

## Sentinel Weekly Action Guide September 17

### Washington, D.C. Update:

**The House is on a one-week recess while the Senate is in session.** Last week, House and Senate Leadership struck a deal on a \$855 billion spending package (H.R. 6147) combining DOD & L-HHS-Education which will also include a continuing resolution funding the rest of the government to December 7th. This package or “cromnibus” betrays regular order, contains no conservative policy riders, and continues spending levels above the Trump administration’s Budget requests. Heritage Action will oppose the cromnibus in its current form absent conservative policy riders

This Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee could approve the nomination of Judge Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. Heritage Action calls on the Senate Judiciary Committee to review the 11th hour allegations against Judge Kavanaugh fairly and quickly. We will work to encourage moderate Republicans and red-state Democrats to see the process through and support his confirmation. Lastly, the Farm Bill remains in conference where work requirements for food stamps [continue to be among one of 3 main priorities for conservatives](#).

### Core Priorities this Week:

- 1. Supreme Court:** Sentinels should continue to build consensus for Senators, especially red-state Democrats, to confirm Judge Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court.
- 2. Tax Reform:** The tax cuts included in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act benefit average taxpayers in every single state and district in the country. Sentinels can thank the members who supported tax reform, citing Heritage’s [new website](#), and share their state and district information locally.
- 3. Appropriations:** Sentinels should ask their Members of Congress to oppose the cromnibus and instead [advance](#) President Trump’s agenda through the appropriations process. Appropriations bills should be used to advance conservative policy reforms including border security funding, protection for faith-based adoption agencies against government discrimination, the repeal of WOTUS, defunding the Social Cost of Carbon rule, defunding Planned Parenthood, and the elimination of the D.C. individual mandate.

## **Supreme Court**

### *Confirm Kavanaugh*

**State of Play:** On July 9th, President Donald Trump announced his nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit to succeed Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy. Confirmation will not come without a fight. Republicans have a tenuous grip on the Senate—a slim 51-49 majority—and a conservative nominee will almost certainly be viewed as the fifth vote on the Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Heritage recently [hosted](#) a panel of legal scholars and Supreme Court experts to discuss strategy on the confirmation of Judge Kavanaugh.

**Action item:** Sentinels should ask their senators and Chairman Chuck Grassley to support President Trump's nomination of Judge Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. Sentinels can also sign Heritage Action's [petition](#) to confirm Kavanaugh and share with their activist communities.

#### **Resources:**

Heritage Action toolkit: [Confirm Kavanaugh](#)

Heritage Action petition: [Confirm Kavanaugh](#)

Heritage Action press release: [Supports the Speedy Confirmation of Judge Kavanaugh](#)

Heritage Foundation backgrounder: [The Confirmation Process for Presidential Appointees](#)

Heritage Foundation report: [What Is The Proper Role of the Courts?](#)

Heritage Foundation commentary: [What We Need in Our Federal Judges](#)

Heritage Foundation commentary: [Trump Hits Another Home Run With Supreme Court Pick Brett Kavanaugh](#)

## **Food Stamps and Farm Bill**

### *Work Requirements, Out-of-Control Subsidy Programs*

**State of Play:** The [House](#) and [Senate](#) have named [conferees](#) for the Farm Bill conference committee. Negotiation is ongoing. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have long sought reforms to both the welfare and agricultural sides of the farm bill, including work requirements for food stamps and an overall decrease in government subsidies, price controls, and regulation. Unfortunately, both the House and Senate Agriculture committee bills failed these goals. The Senate version does nothing to strengthen work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs), a provision that was at least attempted by the House committee in its approved version of the farm bill. Heritage Action will key vote against the Farm Bill conference report if the

House food stamp reform provisions are removed. If it does not, Congress should pass a clean one-year extension. Also of note, The Wall Street Journal [reported](#) earlier this month that Trump is likely to threaten to veto any bill that doesn't include stricter work requirements for the program.

**Action Items:** Sentinels should ask Farm Bill conferees to 1) maintain House-passed SNAP work requirements 2) maintain Senate-passed Sen. Grassley "active engagement" requirement for crop insurance, and 3) maintain the House-passed provision to repeal Obama's EPA WOTUS rule.

