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**Date:** Friday, May 23, 2025 8:51:20 AM

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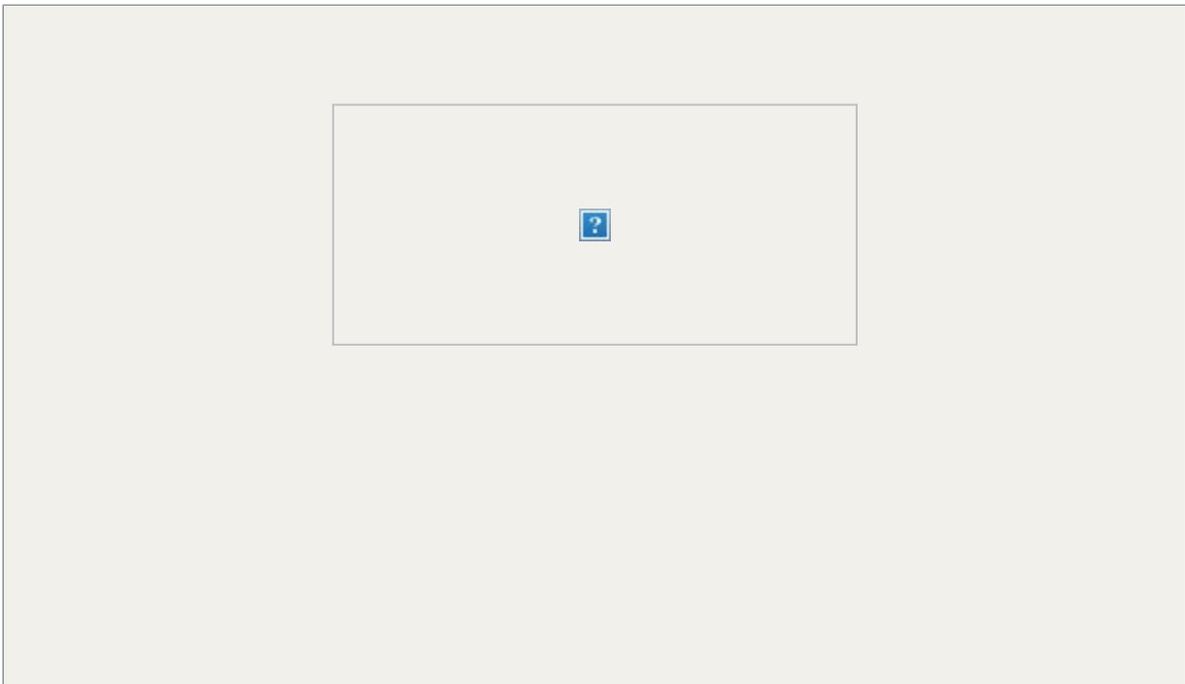
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**From:** Rick Dwyer <rdwyer@hrmffa.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2025 8:50:39 AM  
**To:** Rick Dwyer <rdwyer@hrmffa.org>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Executive Insight Brief

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

Below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group. While we enjoy the long Memorial Day weekend, let us all take a moment to remember the true meaning of the holiday and honor the military members who have died in service to our nation.

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May 23, 2025

# Executive Insight Brief

Stay informed with The Roosevelt Group's Executive Insight Brief—your weekly roundup of key developments shaping federal policy, defense, and homeland security. Curated by our expert team, each issue delivers timely analysis and strategic context to help you stay ahead.

## Notable Headlines

[In CRA first, Senate blocks an EPA waiver after procedural change](#)

[Trump administration blocks Harvard's international enrollments, threatens broader crackdown](#)

[RFK Jr.'s MAHA report raises concerns about vaccines, American foods and prescription drugs](#)

[Two Israeli Embassy staffers shot dead outside D.C.'s Capital Jewish Museum](#)

[Supreme Court tie vote dooms taxpayer funded Catholic charter school in Oklahoma](#)

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## View From The Hill

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The major news [coming](#) from Capitol Hill this week was Speaker Johnson (R-LA) successfully, narrowly passing House Republicans' massive budget reconciliation bill, sending the border, defense, tax, and energy measure to the Senate where it is certain to be altered. House passage of President Trump's so-called "one big, beautiful bill" came just before 7:00 AM on Thursday morning, in a 215-214 vote along party lines. Two Republicans, Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) and Rep. Warren Davidson (R-OH), joined with all democrats to vote against the measure, with Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD) voting "present." Make no mistake: while the bill has a rocky path ahead to final passage, this week was a clear victory for Speaker Johnson and President Trump, who have had a deeply divided House GOP to contend with over the last several weeks and months.

