



Joaquin Castro

Representative
Texas District 20th
Democrat

Contact: (202) 225-3236
Website: castro.house.gov



Scan for
Lifetime Score

This legislator voted constitutionally on **0%** of the votes shown below.

CPH: Estimated cost per household.

★ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional ? Did not Vote CPH Vote

1. Rep. Diana Harshbarger's (R-Tenn.) amendment to HR 4664 IRS Firearms and Ammunition (Rejected 187 to 238 on 11/8/2023, Roll Call 625). Strikes all funding for firearms and ammunition for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). See U.S. Const., amend 10. **No** ✗

2. Rep. Mary Miller's (R-Ill.) amendment to HR 5894 Defunding OSHA (Rejected 131 to 300 on 11/14/2023, Roll Call 648). Defunds the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8. **+\$4.08** **No** ✗

3. HR 4366 Consolidated Appropriations (Passed 339 to 85 on 3/6/2024, Roll Call 64). Appropriates \$467.5 billion in federal funding for fiscal 2024. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8. **\$3,557** **Yes** ✗

4. HR 8035 Ukraine Aid (Passed 311 to 112 on 4/20/2024, Roll Call 151). Provides \$60.8 billion for security assistance to Ukraine and replenishing stockpiles of military equipment already provided to Ukraine. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8. **\$463** **Yes** ✗

5. HR 4824 Carbon Sequestration (Passed 364 to 44 on 4/30/2024, Roll Call 156). Expands the Department of Energy's carbon-storage program to include carbon-sequestration projects. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8. **\$0.24** **Yes** ✗

6. HR 5403 Central Bank Digital Currency (Passed 216 to 192 on 5/23/2024, Roll Call 230). Prohibits the Federal Reserve from issuing a central bank digital currency (CBDC) without congressional authorization. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8. **No** ✗



Rep. Joaquin Castro
Lifetime Score: 18%

Scorecard 118-3
118th Session Score: 13%

The Congressional Scorecard is a nationwide educational program of The John Birch Society. Its purpose is to create an informed electorate on how members of Congress are voting. The Scorecard is nonpartisan; it does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are selected for their constitutional implications and cost to the taxpayers.

Please share this Scorecard in your district to inform people about the constitutionality of their congressman's votes.

U.S. Constitution, Amendment I --- 11 C.F.R. §114(4)(c)(4) --- 616 F.2d 45 (2d Cir. 1980)

The following scorecard lists several key votes in the 118th Congress (January 3, 2023 - January 3, 2025) and ranks congressmen based on his or her fidelity to constitutional and limited-government principles.

Federal debt equals \$266,953 per taxpayer, as of July 16, 2024.



Get Alerts

Scan to view and subscribe to legislative action alerts.

The Constitution

Learn more about the U.S. Constitution and our founding principles.



Bill Descriptions for the Votes that Affect You

1. IRS Firearms and Ammunition

During consideration of the fiscal 2024 financial-services appropriations bill (H.R. 4664), Representative Diana Harshbarger (R-Tenn.) offered an amendment to strike all funding for firearms and ammunition for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The federal government is not constitutionally authorized to engage in domestic law enforcement, as the 10th Amendment clarifies. IRS agents should not be armed with guns, ammunition, or military-style equipment. Rather, the IRS ought to be defunded and abolished. The American people must demand that Congress end the weaponization of the federal bureaucracy, reject all efforts to create a nationalized police force, and work to repeal the 16th Amendment (income tax).

2. Defunding OSHA

During consideration of the fiscal 2024 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill (H.R. 5894), Representative Mary Miller (R-Ill.) offered an amendment to defund the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) by \$536,922,000 — its total earmarked budget for fiscal 2024.

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution does not authorize Congress to establish a federal regulatory agency, such as OSHA, to inspect workplace conditions. Nor does the Constitution empower the federal government to require Americans to take vaccines, especially experimental mRNA injections, as a condition of their employment, as OSHA tried to do.

3. Consolidated Appropriations

Representative Kay Granger (R-Texas) made a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4366, the “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024,” which would appropriate \$467.5 billion in federal funding for fiscal 2024. Among multiple other provisions, it would provide \$307.8 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs; \$103 billion for federal transportation and housing programs; \$50 billion for the Department of Energy; \$38.6 billion for the Department of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency; and \$37.5 billion for the Department of Justice.

Most of the spending would go to federal government departments, agencies, and programs that have no authorization or basis in the Constitution. Furthermore, this reckless spending is currently yielding high inflation and record increases in the national debt.

4. Ukraine Aid

The “Ukraine Security Supplemental Appropriations Act” (H.R. 8035) would provide \$60.8 billion for security assistance to Ukraine and replenishing U.S. stockpiles of military equipment already provided to Ukraine.

The United States should not interfere in the war in Ukraine by providing aid to one of the combatants. Congress has not declared war, as required by the U.S. Constitution to go to war, and foreign aid, not being one of the powers delegated to the federal government, is unconstitutional. Moreover, the United States should pursue a sound foreign policy of noninterventionism, based on U.S. national interests and the intent of the Founding Fathers.

5. Carbon Sequestration

H.R. 4824, the “Carbon Sequestration Collaboration Act,” would expand the Department of Energy’s carbon-storage program to include carbon-sequestration projects. It would also require the Energy Department to submit a report to Congress within two years “to identify and address scientific challenges for widespread adoption of terrestrial carbon sequestration.”

The federal government has no authority under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution to engage in energy or environmental policy. Furthermore, carbon sequestration is closely connected to the UN's Agenda 2030, which is antithetical to the Constitution and U.S. sovereignty.

6. Central Bank Digital Currency

H.R. 5403, the “CBDC Anti-Surveillance State Act,” would prohibit the Federal Reserve from issuing a central bank digital currency (CBDC) without congressional authorization. It would bar the Fed from offering services directly to individuals or maintaining accounts on their behalf. These restrictions would not apply to digital currencies that are “open, permissionless, and private.” The bill would also prohibit the Fed from testing a digital currency without congressional authorization.

Article I, Sections 8 and 10 of the Constitution state that only Congress has the power to “coin Money,” referring to precious metals such as gold and silver. Not only do the Federal Reserve and fiat money violate these provisions, but a digital currency can be easily tracked, allowing the government to monitor all financial transactions.