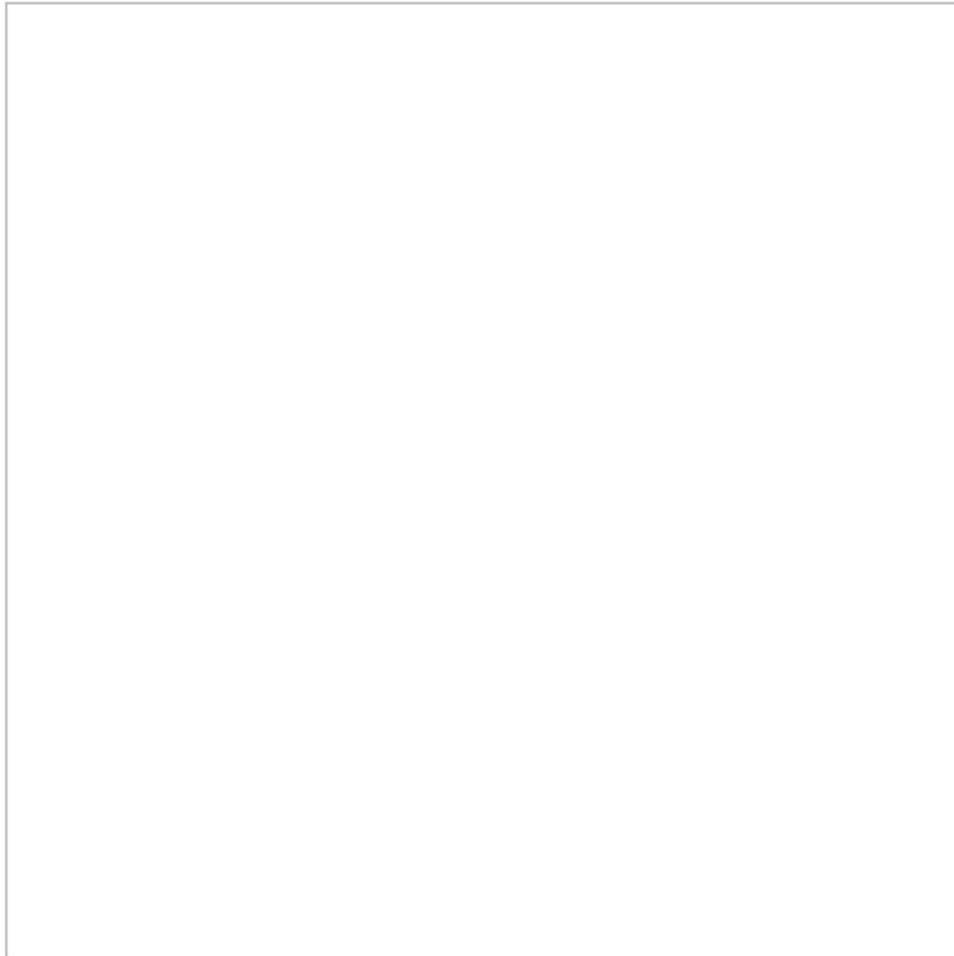


From: [Schott, Heather](#)
To: [Wright, Michelle](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Executive Insight Brief
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 10:09:10 AM

From: The Roosevelt Group <cferrari@rooseveltdc.com>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 7:59 AM
To: Schott, Heather <heather.schott@yorkcounty.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Executive Insight Brief





April 12, 2024

Headlines - Aerospace & Defense - Budget & Economy - Advanced Tech - Military Installations & Communities -
Homeland Security - Transportation & Infrastructure - Biotech & Healthcare - Climate & Development

