

**Schott, Heather**

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**To:** Rick Dwyer  
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**Ladies & Gentlemen,**  
Below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group.

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June 27, 2025

# Executive Insight Brief

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## Notable Headlines

[US signs agreements with Guatemala and Honduras to take asylum-seekers, Noem says](#)

[Democrats fret about national fallout after Mamdani stuns in New York City](#)

[Hegseth slams Fox reporter at press conference: 'You've been about the worst'](#)

[The California climate export catching fire in Trump's DC](#)

[No love for the dollar as markets fret about Fed independence](#)

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## View From The Hill

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It was a hot—and heated—week in Washington, as the nation's capital suffered through a blistering heat wave and as Congress hotly debated everything from budget reconciliation to last weekend's strikes on Iran. Democrats on Capitol Hill remain incensed over President Trump's ordered strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities. Their anger primarily stems from [allegations](#) that the administration failed to notify key Democrats on the Hill ahead of the operation, the risk of entering the U.S. into a new conflict in the Middle East, as well as [arguments](#) about the constitutionality of the strike absent congressional authorization. For context, lawmakers of both parties have often [criticized](#) military operations ordered by presidents without prior approval by Congress, particularly when they are of the opposing party.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), who was briefly [hospitalized](#) Thursday for dehydration, further [decried](#) the administration's decision to reschedule a planned briefing for senators

about the results of the strikes, though the White House pushed back stating that the decision to move the briefing was made to allow Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth to attend and brief senators. Both cabinet secretaries were at the NATO summit at the Hague with President Trump during the initial slated briefing time on Tuesday.

Congressional Republicans are largely **praising** the administration's actions as a strategic success and decisive blow to Iran's nuclear program. Of course, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are still trying to determine the scale of damage to Iranian nuclear facilities amidst conflicting reports. They are also anxiously observing whether the fragile ceasefire between Israel and Iran persists.

The Senate is preparing to jam their House colleagues with their version of President Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill," leading Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) to scuttle lawmakers' planned Independence Day recess week, which was set to begin today. This comes as Senate GOP leadership **works** feverishly to appease internal concerns around the impact of cuts to Medicaid on constituents' healthcare and adverse impacts to rural hospitals. Several key GOP provisions have been **struck** by Elizabeth MacDonough, the Senate parliamentarian, who is charged with vetting the bill for compliance with Senate rules. This process, known as a "Byrd Bath," is so named after the senator who first came up with it decades ago and involves deciding whether provisions in the bill are considered "extraneous" to the federal budget. It is unique to budget reconciliation bills, to allow them to pass via a simple majority.

If MacDonough determines a provision of the legislation is, in fact, extraneous, the provision must come out or face a sixty-vote threshold on the floor that Republicans do not have. So far, this process has dealt a considerable blow to some of the major policies and cost-savings that Republicans were counting on, including pushing more federal food aid costs to states and barring non-citizens from receiving food assistance.

Also out are provisions cutting billions in funding for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, limitations on courts' authorities to hold administration officials in contempt, and a repeal of the Biden administration's tailpipe emissions rule. Perhaps the most major provision to be cut is the state provider tax proposal for Medicaid, which was expected to reap billions in savings to help pay for the bill. All of this complicates the bill's ultimate passage, as it becomes more expensive and less attractive politically for GOP hardliners. By Thursday, multiple House and Senate Republicans were calling on Leader Thune to sideline or fire MacDonough over her rulings, though Thune indicated he would not do that. The drama is threatening the overall timeline of the bill, with the likelihood of the Senate being able to start voting on the legislation Friday waning as the GOP tries to rewrite provisions struck down by the parliamentarian. President Trump is also ramping up pressure on the Hill, wanting to have the legislation on his desk by next week.

In the race to succeed the late Rep. Gerry Connelly (D-VA) as the top Democrat on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Rep. Robert Garcia (D-CA) **emerged** as the winner and will take over the position atop the panel's dais as he leads Democrats' oversight of the Trump administration. Garcia is only forty-seven, meaning he represents a younger, more progressive generation of House Democrats who have been agitating against the establishment wing of the caucus for more positions of power.