While Congress awaits the full budget request from the Trump administration, the so-called “skinny budget” was enough to spur the annual tradition of cabinet secretaries and agency heads testifying before their various committees of jurisdiction in support of the administration’s priorities. This week saw hearings from the Secretaries of [Homeland Security](#), [State](#), [Health and Human Services](#), and others where they faced questions on everything from deportations to USAID and proposed cuts to Medicaid.

The U.S. Department of Justice [announced](#) federal charges this week against Rep. LaMonica McIver (D-NJ), alleging two counts of “assaulting, resisting, and impeding” law enforcement officers. The alleged incident occurred when a group of Democratic Members of Congress and other elected officials sought to force their way into a federal immigration detention facility in New Jersey in protest of the Trump administration’s deportation policies. Newark Mayor Ras Baraka was arrested during the same incident for trespassing, though that charge was later dropped. McIver is disputing the charges, as the incident has become a flashpoint back in Washington over immigration policies and what Democrats contend are legitimate attempts at congressional oversight of the administration.

The Senate [advanced](#) legislation to regulate certain cryptocurrencies this week, advancing the *GENIUS Act* in bipartisan 66-22 vote. The legislation, if ultimately enacted, is supported by the crypto industry and would set standards meant to protect consumers for certain stablecoins, which are tied to the value of another asset, often the U.S. dollar.

House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mike Rogers (R-AL) told reporters this week that his panel would wait until after the budget reconciliation bill passes Congress before marking up the fiscal year 2026 *National Defense Authorization Act*. This could lead to a delayed markup timeline if House and Senate Republicans struggle to coalesce around final reconciliation legislation able to be passed by both chambers.

Rep. Gerry Connelly (D-VA) [passed](#) away this week at age seventy-five, just

weeks after announcing the return of esophageal cancer. His illness forced him to step down as the top Democrat on the House Oversight and Reform Committee and opt against running for reelection in his Northern Virginia district. While a macabre data point, the late congressman's passing did add fuel to the fire in Washington's Democratic circles about the generally more elderly state of elected officials in the Democratic Party, compared to their GOP colleagues. The last [eight](#) Members of Congress to die while in office have all been Democrats.

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## Pentagon News

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The tide may be turning at the Pentagon, where a once-fringe proposal to give troops the "right to repair" their own gear is suddenly gaining bipartisan steam. The legislation, spearheaded by [Sen. Elizabeth Warren](#) (D-MA) and [Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez](#) (D-WA), would require military contractors to provide access to the tools, software, and technical data needed for in-house equipment repairs—long considered a non-starter for defense industry giants and, until recently, the Department of Defense (DoD) itself.

The bill, which was stripped from last year's NDAA, is being revitalized as Warren, often a sharp critic of the Trump-era Pentagon, finds herself aligned with Trump administration holdovers and House Armed Services Chair Mike Rogers (R-AL). Momentum is building: the Army has already begun incorporating [right-to-repair provisions](#) in contracts, and officials across DoD are signaling they're open to change.

To proponents, the shift is overdue. Service members are often stuck in an

unenviable limbo, forced to wait weeks for repairs while critical equipment sits idle. For Warren and Gluesenkamp Perez, the stakes are about readiness and self-sufficiency, but defense contractors worry that the policy could jeopardize safety and intellectual property. Whether these proposals survive the NDAA process this year or not, they mark a growing appetite in Congress to rethink the status quo.

As legislative interest deepens and policy shifts take root, attention turns to how other defense priorities are evolving in parallel.

On Wednesday morning, the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) published a [pre-solicitation notice](#) to advance President Trump's Golden Dome for America program, referred to as Scalable Homeland Innovative Enterprise Layered Defense (SHIELD). The multiple-award contract is set to be indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity (IDIQ), with a period of performance of 10 years. This notice builds off momentum from the President's program launched on Tuesday, May 20 to officially begin in FY2026. During the announcement, the President named General Michael Guetlein, Vice Chief of Space Operations, to lead the charge.

