

# POLICY MATTERS

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**House Votes Down Goodlatte Immigration Bill; Vote on Compromise Bill Delayed Until Next Week.** Earlier today, the House voted down [H.R. 4760, the Securing America's Future Act of 2018](#), by a vote of [231 - 193](#). 41 Republicans joined 190 Democrats to defeat Chairman Goodlatte's bill which would have provided President Trump with funding for the border wall and offered only temporary relief for DACA recipients.

House Speaker Paul Ryan informed fellow lawmakers this evening that a vote on the "compromise" immigration proposal would be [delayed until next week](#). The [outlook for passage of the leadership compromise bill is grim](#) after Speaker Paul Ryan and House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows (R-NC) had an [intense discussion](#) on the House floor last night. House leadership whipped votes for the bill yesterday and sent undecided members to meet with President Trump, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen in an effort to get them to "yes." The delay comes as House Republicans look to modify the bill further in a bid to reach 2018 votes by next week.

**Executive Order Signed Ending Family Separations at U.S. - Mexico Border.** President Trump signed an [executive order](#) yesterday to [end family separations at the U.S.-Mexico border](#). The order keeps in place the zero tolerance policy and says families seeking asylum should be [detained together](#) when "appropriate and consistent with law and available resources." The order also directs Attorney General Jeff Sessions to try to modify an Obama-era court ruling that places a 20-day limit on how long the government can detain migrant children; the Trump administration would like to [detain families together for the duration of their immigration proceedings](#). The administration said the executive order is stopgap measure that could be fixed permanently if Congress passes legislation to overhaul the immigration system.

**White House Announces Government Reorganization Plan.** The White House announced a wide-ranging [government reorganization plan](#) with the release of a [132-page comprehensive outline of recommendations](#). The proposal recommends combining the Departments of Labor and Education to form the "Department of Education and the Workforce," with four subgroups which would [blend everything from enforcement to workforce development](#). The [reorganization would also rename](#) the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Health and Public Welfare, which would then oversee the food stamp program, moving it away from the Department of Agriculture. The fate of the restructuring plan is unclear as most of it requires Congressional approval.

**DOL Issues Final Rule on Association Health Plans.** The Department of Labor issued its [final rule](#) for association health plans (AHPs) on Tuesday. The new health insurance option would make it easier for small businesses to [band together to create health insurance plans](#) that don't include many Obamacare requirements, offering lower costs but fewer benefits. AHPs would cover those with pre-existing conditions and could be marketed across state lines to businesses in a common industry or they could be sold to self-employed people. In an op-ed ahead of issuance of the final rule, [Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta wrote](#), "Small businesses should face the same regulatory burden as large companies, if not a lighter one. AHPs will help level the playing field."

**DC Voters Approve Initiative 77, Eliminating Tipped Wage Credit for Restaurant Workers.** On Tuesday, voters in Washington, D.C., [approved a ballot initiative](#) that scraps the city's tipped wage credit and will require employers to pay tipped workers the standard minimum wage of \$15 / hour by 2025. Under current D.C. law, restaurant workers are paid an hourly minimum of \$3.33 and employers are required to make up the difference if tip money fails to bring worker's wages to the standard minimum of \$12.50 / hour. State officials in Michigan and New York are also considering ending their tipped-wage system this year, as is already law in seven states—California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Nevada, Montana and Minnesota. Despite the initiative's passage, opponents of the bill are [clamoring for the D.C. City Council and Mayor Muriel Bowser to step in](#) and overturn the initiative. Voters in Maine approved a ballot measure to eliminate the tipped wage in 2016, but the state legislature voided the results.

#### Midterm Election News:

- A Gallop poll released earlier this week found that the percentage of adults [satisfied with the direction of the country is at a 12-year high of 38%](#). The poll's results come amid positive economic news, shrinking unemployment, and President Trump's talks with North Korea. [On a partisan level](#), the poll said 68% of Republicans are satisfied with the direction of the country, while only 13% of Democrats agree.
- Former New York City billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg plans to spend [\\$80 million on political campaigns](#) this year, largely sending the money to help Democrats win control of the House. He has not chosen target races yet and will continue to support some Republicans at the state level. In his announcement, Bloomberg called Republican leaders "[feckless](#)" and added, "Republicans in Congress have had almost two years to prove they could govern responsibly. They failed." Some speculate this spend is a precursor to a [Bloomberg 2020](#) presidential run.

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