**Resources:**

Daily Signal Article: [3 Reforms Conservatives Should Fight for In the Farm Bill](#)

Heritage Action activist toolkit: [Food Stamps](#)

Heritage Action blog: [Welfare Reform: Work Requirements for Food Stamps](#)

Heritage Action coalition letter: [Farm Bill Must Address Out-of-Control Subsidy Programs](#)

Heritage Action key vote: ["NO" on Senate Farm bill](#)

Heritage Foundation report: [Geographic-Area Waivers Undermine Food Stamp Work Requirements](#)

## **Tax Reform**

### *Protect Our Paychecks*

**State of Play:** The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act [cut taxes](#) for average American households in every state and every congressional district. The reform will produce larger incomes, more jobs, more investment, and more economic opportunity. In 2018, taxpayers will save an average of \$1,400 and married couples with two children will save \$2,917. Over the next 10 years the average American household will benefit from more than \$26,000 in take-home pay, or \$44,697 for a family of four. These benefits could be even greater if the tax law is made permanent and could disappear if the tax cuts are repealed. Heritage launched a [new website](#) that lets users find out exactly how much their state and district is saving due to tax reform.

**Action Items:** Sentinels should [check](#) to see if their Members of Congress supported the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and, if so, to reiterate support and the benefits of tax reform based on Heritage's new website.

**Resources:**

Heritage Foundation website: [Protect Our Paychecks](#)

Heritage Foundation report: [Tax Cuts in Every Congressional District in Every State](#)  
Heritage opinion : [Tax cuts only help the wealthy, right? American paychecks show otherwise](#)

## **Appropriations**

### *Policy over Process*

**State of Play:** In an effort to avoid another omnibus, Republican leadership has worked hard to move appropriations bills as quickly as possible. Unfortunately conservative policy riders and fiscal restraint have been sacrificed in the effort to return to regular order. Last week, House and Senate Leadership struck a deal on a \$855 billion spending package (H.R. 6147) combining DOD & L-HHS-Education which will also include a continuing resolution funding the rest of the government to December 7th. This package or “cromnibus” betrays regular order, contains no conservative policy riders, and continues spending levels above the Trump administration’s Budget requests ([statement](#)).

**Action Items:** Sentinels should ask their House and Senate members to oppose the cromnibus absent conservative policy riders such as border wall funding, the Aderholt-Kelly Amendment to protect faith-based adoption agencies against government discrimination, the bipartisan Conscience Protection Act, a prohibition on Planned Parenthood funding, a prohibition on Title X Family Planning program funding, a prohibition on funding to support research using aborted fetal tissue, and a prohibition on funding for the NLRB’s Joint-Employer rule.

### **Resources:**

Heritage Action op-ed: [Appropriations Offer Opportunity to Advance Trump's Agenda](#)

Daily Signal: [3 Poison Pills in the Homeland Security Funding Bill](#)

Heritage Action blog: [Time to Shut Down Chain Migration](#)

Heritage Action press release: [Congress Should Fix Family Separation at the Border Immediately and Separately from Amnesty](#)

## **Religious Liberty and Pro-Life**

### *Prioritizing Children over Politics in Adoption*

**State of Play:** Rep. Mike Kelly and Sen. Enzi have introduced the Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act ([H.R. 1881](#) and [S. 811](#)). Faith-based adoption agencies across the country are coming under attack. In Massachusetts, Illinois, California, and Washington, D.C., liberal groups have successfully pressured government authorities to

require faith-based agencies to violate their sincerely held religious beliefs and place children in same-sex households. Congress should keep kids first by preventing religious discrimination against faith-based adoption agencies. Accordingly, this bill will protect faith-based adoption agencies from state governments and LGBT activists looking to eliminate pro-life alternatives to abortion. It protects and empowers Americans who have dedicated their lives to give the most vulnerable in our society—those without a family—the father and mother they deserve. The House appropriations committee recently voted to add H.R. 1881 to the fiscal year 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) appropriations bill. Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi called the proposal “[disgusting, deeply immoral and profoundly offensive](#)”.

