

No Budget? **NO PAY.**

What is the No Budget, No Pay Act?

NBNP says if Congress doesn't pass its budget and all its appropriations bills by October 1st every year, then Congress doesn't get paid. Retroactive pay isn't an option. Once pay is withheld, it's gone for good.

Why will the No Budget, No Pay Act work?

Congress will be forced to do its job. And we've already seen that it works. In 2013, Congress overwhelmingly passed a watered-down version of my No Budget, No Pay Act. That year, both the House and Senate passed individual budgets for the first time in four years. That wasn't a coincidence.

Why is the No Budget, No Pay Act needed?

Congress needs to get its act together. Passing a budget and appropriations bills on time are basic responsibilities. I'd much rather reward good behavior. But what I've found is when you threaten to punish Congress for bad behavior, Congress improves. We should pass my permanent No Budget, No Pay Act to hold Congress' feet to the fire.

What's the difference between the Cooper bill and the 2013 version of No Budget, No Pay signed into law?

It's similar but not exactly the same. The 2013 law was only a one-year fix and wasn't strong enough. This was a good first step, but it needs to be permanent. See chart for details.

Doesn't the U.S. Constitution require that Members of Congress be paid?

Yes. According to *Article I, Section 6* of the U.S. Constitution, "Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States."

Constitutional scholars say this language guarantees Congress is responsible for setting its own compensation to be paid out of the U.S. Treasury, not a salary that would be set by or paid by States. However, Congress has the jurisdiction and responsibility to establish the parameters of its compensation – including a period of time that pay would be suspended based on failure to do its job.

Why is the effective date February 1, 2019?

The 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits changes in compensation for Members of Congress from taking effect until after the next election. A February 1, 2019 effective date ensures that the transition from the 115th to the 116th Congress has taken place and the No Budget, No Pay Act will not violate the 27th Amendment.

DETAILS	COOPER BILL	2013 VERSION
<u>Both House AND Senate</u> Would Be Penalized (Not Just One Chamber)	✓	
<u>Mandates That Budget AND Appropriations Bills</u> Must Be Passed On Time (Not Just Budget)	✓	
<u>Mandates Conference Reports</u> So That Both Houses Agree To Same Budget AND Appropriations Bills	✓	
<u>Withholds Pay Permanently</u>	✓	
<u>Permanent, Not Just One Year</u>	✓	