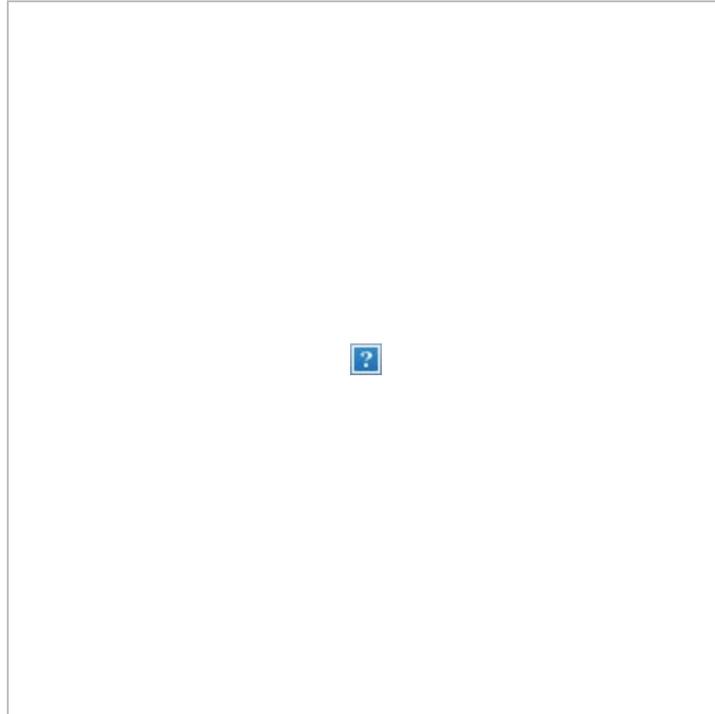
Received this as a forwarded email? [Sign up](#) to be on the official distribution list!

Notable Headlines

- [Boeing whistleblower says the Dreamliner 787 could 'break apart' because of safety flaws, report says](#)
- [What to know about the real estate tycoon sentenced to death in Vietnam's largest fraud case](#)
- [Shooting of Virginia teacher by 6-year-old was an 'avoidable event,' special grand jury report says](#)
- [Maryland members of Congress unveil bill to fund Baltimore bridge reconstruction](#)

- [Biden to close 'gun-show loophole' and expand background checks for firearms](#)
- Worth reading:** [One of the world's highest cities starts rationing water for 9 million people](#)

View From The Hill



Lawmakers returning to DC this week were unable to experience the satisfaction of crossing much off Capitol Hill's to-do list, as a tumultuous return to session stymied a number of legislative priorities. House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) and his leadership team [put](#) to the Floor legislation reauthorization Section 702 federal surveillance authorities, known as FISA, only to see the process derailed by a group of hard-right Members before the bill could even get to final passage. This came after former President Donald Trump spoke out against FISA on social media, providing air cover to opposing Members. With the current authorities set to expire on April 19th, the House is now considering shortening the reauthorization sunset from five years to two as a means of attracting more support.

The House is also [struggling](#) to find a path forward on a foreign aid package which would include aid to Ukraine and Israel. Republican Members have grown increasingly skeptical of continued aid to Ukraine in its fight against Russia, while some Democrats have started to resist additional aid to Israel over the war in Gaza. Speaker Johnson is already facing a threatened Motion to Vacate from Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) if he puts Ukraine aid on the floor, though it is unclear how much support she would have or if Democrats would bail out the Speaker should such a motion came to a vote. Speaker Johnson also [decided](#) to slightly delay sending articles of impeachment for Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas over to the Senate until early next week, as a way of

pressuring Senators not to vote to immediately dismiss the measure.

House Republicans [selected](#) Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) to replace retiring Rep. Kay Granger atop the powerful Appropriations Committee this week, as the latter opted to step down early from chairing the panel which controls federal spending. Cole was previously chairman of the House Rules Committee and chairman of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee.

On top of attending a White House State Dinner hosted by President Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida [included](#) an address to a joint session of Congress during his visit to Washington this week. Kishida touted expanding defense spending and partnerships with the United States, while also noting the growing challenges facing Japanese and American national security posed by North Korea and China.

Budget season has picked up with testimony occurring across House and Senate Appropriations Committees for the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, the FBI, and more. These hearings tee up the fiscal year 2025 federal appropriations process, even though Congress just completed work passing the remaining funding bills for fiscal year 2024.

Congress [bestowed](#) its highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, upon “Rosie the Riveters” in a ceremony at the Capitol this week, honoring the women who entered the workforce during World War II to support the war effort and the economy, as men were drafted to fight overseas. According to the Department of Defense, 5 million women entered the workforce during the war, while 350,000 served in the military.

Aerospace & Defense

[Russia launches first Angara-A5 space rocket from Far East cosmodrome \(Reuters\)](#)

Russia tested its Angara-A5 space rocket for the first time on Thursday. This test launch was aimed at underscoring Russia’s ambition to be a major “space power.” The successful launch came after two launches were aborted on Tuesday and Wednesday due to malfunctions. On Tuesday there was an issue with the pressurizing system and on Wednesday there was an issue with the engine launch control system. The launch came as Russia celebrated ‘Cosmonaut Day’ marking the day 63 years ago that Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space.

