



TO: Interested Parties

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RE: Impact of Broken Republican Brand on Competitive House Races

All year, House Republicans have demonstrated that they cannot govern responsibly on behalf of hardworking Americans, infighting instead of governing, and prioritizing extreme positions over progress. Put simply: the Republican Party has long been broken and Speaker Boehner's sudden resignation was the most dramatic example of that.

It is troubling that someone as conservative as John Boehner was no longer conservative enough in the eyes of House Republicans. Disturbingly, one of the biggest problems House Republicans had with Boehner was his very occasional willingness to compromise in order to get things done. Even Kevin McCarthy was too much a member of the "establishment" to replace him.

Unfortunately, things won't get better in the House of Representatives, even if Paul Ryan grudgingly puts his hat in the ring for the Speakership. That is because the next Speaker will face the same stark choice as the others: go along with the extreme Republican base, or get run over by them.

How does the leadership chaos in Washington D.C. impact Patriot Program members at home?

Republicans may try to claim that this turmoil roiling the House of Representatives is a [good thing](#), or that only pundits care about House leadership elections, but that is not the case. The dysfunction in Washington, caused by the most extreme members of the House Republicans, is poisoning the entire Republican Party. And while that poison may originate in Washington, D.C., it has already started to spread into Congressional districts across the country.

By allowing the most extreme members of their party to dictate the agenda, House Republicans are putting their most vulnerable colleagues in electoral peril. We have already seen Republican Members of Congress in competitive districts come under fire for their party's dereliction of duty on the Export-Import Bank, for their repeated attacks on Planned Parenthood, and for their inability to accomplish the most basic tasks, like funding the long-supported Land and Water Conservation Fund.

This will continue as the Republican-led Congress approaches many more obligations and deadlines – and fails to meet them in a responsible way. Voters will hold Republicans Members in battleground districts responsible.

Below are just some of the ways that House Republicans have failed to govern responsibly, many of which have already begun to cause a negative impact for vulnerable Republicans at home:

- Repeated votes to defund Planned Parenthood
- Failure to consider Appropriations bills due to [some 100 Republicans'](#) interest in protecting the Confederate battle flag
- Failure to negotiate a bipartisan budget, causing multiple government shutdown threats
- Failure to find a long-term highway funding solution for road and bridge safety upgrades
- Failure to pass comprehensive immigration reform
- Failure to reauthorize Land & Water Conservation fund, which supports parks, trails, and recreational fields in communities across the country
- Failure to reauthorize the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which provides medical treatment and health benefits for 9/11 first responders & survivors

Patriot Program Impact:

Below is a snap shot of how the House Republicans' reckless and irresponsible actions have the ability to impact the NRCC "Patriot Program" members—their self-described most vulnerable members.

** Past tense indicates existing failure, present tense indicates likely failure**

1.) Rodney Davis (IL-13)

- *Failed to pass a common-sense, long-term Highway Funding Bill*
 - More than [4,187 bridges in Illinois are rated deficient](#) – and 35% of major roads are in poor condition,
 - In addition to posing safety risks, this [costs Illinois motorists \\$4.4 billion a year](#) in extra vehicle repairs and other costs.

2.) Jeff Denham (CA-10)

- *Failure to pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform*
 - Despite paying lip service to his 42% Latino district, Rep. Denham has failed to move immigration reform forward in a dysfunctional Congress.
 - "No matter who ultimately succeeds outgoing Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), there is a near-zero chance that Congress will take up comprehensive immigration changes during the remainder of President Barack Obama's administration" [Politico, [10/15/15](#)]
- *Allowed Export-Import Bank to Expire*
 - Shutting down the Export-Import Bank and refusing to even sign a bipartisan discharge petition will harm the agricultural economy of California's Central Valley [Discharge Petition No. 2, [10/09/15](#); Export-Import Bank, accessed [10/15/15](#)]
- *Failed to pass a common-sense, long-term Highway Funding Bill*
 - Without a long-term transportation funding bill, California's infrastructure will continue to crumble. Farmers depend on strong infrastructure to get crops to market, but right now [more than one in four](#) California bridges are labeled deficient and [more than half](#) the major roads are considered in poor condition.
 - Rep. Denham's position on the Transportation and Infrastructure committee puts the responsibility squarely on his shoulders.

