



Benjamin Cardin

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Maryland
Democrat

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Lifetime Score

This legislator voted constitutionally on of the votes shown below.

CPH: Estimated cost per household.

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	CPH	Vote
1. Senator Rand Paul's (R-Ky.) amendment to S Con Res 7 Deficit Reduction (Rejected 24 to 76 on 2/21/2025, Roll Call 77). Reduces the deficit by approximately \$1.4 trillion through fiscal 2034. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8.				
			+\$10589	?
2. Senator Ben Ray Luján's (D-N.M.) amendment to S Con Res 7 Federal Funding for Law Enforcement (Rejected 48 to 52 on 2/21/2025, Roll Call 81). Increases federal funding for local law enforcement by funding the COPS Hiring Program. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8.				
				?
Senator Tammy Duckworth's (D-Ill.) amendment to S Con Res 7 In Vitro Fertilization (Rejected 49 to 51 on 2/21/2025, Roll Call 82). Protects access to "reproductive healthcare," including "fertility treatment services" such as in vitro fertilization (IVF). See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8.				
				?
H J Res 35 EPA Emissions Rule (Passed 52 to 47 on 2/27/2025, Roll Call 97). Overturns an EPA rule that imposed annual fees on oil and gas facilities that emit methane above certain thresholds. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8.				
			+\$0.05	?
5. Sen. Paul's amendment to HR 1968 USAID Funding Cuts (Rejected 27 to 73 on 2/21/2025, Roll Call 77). Reduces funding levels for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8.				
			+\$121	?
Sen. Paul's amendment to HR 1968 Debt Ceiling (Rejected 5 to 94 on 4/4/2025, Roll Call 179). Reduces the bill's increase in the debt limit from \$4 trillion to \$500 billion.				
			+\$26472	?



CONGRESSIONAL SCORECARD

BASED ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

Sen. Benjamin Cardin
Lifetime Score: 14%

Scorecard 119-1

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 does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are selected for their constitutional implications and cost to the taxpayers.

Please share this Scorecard in your district to inform people about the constitutionality of their congressman's votes.

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 119th Congress (January 3, 2025 - January 3, 2027) and ranks congressmen based on his or her fidelity to constitutional and limited-government principles.

Federal debt equals \$323,053 per taxpayer, as of July 30, 2025.

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The Constitution



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New American

Wednesday, July 30, 2025

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Bill Descriptions for the Votes that Affect You

1. Deficit Reduction

During consideration of a budget resolution for fiscal 2025 (Senate Concurrent Resolution 7), Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) submitted an amendment to have House and Senate committees recommend changes in law that would collectively reduce the deficit by \$1.4 trillion through fiscal 2034.

Trillion-dollar annual deficits and the ballooning national debt are not sustainable. For fiscal year 2024 alone, which ended on September 30, 2024, the federal deficit was \$1.8 trillion, which was added to the national debt. Most of the spending fueling runaway deficits and debt is unconstitutional. Paul's defeated amendment fell far short of the cuts needed to eliminate deficit spending, but it would at least have been a step in the right direction.

2. Federal Funding for Law Enforcement

During consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 7, Senator Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.) offered an amendment to provide increased resources for local law enforcement by funding the COPS Hiring Program, a federal grant program administered by the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).

The Constitution does not authorize federal involvement in domestic law enforcement, as affirmed by the 10th Amendment. The COPS Hiring Program undermines the U.S. federalist system, inserting federal influence into state and local policing and creating dependence on federal funding.

3. In Vitro Fertilization

During consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 7, Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) offered an amendment to protect access to "reproductive healthcare," including in vitro fertilization (IVF).

Healthcare is not the role of government, and neither abortion nor IVF is healthcare. Despite healthcare not being one of the powers enumerated to Congress in Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, the term "reproductive health services" has been codified into federal law. It includes the life-destroying practices of IVF, through which embryos conceived outside the womb are aborted or indefinitely frozen. If Congress, as affirmed in the Declaration of Independence, holds that all people are "created equal" and "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights," then it should secure the first of those rights — the right to life — by rejecting any federal protections or support for abortion and cryo-orphaning entirely.

4. EPA Emissions Rule

H. J. Res. 35 would overturn the Environmental Protection Agency's 2024 "Waste Emissions Charge" rule, which imposed annual fees on oil and gas facilities that emit methane above certain thresholds. The resolution blocks the EPA from imposing this rule — intended to curb greenhouse-gas emissions — on petroleum and natural-gas systems.

Neither the EPA nor its methane-emissions-fee rule are authorized under the Constitution. Moreover, the rule was driven by the false climate-change narrative that serves as a pretext for implementing the UN's Agenda 2030, which undermines national sovereignty and promotes centralized, global control.

5. USAID Funding Cuts

During consideration of a continuing appropriations bill to fund the federal government through the end of fiscal 2025 (H.R. 1968), Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) offered an amendment to reduce funding levels for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). A press release from Paul's office after the vote explained that the amendment would have codified "Secretary of State Rubio and DOGE's cuts to foreign aid" and would have cut "most of the waste, fraud, and abuse that has plagued USAID for decades."

Foreign aid, not being one of the enumerated powers granted to the federal government by the U.S. Constitution, is unconstitutional. In fact, foreign aid should be not just reduced, but eliminated entirely.

6. Debt Ceiling

During consideration of a budget resolution to establish "the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025" (House Concurrent Resolution 14), Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) offered an amendment to reduce the increase in the national debt limit in the bill from \$4 trillion to \$500 billion. The debt limit is the maximum amount the federal government is allowed to borrow.

Congress should cut spending rather than raise the national debt limit, which was \$36.1 trillion at the time of this vote. Of course, though raising the debt limit \$500 billion is better than raising it \$4 trillion, it should not be raised at all. In fact, by restoring constitutional government, spending would be reduced to the point that the U.S. government once again could operate on a surplus and the national debt would be reduced.