[How US Navy experiments could get drones beyond spying and into battle](#)

[Ukraine, UK sign agreement to cooperate on arms production \(Reuters\)](#)

Since the beginning of their war with Russia, Ukraine knew they would need help in the fight. From humanitarian aid to munitions. While support for Ukraine has been shaky in the US, other European countries have been more steadfast. The UK has been one of

Ukraine's staunchest allies dating back to the original invasion, and when Boris Johnson was still the Prime Minister. The partnership between the UK and Ukraine was renewed again this week as both countries signed "a framework agreement to cooperate in the defense and arms production sector which is part of a wartime effort to build up Ukraine's domestic weapon industry." The agreement was signed during a military industry conference in Kyiv which was attended by about "30 British defense companies looking to discuss potential joint ventures with Ukrainian weapons and defense producers."

Budget & Economy

[US inflation jumps as fuel and housing costs rise \(BBC\)](#)

Prices rose faster in March than was anticipated and shows that the fight to curb inflation has slowed. The Department of Labor said that prices are up 3.2% in comparison to February. Two industries that have consistently driven up costs were back in the spotlight; fuel and housing. Although there were strong jobs creation numbers last week, economists are walking back predictions on how soon the Federal Reserve may begin to cut interest rates. The US economy showed some strength earlier in the year which caused some to predict rates would be cut as early as March. Now, many are looking at late Summer or even next year. It is possible the Fed's decision will be based on other central banks around the globe, but that could cause a slight "conundrum if other banks were waiting on the Fed to make a move."

[Budget office says amphibious ship could cost triple Navy's estimate](#)

[Imports from China to the US are rising at the fastest rate since last fall \(CNBC\)](#)

According to new trade and logistics data imports coming to the US from China are "experiencing a notable increase." Inbound cargo originating from China is "expected to top two million units by May" for the first time since fall 2023. This data is an indicator of a strong consumer-based economy and imports are increasing despite many supply chain disruptions. Some of these disruptions include "limits on the use of the Panama Canal due to drought conditions, attacks in the Red Sea cause trade diversions, and most recently the shutdown of the Port of Baltimore." While the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse will most likely not have national impact it has tested the flexibility of companies' supply chains.

Advanced Technologies

[EU's new tech laws are working: small browsers gain market share \(Reuters\)](#)

After European Union legislation forced Google, Microsoft, and Apple to make it easier for

users to switch to rivals, “independent browser companies in the EU are seeing a spike in users.” The law which took effect in early March forced big tech companies to offer users the ability to choose from a list of available browsers from a ‘choice screen.’ Cyprus-based Aloha Browser said their users in the EU jumped 250% in March and they were one of the first companies to give growth numbers since the new regulation was enacted. The Aloha CEO, Andrew Frost Moroz, said the EU jumped from their number 4, to number 2 market since the new law took effect. Other browsers such as Vivaldi, Ecosia, Brave, and DuckDuckGo are seeing growth, while some are still finalizing their choice screen rollout.

[UK competition watchdog has 'real concerns' over big tech AI dominance](#)

[Nvidia and Georgia Tech announce first AI supercomputer for students \(CNBC\)](#)

As AI continues to make its mark on our world, Nvidia and the Georgia Institute of Technology are coming together to announce the first artificial intelligence supercomputer designed for student use. Nvidia’s graphics processing units are “at the heart of large language models created by OpenAI, Google, and Meta.” Their revenue has soared over the past year with its market cap surpassing Google and Amazon. Georgia Tech students have only been able to use the supercomputer in one class, foundations of machine learning. By Spring 2025 all undergraduate and graduate students will have access to the supercomputer. The supercomputer at Georgia Tech “runs on 20 Nvidia HGX H100 systems, which house 160 of Nvidia’s H100 GPUs. For reference, it would take one of these 160 GPUs a single second to come up with a multiplication function that would take 50,000 students 22 years.”