**Action Items:** Sentinels should ask their members of Congress to support the Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act by including the bill in the DOD and L-HHS conference report to H.R. 6157.

**Resources:**

[Keep Kids First](#)

Heritage Action coalition letter: [Add CWPIA to LHHS Appropriations](#)

Heritage Action blog: [Rep. Mike Kelly and Sen. Mike Enzi's Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act](#)

Heritage Foundation event: [Children in Crisis: Safeguarding Faith-Based Adoption and Foster Care](#)

Heritage Foundation poll: [Ensure All Adoption Agencies Can Continue to Serve Families and Children](#)

Heritage Foundation commentary: [Congress Must Take Steps to Help Foster Children Find Loving Families](#)

Heritage Foundation report: [The Role of Faith-Based Agencies in Child Welfare](#)

## **Healthcare**

### *Modernizing HSAs*

**State of Play:** In late July, the House passed a package of conservative Health Savings Account (HSA) reform bills that will increase health insurance choices and help lower costs. The Senate could move to consider the package later this year. [H.R. 184](#) repeals Obamacare’s 2.3 percent excise tax on importers and manufacturers of medical devices. [H.R. 6311](#) would increase maximum contribution limits for HSAs and allow Medicare Part A enrollees to contribute to an HSA. [H.R. 6199](#) would modernize HSAs by allowing coverage flexibility for High-Deductible Health Plans and by repealing Direct Primary Care Service Arrangements that disqualify individuals from contributing to an HSA. We

look forward to working with Congress to continue expanding health care choice and lowering costs, and ultimately repealing and replacing Obamacare.” Health and Human Services (HHS) recently released a rule that will roll back the Obama administration’s limits on short-term, limited duration health insurance plans, making them more accessible and easier to use. HHS Secretary Alex Azar recently [outlined](#) a health care policy agenda at Heritage that is “positively Reaganesque”.

**Action Items:** Sentinels should ask Republicans in Congress, particularly in the Senate, to take action as soon as possible to fulfill their commitment to repeal and replace Obamacare, and take up the House-passed package of conservative Health Savings Account (HSA) reforms.

**Resources:**

Heritage Foundation commentary: [Don’t Blame Donald Trump for Obamacare’s Failures](#)

Heritage Action press release: [Heritage Action Supports House Ways & Means Legislation Expanding HSAs](#)

Heritage Foundation blog: [Trump Aims to Increase Value and Decrease Costs of Health Care, HHS Secretary Says](#)

Heritage Foundation commentary: [Trump’s Health Secretary Is Implementing Bold, Reaganesque Reforms](#)

### **Internet Sales Tax**

#### *No Taxation without Representation*

**State of Play:** For years, conservatives have blocked legislative attempts to implement an internet sales tax regime that overturned the Supreme Court’s 1967 decision in *National Bellas Hess v. Department of Revenue of Illinois* and 1992 decision in *Quill Corporation v. North Dakota*. Unfortunately, in a 5-4 decision ([South Dakota v. Wayfair](#)), the Supreme Court overturned long-standing precedent preventing states from forcing out-of-state businesses to collect and remit sales taxes. The decision opens the door for unprecedented state overreach at the expense of small online businesses and consumers across the country and will likely spur lame duck legislative action. Heritage Action opposes the internet sales tax and is working with House members to prevent state overreach and solidify the physical presence standard. The House Judiciary Committee recently held a [hearing](#) on the Wayfair decision.

**Action Items:** Sentinels should ask their members of Congress to solidify the physical presence standard through legislation. Internet taxes violate the principle of "no taxation without representation" and make it harder for small businesses to grow.

**Resources:**

Heritage Foundation report: [Do Borders Matter? The Supreme Court Reviews Internet Sales Taxes](#)

Heritage Foundation commentary: [South Dakota Republicans Push for Higher Taxes](#)

Heritage Foundation report: [When It Comes to Taxation, Borders Matter—Europe and the U.S. Should Act Accordingly](#)

Heritage Action press release: [Supreme Court Opens Pandora's Box on Internet Sales Tax](#)

Heritage Action-signed coalition letter: [Protect Americans From Internet Taxes](#)