domestic Spending Levels

How the Senate Voted on Proceeding on the Defense Spending Bill



Votes by Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republicans	● 48	● 1	○ 5
Democrats	● 2	● 41	○ 1
Independents	● 0	● 2	○ 0
Total	50	44	6

“ We have a defense bill, its an appropriations bill. Once that’s done, the appropriations process will be wiped out, and we’ll be at the mercy of the Republicans...”

- Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV)

Analysis

- Senate Democrats are opposing the Senate defense appropriations bill because the bill contains additional spending, without corresponding domestic spending increases. Senate Dems argue this would be in violation of the two year budget agreement agreed to last year.
- Specifically, Senate Democrats are frustrated Republicans have not agreed to increased Zika funding, scientific research funding, and infrastructure spending.
- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell voted against the measure as a procedural matter so he can bring it up again.
- The Senate defense appropriations bill is **the last defense bill** that needs to pass its chamber before going to conference since both NDAs and the House defense appropriations bill have passed.

Source: Jordan Carney, “Senate Democrats Block Defense Spending Bill,” The Hill, July 8, 2016; AP, “Dems Block Senate Defense Spending Bill, Fear Domestic Spending Cuts,” Defense News, June 10, 2016; Senate Roll Call Vote.