Within the [notice](#), MDA described the program as "an advanced, multi-domain defense system capable of detecting, tracking, intercepting, and neutralizing threats...across all phases of flight by ballistic, hypersonic, and cruise missiles, and other advanced aerial attacks." Senators Sullivan (AK), Cramer (ND), and Banks (IN) have [praised](#) the program's layered protection framework that expands into space threats, which will offer opportunities for younger Silicon Valley tech companies to be involved, rather than limiting the scope of work to traditional contractors in defense procurement.

While Trump declared \$175 billion as the program's predicted price tag, some analysts with the [Congressional Budget Office](#) claimed the estimation was too optimistic. However, Republican lawmakers have expressed confidence in SHIELD's fiscal stimulation of American companies to progress homeland defense and tech capabilities. In the upcoming week, the MDA will release a draft solicitation, while a formal solicitation could be published as early as

June.

While the SHIELD initiative represents a bold step toward advanced missile defense, developments elsewhere in defense procurement are stirring equally intense scrutiny.

The Trump administration has officially accepted a luxury Boeing 747-8 jet from the Qatari government with the intent to use it as a future Air Force One. Valued at **hundreds of millions of dollars**, the gift has sparked debate regarding its legality, ethical implications, and security. President Trump stated he would be **“stupid”** to decline such an offer. Critics have raised concerns about the gift violating the Constitution’s **Foreign Emoluments Clause** or being an attempt to buy influence. The White House, however, maintains that the gift to the Department of Defense follows legal protocols.

The current Air Force One fleet has been in use for over three decades. Boeing has already been customizing two new 747 jets to serve as the next generation of Air Force One, but the project has faced a number of setbacks and delays, leading Trump to voice his **frustration**, “We’re very disappointed that it’s taking Boeing so long to build a new Air Force One.”

Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT), a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, raised **concerns** that a foreign government outfitting a highly sensitive U.S. plane like Air Force One is a “pretty bad idea,” especially with Trump’s suggestion that it could be kept at his presidential library at the end of his term. Along with the ethical controversy, experts warn of the financial costs of accepting the jet. Despite the plane’s luxurious interior, converting it to meet Air Force One’s extensive security, communication, and defense standards will **take years and cost up to a billion dollars**.

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# Next Week's Hearings

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## Armed Services Committee

### U.S. House of Representatives

- NONE

### U.S. Senate

- NONE

## Appropriations Committee

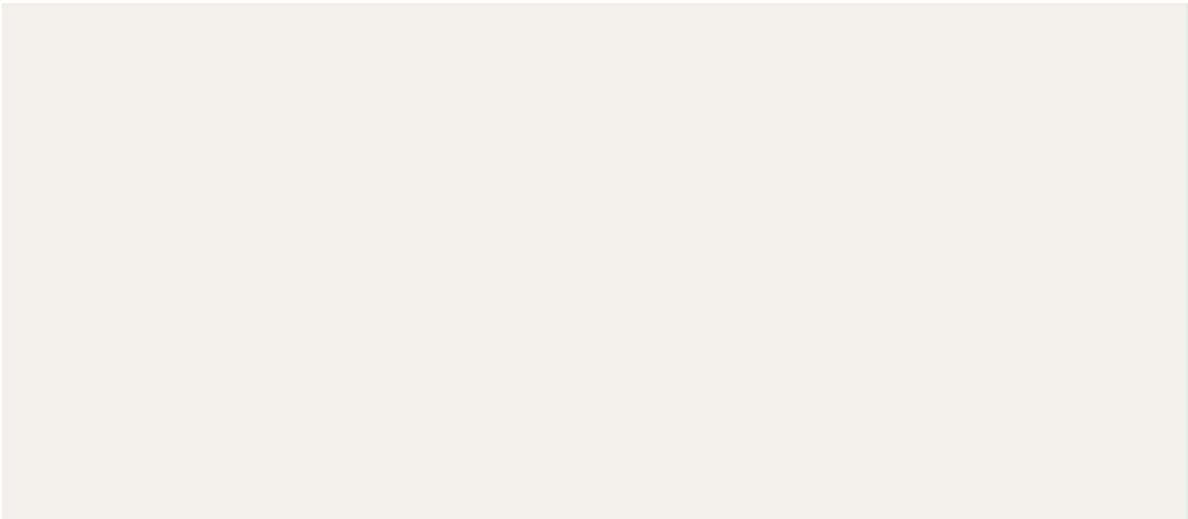
### U.S. House of Representatives

- NONE

### U.S. Senate

- NONE

## Homeland Security Committee



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