Military Installations & Communities

[Army orders more helicopter pilot training after spate of 12 crashes kills, injures soldiers \(Military.com\)](#)

Since October the Army has experienced a dozen helicopter crashes which has resulted in many injuries and in some crashes, death. The Army is responding by having their pilots conduct hours of additional training. Pilots will now have four to six hours of training that focuses on “spatial awareness and maintenance issues” although the Army was not clear on what that means in practice. Earlier in the year the Army National Guard grounded its aircraft after two separate crashes, one in Mississippi and the other in Utah. Although the Army did not institute additional training after those crashes. The incident rate for Army aviation this year is “3.22 mishaps for every 100,000 hours, a significant increase from last year’s 1.08 crashes or other notable incidents for every 100,000 hours flown.”

[China-Made Batteries Eliminated from Navy, Marine Corps Infrastructure](#)

After Camp Lejeune Incident

[Traumatic brain injury bill calls for sweeping changes in military health care, training, safety to protect troops \(Military.com\)](#)

A new bill spearheaded by Sen. Warren (D-MA), Sen. Ernest (R-IA), and Rep. Khanna (D, CA-17) would institute “regular brain function tests for service members and some weapons could be modified to reduce blast exposure risks” in an effort to reduce traumatic brain injuries. The bill is expansive and would among other things create a new brain health program for the special operations community and order a watchdog investigation of the DoD’s efforts to address blast exposure. The bill comes “amid growing evidence that troops are at risk of exposure to potentially dangerous blasts not just from enemy attacks but also from routine military activities such as repeatedly firing artillery. Traumatic brain injuries (TBI) can be caused by blast exposure, and TBI has been linked to an increased risk of suicide among veterans.

Homeland Security

[Mayorkas takes heat from GOP in hearings on DHS budget, border \(ABC\)](#)

While still awaiting trial in the Senate, impeached DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas headed to the Hill to kick off the FY2025 budget hearings. Mayorkas certainly did not have home field advantage as he faced continued attacks from GOP lawmakers that he has sustained for quite some time. The DHS budget includes \$4.7 billion for the Southwest Border Contingency Fund “to fund border security measures and immigration enforcement efforts along the southern border.” While Mayorkas did refer to the situation on the southern border a ‘crisis’ he also referenced the bipartisan border bill on multiple occasions especially when members would criticize him for not doing his job well. During his hearing he said, “only Congress can fix our broken and outdated system, and only Congress can address our need for more border patrol agents, asylum officers and immigration judges, facilities, and technology.”

[New Homeland Security research center marks opening at University of Alaska Anchorage](#)

[AUKUS allies float path for Japan to join tech sharing pact \(DefenseNews\)](#)

As a deterrent to China, the US is inviting Japan to be a “potential partner on part of the trilateral AUKUS pact that aims to deepen top-secret technology sharing and joint development on advanced defense capabilities.” The White House floated Japan’s entry into the second pillar of the pact. The first pillar of AUKUS would see “the US and Britain help Australia develop its own nuclear-powered submarine fleet.” During his joint address to Congress the Japanese Prime Minister highlighted “US-Japanese cooperation” on some

key technologies AUKUS seeks to enhance. The door is now open for Japan to join the coalition but the Prime Minister did not formally commit to joining.

Transportation & Infrastructure

[Why car insurance costs are skyrocketing and leading to higher inflation \(CNBC\)](#)

From February to March, car insurance prices rose 2.7% while year-over-year prices increased by 22.2%. Auto insurance costs have been on the rise for a while, growing every month since December 2021. While costs have increased drastically, auto insurance remains only a small portion of the consumer price index. Prices across the auto industry have been on the rise, with new and used vehicles experiencing historically high prices since the pandemic. Due to issues with the supply chain it is also getting more expensive to repair vehicles. So many vehicles have added technology including backup cameras, so even small fender benders can sometimes cost substantially more.

[Investigators focus on electrical system of ship in Baltimore bridge collapse](#)

[Ex-White House official: Biden doing “probably too many” infrastructure events \(Axios\)](#)

Former White House chief of staff, Ron Klain, said that President Biden is focusing too much on infrastructure when he shines best when he is focused on “kitchen table concerns.” Klain’s comments come after he was caught on audio saying “I think the president is out there talking too much about bridges.” While infrastructure has recently come back to the minds of many due to the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, ultimately the economy will be a driving force as we get closer to the 2024 election. While the infrastructure law Biden passed into law will have positive effects, it will take some time for those results to be seen. However, everyone is always reminded of the state of the economy with higher interest rates, high gas prices, and high prices at the grocery store. Klain’s comments echo similar sentiments from former democratic strategist, James Carville, “it’s the economy, stupid.”