3.) **Tim Walberg (MI-07)** (who complained about the roads around his house [resembling Beirut](#))

- *Failed to pass a common-sense, long-term Highway Funding Bill.*
 - More than [3,049 bridges in Michigan are rated deficient](#) through inspection, and [41% of major roads are in poor condition](#), costing Michigan motorists \$4.8 billion a year in extra vehicle repairs and other costs.
- *Failed to protect basic women's health care rights:*
 - "[Walberg was either intentionally lying about Planned Parenthood or is willfully ignorant about the truth.](#)"

4.) **Martha McSally (AZ-02)**

- *Voted twice to defund Planned Parenthood, despite representing a relatively [pro-choice district](#)*
- *Failure to pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform*
 - McSally [voted](#) to defund the President's execution action on immigration.
 - Arizona's 2nd Congressional District is 28 percent Hispanic or Latino. [U.S. Census Bureau, accessed [10/15/15](#)]
 - "No matter who ultimately succeeds outgoing Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), there is a near-zero chance that Congress will take up comprehensive immigration changes during the remainder of President Barack Obama's administration" [Politico, [10/15/15](#)]

5.) **David Valadao (CA-21)**

- *Failure to pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform*
 - Despite paying lip service to his 74% Latino district, Rep. Valadao has done nothing to move immigration reform forward in a dysfunctional Congress.
 - "No matter who ultimately succeeds outgoing Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), there is a near-zero chance that Congress will take up comprehensive immigration changes during the remainder of President Barack Obama's administration" [Politico, [10/15/15](#)]
- *Allowed Export-Import Bank to Expire*
 - Shutting down the Export-Import Bank and refusing to even sign a bipartisan discharge petition will harm the agriculture economy of California's Central Valley [Discharge Petition No. 2, [10/09/15](#); Export-Import Bank, accessed [10/15/15](#)]
- *Failed to pass a common-sense, long-term Highway Funding Bill*
 - Without a long-term transportation funding bill, California's infrastructure will continue to crumble. Farmers depend on strong infrastructure to get crops to market, but right now [more than one in four](#) California bridges are labeled deficient and [more than half](#) the major roads are considered in poor condition.

6.) **Mike Coffman (CO-06)**

- *Voted to Defund Planned Parenthood after using their logo in an ad last cycle*
 - *Coffman has already been taking heat for the blatant hypocrisy*
 - [9News \(NBC\)](#): "Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Colorado,) who voted last week in favor of a bill to de-fund Planned Parenthood, is defending his use of a Planned Parenthood logo in an ad for his 2014 re-election campaign... "Using Planned Parenthood's expression of support is not the same thing as saying it's a good organization," said Coffman's spokeswoman Cinamon Watson in an email to 9NEWS."
 - [The Colorado Independent](#): "Yet, in the article, Coffman didn't mention his party-line vote on the very same day his piece was published to defund Planned Parenthood – an organization whose logo he has used in campaign videos...."

- *Failure to pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform*
 - Coffman [voted](#) to defund the President's execution action on immigration.
 - State Rep. Joe Salazar Op-Ed: Mike Coffman paved the way for anti-Immigrant Donald Trump. [Aurora Sentinel, [9/03/15](#)]
 - State Sen. Jesse Ulibarri Op-Ed: Mike Coffman is no friend to immigrants [Denver Post, [6/05/14](#)]
 - Colorado's 6th Congressional District is 20 percent Hispanic or Latino. [U.S. Census Bureau, accessed [10/15/15](#)]
 - "No matter who ultimately succeeds outgoing Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), there is a near-zero chance that Congress will take up comprehensive immigration changes during the remainder of President Barack Obama's administration" [Politico, [10/15/15](#)]

7.) Carlos Curbelo (FL-26)

