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“We have a responsibility to protect your data, and if we can’t then we don’t deserve to serve you.”

MARK ZUCKERBERG,
FACEBOOK CEO

Legislative Updates

Senate Democrats Introduce Bill to Ban Citizenship Question on 2020 Census

ON MARCH 22, Sens. Robert (Bob) Menendez (D-NJ), Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Maizie Hirono (D-HI) introduced the Every Person Counts Act (S. 2580). The bill would prohibit the Census Bureau from asking a question on citizenship or immigration status.

“The 2020 Census count must be accurate, efficient, and completely nonpartisan,” Sen. Booker said. “Adding a citizenship question to the 2020 Census questionnaire compromises each of these goals. This bill ensures that we will meet our Constitutional Census obligations and bars cynical efforts to keep immigrants undercounted and underrepresented in our society.”

The legislation comes as a response to the Trump Administration’s efforts to ask every American household to record which members of their family are U.S. citizens as part of the 2020 U.S. Census.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said he was making the change to help enforce the Voting Rights Act. “The decision to include a citizenship question on a national census is not uncommon,” said Ross. “The United Nations

recommends that its member countries ask census questions identifying both an individual’s country of birth and the country of citizenship.”

Required by the Constitution, the United States Census is used to determine the number of seats a state holds in the House and also affects federal spending in states, among other uses.

House Speaker Paul Ryan to Retire from Career in Congress

ON APRIL 11, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) announced that he will not be seeking re-election this November and plans to step down from his position as Speaker of the House. He says he will be spending more time with his three teenage children.

“Today, I am announcing that this year will be my last one as a member of the House,” Ryan said. “To be clear, I am not resigning. I intend to serve my full term, as I was elected to do, but I will be retiring in January.”

Ryan’s decision to end his 20-year career in Congress boosted Democrats’ hopes of winning back the House majority after the mid-term elections in November – although Ryan denies that possibility had anything to do with his decision.



THIS MONTH:

Should Congress strengthen digital privacy protections for Americans?

“I think that this [Facebook] privacy spill is politically the equivalent of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.”

REP. EDWARD J.
MARKEY (D-MA)

THE ISSUE: In March, news broke that data firm Cambridge Analytica improperly gained access to the personal data of millions of Facebook users without their knowledge or consent (permission). The Facebook data breach stirred a renewed interest among users in protecting their digital privacy, with some even pledging to **#deletefacebook** and others referring to the social media site as **Facelook**.

As a result of the ensuing bad publicity, the CEO of Cambridge Analytica stepped down and Facebook’s shares dipped on the NASDAQ. Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of tech giant Facebook, was “called on the carpet” before Congress. On April 10-11, he spent two days testifying before lawmakers on Capitol Hill, where he was asked hard questions about Facebook’s privacy practices.

Both Republican and Democrat lawmakers called for new data privacy legislation, fines or greater regulation. Even Zuckerberg admitted the need for privacy regulation in the U.S. “The internet is growing in importance around the world,” Zuckerberg said. “I think it is inevitable that there will need to be some regulation.”

Indeed, the European Union parliament recently adopted the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**, which gives consumers more control over their personal data and requires greater transparency of digital data sharing.

However, in the United States, Congress appears to be loosening privacy protections rather than strengthening them.

THE CONTROVERSY: On March 23, President Donald Trump signed into law the \$1.3 trillion federal spending bill, which included the last-minute addition of the Clarifying Lawful Overseas Use of Data Act or CLOUD Act.

The CLOUD Act offers an alternative to the former process for sharing people’s digital data between countries, called an MLAT, or mutual legal assistance treaty. Law enforcement agencies say using such a treaty to request data is cumbersome and slow.

The new law makes it easier for law enforcement to see U.S. citizens’ data and also enables foreign police to collect and wiretap people’s communications from U.S. companies without a warrant.

Privacy advocates say this is a step in the wrong direction and that digital privacy protections should be strengthened for Americans.

THOSE FOR the CLOUD Act say Americans must relinquish some privacy to protect national security interests and Americans’ safety.

THOSE AGAINST the CLOUD Act say Americans shouldn’t have to choose between using technology and maintaining personal privacy.