Biotechnology & Healthcare

[Medical care and supplies are scarce as gang violence chokes Haiti’s capital \(AP\)](#)

Gang violence has continued to ravage Haiti and has cut the lifeline of medical care to its citizens. The violence has driven about 17,000 people from their homes and forced them into abandoned schools or other buildings where they often share a single toilet. There is a

shortage of medical supplies as Haiti's main international airport and biggest seaport have remained closed. The gang violence has also crippled the hospital system as some 18 of them remain closed. The Alliance for International Medical Action, a Senegal-based humanitarian organization said they were able to reach one of the displacement camps "but there were too many gunshots to provide support."

[Hackers claim to have UnitedHealth's stolen data - is it a bluff?](#)

[Senate investigating whether ER care has been harmed by growing role of private-equity firms \(NBC\)](#)

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee has asked three major private-equity firms for information on how they run or staff hospital emergency departments to see if private equity's management of a large share of the nation's ERs has harmed patients. The investigation will look into Apollo Global Management, the Blackstone Group, and KKR. According to the information request, Peters' staff "conducted interviews with over 40 emergency department physicians who expressed 'significant concerns' about patient safety and care resulting from aggressive practices of private-equity firms in the arena." The companies were asked to provide documents and information by April 17 and to arrange a meeting with the committee no later than May 3.

Climate & Development

[Making cement is very damaging for the climate. One solution is opening in California \(AP\)](#)

Concrete is a fundamental part of construction, from buildings to roads. However, concrete is also a driver of climate change being responsible for about 8% of global carbon dioxide emissions. One startup has developed a technology that reduces carbon dioxide in the making of cement and could have the potential to operate at a larger scale. The company looking to revolutionize the industry is Fortera and their process is to "intercept the carbon dioxide exhaust from the kilns where cement is made and routes it back in to make additional cement." The technology is currently being added to a CalPortland facility which is one of the largest cement plants in the western US.

[U.N. climate chief says two years to save the planet](#)

[Senate strikes down Biden administration's climate regulations targeting car emissions \(Fox\)](#)

The Senate passed a resolution that "overturns the Biden administration's rule that

requires state departments of transportation to measure carbon dioxide tailpipe emissions then set declining targets for vehicles traveling on highway systems of their respective states.” That was language from a statement Sen. Cramer (R-ND). The resolution is in response to a rule from the Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) which said it supported Biden’s “whole-of-government approach of reducing carbon emissions by 50% by 2030. The bill now faces a vote in the House which has a companion bill that was introduced by Rep. Crawford (R, AR-01). It is interesting to note that both Sen. Brown (D-OH) and Sen. Tester (D-MT) who are both up for reelection in deep red states both voted for the Senate resolution.

Next Week's Hearings

Armed Service Committee:

House: 4/12, 9:00 AM-FY25 Budget Request for Missile Defense and Missile Defeat Programs

Senate: 4/16, 9:30 AM-Air Force Defense Authorization Act Request for FY25 and Future Years; 4/17, 3:00 PM-DOD's efforts to ensure access to safe, high-quality pharmaceuticals; 4/17, 4:00 PM-Army Modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for FY25 and Future Years

Appropriations Committee:

House: None

Senate: 4/16, 10:00 AM-FY25 Budget Request for the Navy and Marine Corps; 4/16, 10:00 AM-FY25 Budget Request for the Dept. of Agriculture; 4/16, 10:00 AM-FY25 Budget Request for Dept. of Health and Human Services

Homeland Security Committee:

House: 4/16, 10:00 AM-FY25 budget request for the Dept. of Homeland Security; 4/17, 2:00 PM-Examining Foreign Anomalous Health Incidents Targeting Americans in the Homeland

Senate: 4/16, 10:00 AM-Oversight of the US Postal Service; 4/17, 10:00 AM-Nominations; 4/17, 2:00 PM-Examining Boeing's Broken Safety Culture: Firsthand Accounts



WARNING: This email originated outside York County's email servers. Please verify the sender's identity, and use caution when clicking any links or opening any attachments.