- *Failure to pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform*
 - Despite paying lip service to his 69% Latino district, Rep. Curbelo has done nothing to move immigration reform forward in a dysfunctional Congress.
 - "No matter who ultimately succeeds outgoing Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), there is a near-zero chance that Congress will take up comprehensive immigration changes during the remainder of President Barack Obama's administration" [Politico, [10/15/15](#)]
- *Failed to protect [the Everglades](#) by allowing the Land & Water Conservation Fund to expire*
 - Curbelo is a Member of Natural Resources Committee, whose Chairman has caused first expiration of the Land & Water Conservation Fund in its 50 year existence. This Fund supports \$646B in economic activity and 6 million jobs nationwide

8.) David Young (IA-03)

- *Failed to pass a common-sense, long-term Highway Funding Bill*
 - Without a long term transportation funding bill, Iowa's infrastructure will continue to crumble. [One in four](#) Iowa bridges is labeled deficient and [16 percent](#) of the major roads are considered in poor condition.
- *Allowed Export-Import Bank to Expire*
 - Shutting down the Export-Import Bank and refusing to even sign a bipartisan discharge petition will jeopardize millions in loans for businesses in Iowa's 3rd Congressional District. [Discharge Petition No. 2, [10/09/15](#); Export-Import Bank, accessed [10/15/15](#)]
 - [Letter](#): Branstad, Reynolds, Northey and Durham send letter to congressional delegation encouraging trade
 - [NY Times Column](#): Job Killers and the Export-Import Bank

9.) Bob Dold (IL-10) (who [claims](#) to be one of the most independent Members of Congress)

- *Failed to pass a common-sense, long-term Highway Funding Bill.*
 - More than [4,187 bridges in Illinois are rated deficient](#) – and 35% of major roads are in poor condition,
 - Not only does this pose a safety risk, it also [costs Illinois motorists \\$4.4 billion a year](#) in extra vehicle repairs and other costs.
- *Demonstrated Hypocrisy on Planned Parenthood:*
 - [Authored a measure to defund Planned Parenthood clinics](#) for 90 days – while [complaining](#) about "divisive, partisan" agendas

10.) Mike Bost (IL-12) (who [pledged](#) he'd never "back down to party leaders")

- *Failed to pass a common-sense, long-term Highway Funding Bill.*
 - More than [4,187 bridges in Illinois are rated deficient](#) – and 35% of major roads are in poor condition
 - Not only does this pose safety risks, it [costs Illinois motorists \\$4.4 billion a year](#) in extra vehicle repairs and other costs.

11.) Bruce Poliquin (ME-02)

- *Broke his promise and voted twice to defund Planned Parenthood*
 - ["Rep. Poliquin flips on Planned Parenthood, votes against women's health"](#)
- *Failed to reauthorize the Export Import Bank, which is threatening 80 jobs in [Bangor](#)*
 - Poliquin and fellow Republicans played a damaging role in these local job losses when they helped [block a vote](#) on reauthorizing the Bank in Committee.

12.) Frank Guinta (NH-01)

- *Voted for government [shutdown](#), which is the symbol of a dysfunctional representative who is uninterested in helping solve New Hampshire residents' problems*
- *Voted at least twice to defund [Planned Parenthood](#)*
 - Nearly [7 out of 10](#) New Hampshire voters disagree with the GOP-backed campaign to eliminate federal funding for Planned Parenthood

13.) Cresent Hardy (NV-04)

- *Failure to pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform*
 - Hardy [opposed](#) the Senate's bi-partisan comprehensive immigration reform bill.
 - "No matter who ultimately succeeds outgoing Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), there is a near-zero chance that Congress will take up comprehensive immigration changes during the remainder of President Barack Obama's administration" [Politico, [10/15/15](#)]
 - Hardy [voted](#) to [defund](#) the President's execution action on immigration, despite the fact that Nevada's 4th Congressional District is 29 percent Hispanic or Latino. [U.S. Census Bureau, accessed [10/15/15](#)]

14.) Lee Zeldin (NY-01)

- *Failure to extend Transit Benefit for Long Island Commuters*
 - Long Island Railroad (LIRR) commuters depend on a federal tax benefit that gives mass transit commuters the same tax break as those that commute by car. This benefit for LIRR commuters will expire at the end of the year if House Republicans cannot function enough to pass a tax extenders package
- *Failed to reauthorize the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act*
 - The Zadroga Act [expired at the end of September](#) and the Republican Congress has yet to reauthorize it
 - The health benefits provided to 70,000 Americans affected by 9/11 are set to expire next year if Congress does not renew the bill

15.) John Katko (NY-24)

- *Voted twice to defund Planned Parenthood,*
 - Despite representing a relatively [pro-choice district](#);

- Despite having [promised](#) he would not vote to defund Planned Parenthood as a candidate just last year.