THE EUROPEAN UNION’S new comprehensive data protection law is called the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**. It aims to give control back to EU citizens and residents over their private personal data. The GDPR establishes a new set of digital privacy rights for EU citizens in an age of an increase in the value of personal data. As a result of the new regulation, which takes effect on **May 25, 2018**, businesses across the globe are working to ensure they will be in compliance with the new law.

“When a country (USA) is losing many billions of dollars on trade with virtually every country it does business with, trade wars are good, and easy to win.”

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP (TWEET 3.2.18)

THE ISSUE: In recent months, President Donald Trump has shined a spotlight on China for its one-sided trade practices. Trump Administration officials say China’s trade tactics include subsidizing local companies, shielding them from competition and pressuring foreign companies to hand over technology.

Lawmakers on both sides agree that the U.S. should confront China on their trade policies. “The United States must take strong, smart and strategic action against China’s brazenly unfair trade policies,” said House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) in a March 22 statement.

In March, President Trump directed his administration to impose new tariffs on Chinese products exported to the U.S. Then on April 5, China placed fees on a wide range of U.S. products, including scrap aluminum and apples. And so on and so on.

Now, the countries with the world’s largest economies – the U.S. and China – are threatening huge tariffs (taxes) against each other. As the world waits to see if a full-blown trade war will escalate between the two superpowers, American and European financial markets have tumbled. But what exactly is a trade war?

A trade war is a conflict between two or more countries who impose financial penalties such as tariffs (or taxes) on each other to gain economic advantage.

When these nations refuse to make compromises and instead engage in tit-for-tat escalations, this situation is called a trade war.

A trade war between the U.S. and China could result in financial losses for businesses and higher prices for consumers in addition to financial market instability at home and abroad.

THE CONTROVERSY: The relationship between the U.S. and China is complex. There are no easy answers. China owns a significant percentage of the United States’ government debt. As the biggest foreign holder of U.S. Treasury bonds, China has an economic advantage over the U.S.

As a result of trade tensions, China indicated it is considering reducing its investment in U.S. government bonds, which spooked investors. Could China use its role as America’s No. 1 lender to exert pressure in a trade war? It can’t be ruled out. Thus, engaging in a trade war with China should be approached with caution, even if it is justified.

THOSE FOR imposing tariffs on China say it’s high time that China be taken to task for unfair policies that hurt U.S. workers and businesses.

THOSE AGAINST imposing tariffs on China say doing so upsets the delicate balance of global trade and could result in retaliatory policies against the U.S.



ALTHOUGH THE U.S. DOLLAR is now the global reserve currency, China’s goal is to replace the U.S. dollar (USD) with its currency, the yuan (RMB). Recently, China announced a \$300 billion plan called “Made in China 2025” with the goal of becoming nearly self-sufficient by 2025. Foreign governments and business groups say the blueprint improperly subsidizes Chinese industries and shuts out foreign competitors.

Digital Privacy

1. The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) provides expanded and new rights for EU individuals such as the right of _____, sometimes called the "right to be forgotten."
 - a) Restriction
 - b) Notification
 - c) Deletion
2. Facebook's practice of tracking, collecting and storing users' internet surfing data (even when they are not logged in) is a violation of European privacy law because Facebook does not have user _____.
 - a) Consent
 - b) Portability
 - c) Opt-in
3. The European Union's GDPR replaces the _____ of 1995 under which each of the 28 EU member countries operate their own interpretation of this law.
 - a) Electronic Communications Privacy Act
 - b) Data Protection Directive
 - c) Privacy Regulation Proclamation
4. This November, California voters will vote on a ballot measure called the California Consumer Privacy Act of 2018, which gives Californians certain privacy rights, including:
 - a) Right to say no to sale of personal information
 - b) Right to know what personal information is being collected
 - c) Right to know whether personal information is sold or disclosed and to whom
 - d) All of the above

Trade War

1. In a trade war, the countries involved often resort to adopting protectionist policies. This causes both nations to move toward a position of _____ or self-sufficiency.
 - a) Absolute advantage
 - b) Economy closure
 - c) Autarky
2. Which international organization is now responsible for developing and maintaining the system of international trade rules and dealing with trade disputes?
 - a) International Monetary Fund
 - b) World Trade Organization
 - c) The World Bank
3. What is the name of the ancient network of trade routes that connected the East and West and was established during the Han Dynasty of China?
 - a) Silk Road
 - b) East West Corridor
 - c) Persian Royal Road
4. According to the Office of the United States Trade Representative, trade expansion benefits U.S. families and businesses by:
 - a) Supporting more jobs in our export sectors
 - b) Expanding the variety of products available to purchase by consumers and businesses
 - c) Encouraging investment and more rapid economic growth
 - d) All of the above
5. The official name of China's currency or money is the yuan, which means the people's currency. The renminbi is a unit of the currency.
 - a) True
 - b) False



