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Sent: Friday, April 11, 2025 8:03 AM
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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Executive Insight Brief

THE *Roosevelt* GROUP



Executive Insight Brief

April 11, 2025

Notable Headlines



- [Four Democrats join Republicans to pass SAVE Act bill that requires proof of citizenship to vote](#)
- [Congress now faces an \\$880 billion Medicaid question](#)
- [Trump admin must 'facilitate' return to US man erroneously deported to El Salvador, Supreme Court says](#)
- [Helicopter crashes into New York's Hudson River, killing all six aboard](#)
- [House passes voter registration bill that would require proof of citizenship](#)

View From The Hill



In somewhat of a surprise, the House [managed](#) to pass a budget resolution that mirrors the one passed by the Senate on Thursday, presenting a major victory for Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD), and, of course, President Donald Trump. The dual budget resolutions being passed unlock the ability for Congressional Republicans to write and pass their massive tax, defense, energy, and border security bill without needing to overcome a filibuster by Senate Democrats. Put another way, it paves the way for President Trump's entire legislative agenda to move forward.

The early part of the week saw entrenched opposition by conservative hardliners in the House, who firmly do not believe in the Senate GOP's commitment to making the deep cuts to domestic spending they've long sought. On Wednesday, even after a meeting with holdouts at the White House, Speaker Johnson was forced to delay consideration of the resolution when it became clear he did not have the necessary votes. For a brief moment, it looked as though the heretofore unflinching command Trump has had on GOP Members of Congress might be finally hitting a wall. Then, on Thursday morning, all but two House Republicans fell in line and voted for the budget. The two holdouts were Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) and Rep. Victoria Spartz (R-IN).

The other dominating story on Capitol Hill this week was the reaction to Trump's global tariff war and the havoc it was wreaking on world markets. Republicans were [forced](#) to abandon years of free trade talking points in exchange for protectionist ones defending the escalating trade tensions. Ultimately, Trump announced a suspension of many of the tariffs, though further ramped up those targeting China. We expect Republicans on Capitol Hill to continue being squeezed as the trade agenda unfolds in new and unexpected ways.

The Senate [voted](#) to confirm Elbridge Colby to be Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, a controversial pick who has previously expressed views about U.S. retreat from military support in Europe and Ukraine and that the U.S. should work to contain a nuclear-armed Iran rather than seek to prevent it. Additionally, Paul Atkins was [confirmed](#) as Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission and Mike Huckabee was [confirmed](#) as the U.S. ambassador to Israel.

The Senate Judiciary Committee [held](#) a hearing with a Facebook whistleblower. Sarah Wynn-Williams, who previously was the company's global head of public policy, alleged in her testimony that Meta sought to expand its business into China by negotiating directly with the Chinese Communist Party. Williams also claimed that Meta founder and CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, deliberately misled Congress when questioned about his company's ties to China.

Pentagon News



In a bold consolidation of federal power, the Trump administration this week made sweeping changes across the defense and law enforcement landscape. Army Secretary Dan Driscoll was [unexpectedly appointed](#) as acting director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)—marking the first time a Pentagon official has led a civilian law enforcement agency. The move comes as the Army braces for major layoffs, an 8% budget cut, and widespread restructuring.

At the same time, Trump signed three executive orders aimed at overhauling how the U.S. buys and sells weapons. One streamlines [foreign arms sales](#) by easing drone export rules, raising congressional review thresholds, and prioritizing deals with key allies. The second order turns inward, [targeting inefficiencies](#) in how the Pentagon buys its own gear. Any program running 15% over budget or behind schedule could face the chopping block. Trump capped it off with a third order to revitalize the struggling U.S. commercial [shipbuilding](#) industry—an effort likely to score points with both defense contractors and blue-collar voters in shipyard-heavy districts.

Together, the changes reflect Trump’s push to tighten executive control over national security, speed up defense-related decision-making, and bring key bureaucracies more directly under his administration’s command.

Testifying in front of the [House Armed Services subcommittee on Strategic Forces](#) on Wednesday, senior military leaders discussed the next steps in the administration’s “Golden Dome,” formerly known as the “Iron Dome for America” initiative, announced in President Trump’s January [Executive Order](#) (EO). Witnesses included General Gregory Guillot, Commander of NORTHCOM and NORAD; General Anthony Cotton, Commander of STRATCOM; General Stephen Whiting, Commander of SPACECOM; and John Hill, who currently performs the duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (ASD) for Space Policy. These testimonies address senior military leadership’s co-authored joint requirements document, as well as their approach to the EO mandated 60-day study regarding the “Golden Dome.”

The joint requirement document guided by SPACECOM and NORTHCOM, General Guillot outlined the command’s recommended “three-dome” approach that addresses the flight profiles of each anticipated threat. These domes address domain-awareness, Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM), and air threats and cruise missiles. It advances the united front between commands to outline necessary capabilities—sensors, command and control systems, and interceptors—as well as an analysis on impacts to the U.S. nuclear deterrence strategy. General Whiting had previously expressed that the joint document provides a plan on scope, architecture, and acquisition of the program.

Chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, Rep. DesJarlais (TN-04), addressed the core issue that necessitates a missile defense shield study by reflecting on the collaboration between the different command missions and their efforts to align priorities in the face of a clear collective problem—nuclear competition with foreign adversaries. Accordingly, Hill outlined the study, submitted Wednesday, evaluated the reliability of the nuclear second-strike response to create the architecture that is now in the hands of the Secretary of Defense Hegseth and the President. The aforementioned witnesses provided overarching insight in anticipation of the release of the FY26 President’s Budget Request, which upon release, will guide the work of integrating the plans.

Next Week's Hearings



Armed Services Committee:

House: NONE

Senate: NONE

Appropriations Committee:

House: NONE
Senate: NONE

Homeland Security Committee:

House: NONE
Senate: NONE



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