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell **testified** before the House Financial Services Committee this week, defending the Fed's decision to hold interest rates at a higher level as a means of cooling inflation. He also testified that part of the decision to hold rates steady was due to uncertainty around President Trump's tariff policies, which have been jolting markets, trade partnerships, and the courts over the last several months.

Rep. LaMonica McIver (D-NJ) **pleaded** not guilty in federal court this week on charges alleging the congresswoman interfered with and assaulted federal law enforcement officers when she and other Democratic elected officials were demonstrating at a federal immigration detention facility in Newark. This comes as allies of Rep. McIver have filed a complaint against the U.S. Attorney for New Jersey and close Trump ally, Alina Habba, contending she has acted improperly and that the charges against McIver are politically motivated.

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## Pentagon News

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President Trump met with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy for a closed-door meeting during the NATO Summit on Wednesday, and **concluded** that he will not rule out sending Ukraine monetary and defense aid, specifically Patriot air-defense missiles. President Zelenskyy stated that, given the chance, Ukraine is ready to buy more U.S. weapons to protect its cities, people, and infrastructure. President Zelenskyy also mentioned that a possible joint drone production was discussed.

The meeting resulted in public praise from both presidents, a positive turn from President Zelenskyy's **visit** to the White House in February. During President Trump's press conference at the summit, he **expressed** frustration with President Putin of Russia and hoped a ceasefire deal would be reached soon. Additionally, President Trump **displayed** compassion for Ukrainian reporter Myroslava Petsa, asked her questions regarding her personal circumstances in the war, and wished her luck when hearing that her husband is a Ukrainian soldier.

In the halls of The Hague, where diplomats gathered to discuss international affairs amid the tenuous global climate, NATO allies **agreed** to more than double their defense spending target from 2% of GDP to 5% by 2035. At least 3.5% of GDP will flow toward pure defense, with the remainder going to security and defense-related critical infrastructure. Allies will be required to submit annual plans "showing a **credible, incremental path** to reach this goal," reaffirming their commitment to Article 5 collective defense amid questions about U.S. reliability under President Trump.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney embraced the new target, telling reporters that Canada is committed to reaching the 5% goal, and **explaining**, "We are protecting Canadians against new threats. I wish we didn't have to." He noted that current Canadian spending is already underway to meet the 1.5 percent component of the new target, which includes infrastructure like ports, airports, and telecommunications systems. Carney emphasized Arctic security concerns and **indicated** that Canada plans to leverage its critical mineral wealth as part of its military contribution. His words carried a hefty weight as he pledged to forge drones and icebreakers, to sculpt aerospace technologies and transform Canada's resources into shields for the free world. In response to the commitment, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte **proclaims** this agreement will fuel "a quantum leap" in the alliance's collective defense.

As NATO leaders discuss plans to increase defense investments, ongoing conflict remains an urgent reminder to the alliance of how these advancements will be critical across Europe and beyond.

Recent intelligence from Ukraine reveals Russia is deploying drones **equipped** with novel AI-powered navigation, advanced cameras, a remote radio link, and Iranian anti-jamming technology. These systems represent a tactical leap, with their radio-controlled design and AI-powered autonomous navigation enabling mid-flight retargeting, resilient against electronic warfare. These drones' eight sophisticated

antennas, formerly only four on previous versions, also make it significantly harder to disrupt electronically. Furthermore, these drones also reflect joint innovation and localized production at Russia's Alabuga factory, underscoring the enduring impact of the \$1.7 billion Russian-Iranian drone development [agreement](#).

The discovery of the advanced drone comes in the midst of Russia's increasingly lethal drone capabilities. Russia's improved [tactics](#) include swarming attacks with decoy drones to exhaust Ukrainian air defenses, followed by warhead-equipped UAVs. Operational [data](#) shows a sharp increase in drone strike effectiveness, with the percentage of drones hitting targets jumping from 6% in late 2024 to 16% in June 2025. These statistics, paired with the recovery of the new cutting-edge drone, underscore the urgent need for increased investment in counter-UAV technologies and stricter export controls on components that enable adversary advancements.

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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**

### **U.S. House of Representatives**

- NONE

### **U.S. Senate**

- NONE



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