This newsletter is a publication of the **Student Governmental Affairs Program (SGAP)**, a nonprofit organization located at:

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Issue 1 Digital Privacy

Does the CLOUD Act strengthen digital privacy protections for Americans?



YES: SEN. ORRIN HATCH (R-UT)



“The CLOUD Act is landmark legislation that addresses an increasingly pressing problem. In today’s world of email and cloud computing, where data

is stored across the globe, law enforcement and tech companies find themselves encumbered by conflicting data disclosure and privacy laws. We need a commonsense framework to help law enforcement obtain critical information to solve crimes while at the same time enabling email and cloud computing providers to comply with countries’ differing privacy regimes. The CLOUD Act creates such a framework.”



NO: SEN. RON WYDEN (D-OR)



“Tucked away in the omnibus spending bill is a provision that allows Trump, and any future president, to share Americans’ private emails

and other information with countries he personally likes. That means he can strike deals with Russia or Turkey with nearly zero congressional involvement and no oversight by U.S. courts. This bill contains only toothless provisions on human rights that Trump’s cronies can meet by merely checking a box. It is legislative malpractice that Congress, without a minute of Senate debate, is rushing through the CLOUD Act on this must-pass spending bill.”

Issue 2 Trade War

Will imposing tariffs on China help the U.S.?



YES: REP. TOM MARINO (R-PA)



“For years, China has engaged in unfair trade practices that have decimated the U.S. steel and aluminum industries.

These practices have forced

once-thriving factories to shut their doors and lay off thousands of workers. The President’s announcement sends a strong message that we will no longer tolerate foreign efforts to influence critically important industries in the United States. These tariffs will bring prosperity to regions of the country that have been left behind by previous administrations. President Trump has shown steel workers that they play a crucial role in our nation’s infrastructure and national security efforts.”



NO: REP. STENY H. HOYER (D-MD)



“No one can doubt that China has created massive overcapacity in steel and aluminum production that distorts world markets and depresses steel and

aluminum prices. But our trade actions need to be carefully designed to hit their targets and avoid collateral damage to other U.S. industries or to our allies. The ham-handed rollout and contradictory statements that preceded today’s announcement raise serious questions about whether this action will produce the intended results. I urge the Administration to work ... to ensure that its policies effectively address China’s overcapacity and boost employment and wages in this country.”



Dear Member of Congress:

I am a student receiving information from the Student Governmental Affairs Program. Here are my opinions on these issues. I would greatly appreciate any response you might like to share.

1) Does the CLOUD Act strengthen digital privacy protections for Americans?

Comments: _____

Yes No Undecided

2) Will imposing tariffs on China help the U.S.?

Comments: _____

Yes No Undecided

Student Name

School Name

School Address

Nationwide Student Voting Results from the Last SGAP Newsletter

	Yes	No	Undecided
<p>1) Should the U.S. enact stricter gun control laws?</p> <p>Yes: "The Second Amendment is talking about militia." "Getting a driver's license and health insurance are harder than buying a gun."</p> <p>No: "Criminals will find ways around gun control." "Stricter gun laws make people want to obtain guns even more."</p>	61%	32%	7%
<p>2) Should internet retailers collect state sales tax?</p> <p>Yes: "They are still retailers." "All retailers, whether online or brick and mortar should compete fairly."</p> <p>No: "I'm tired of buying a \$60 game for \$61.24. It's online, I'm not at Wal-Mart." "I don't see the reason why."</p>	31%	55%	14%

This ballot was prepared by the Student Governmental Affairs Program (SGAP), a nonprofit, nonpartisan student civics program, located at: 2435 N. Central Expressway, Suite 300, Richardson, TX 75080 | Phone: 1-800-806-7427 | Email: civics@sgap.org | Website: www.sgap.org