16.) Will Hurd (TX-23)

- [Voted](#) to underfund the agency tasked with developing safe cybersecurity infrastructure
 - Despite having [called](#) cyber-security the most pressing issue in the country
- Failure to extend expired tax credits that benefit small businesses, hospitals and families
 - Rep. Hurd [quit](#) the Small Business Committee, where he could have advocated for these tax credits and other issues key to Texas small businesses, but he has clearly failed.

17.) Barbara Comstock (VA-10)

- Voted twice to defund Planned Parenthood, despite representing a relatively [pro-choice district](#)
- Failed to pass a common-sense, long-term Highway Funding Bill.
 - Among other transportation issues impacted by this failure, roadway conditions are a significant factor in approximately [one-third](#) of traffic fatalities. There were 740 traffic fatalities in 2013 in Virginia.
 - 19% of major roads in Virginia are in poor condition. Driving on roads in need of repair is not only dangerous, but costs Virginia motorists an extra \$475 per [year](#).

18.) Ryan Costello (PA-06)

- Failed to pass a common-sense, long-term Highway Funding Bill.
 - Among other transportation issues impacted by this failure, more than [9,400 bridges in Pennsylvania are rated deficient](#)
 - 21% of major roads in Pennsylvania are in poor condition. Driving on roads in need of repair is not only dangerous, but costs Pennsylvania motorists an extra \$471 per [year](#).

19.) Steve Knight (CA-25)

- Failed to pass a common-sense, long-term Highway Funding Bill.
 - Without a long term transportation funding bill, California's infrastructure will continue to crumble. [More than one in four](#) California bridges are labeled deficient and [more than half](#) the major roads are considered in poor condition.
 - In addition to the safety risk, Angelenos already suffer from terrible traffic, so lack of transportation funding will be a headache for Rep. Knight's constituents.
- Failure to extend expired tax credits that benefit small businesses, hospitals and families
 - As a member of the Small Business Committee, it is Rep. Knight's responsibility to advocate for these tax credits and other items that matter for small businesses, but he has clearly failed.

20.) Elise Stefanik (NY-21)

- Voted twice to defund Planned Parenthood, despite representing a relatively [pro-choice district](#)
 - According to a [2013](#) annual report, Planned Parenthood of the North Country New York received over 11,000 patients, and conducted over 6,200 breast exams and 14,000 tests for Sexually Transmitted Diseases, in the previous year.
- Failed to pass a common-sense, long-term Highway Funding Bill.
 - Without a long term transportation funding bill, Upstate New York's infrastructure will continue to crumble. 39% of New York's bridges are labeled structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

- Roadway conditions are a significant factor in approximately one-third of traffic fatalities. New York's fatality rate on rural roads is disproportionately higher than on all other roads ([2.15](#) fatalities per 100 million miles of travel vs. 0.61), which impacts those in Stefanik's North Country district.

21.) Dan Donovan (NY-11)

- *Forced to immediately break promise to voters on abortion rights*
 - On first full day in office, Donovan broke his promise to voters and votes to restrict a woman's right to choose after 20 weeks. [Promise Made](#) and [Promise Broken](#).
- *Failed to reauthorize the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act*
 - The Zadroga Act [expired at the end of September](#) and the Republican Congress has yet to reauthorize it
 - The health benefits provided to 70,000 Americans affected by 9/11 are set to expire next year if Congress does not renew the bill

22.) Mike Bishop (MI-08)

- *Failed to pass a common-sense, long-term Highway Funding Bill*
 - More than [3,049 bridges in Michigan are rated deficient](#),
 - [41% of major roads are in poor condition](#), costing Michigan motorists \$4.8 billion a year in extra vehicle repairs and other costs, in addition to posing a safety risk.