

MEMO *Published May 18, 2026 · 5 minute read*

Talking About GOP's Immigration Blank Check

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Senate Republicans are preparing to use the reconciliation process to force through another massive infusion of taxpayer dollars for immigration enforcement, including \$70 billion for immigration enforcement. This bill comes after Republicans already handed these agencies an unprecedented enforcement windfall, with billions still unspent, and at a time when families are struggling with health care, groceries, housing, gas, and childcare. Rather than using Congress's leverage to demand basic guardrails, accountability, and oversight for federal agents operating in American communities, Republicans are choosing to bankroll Trump's deportation agenda with no meaningful strings attached.

Talking Points

- Republicans had a choice. They could have helped families afford health care, groceries, housing, and child care. They could have protected rural hospitals. They could have demanded basic guardrails for immigration enforcement.
- Instead, they chose \$1 billion for Trump's ballroom and \$70 billion for immigration enforcement.
- This is not about putting America first. It is about putting Trump first.
- It is a blank check for chaos, funded by American families.

Republicans Are Choosing Trump's Pet Projects Over Working Families

- Republicans keep telling working families that there is no money: no money to protect rural hospitals, no money to help families afford groceries, no money to stop ACA premiums from more than doubling.
- But when Donald Trump asks for \$1 billion for his ballroom and \$70 billion for ICE and CBP—two agencies that have already received hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars—Republicans find the money overnight.
- That choice is at the center of this bill: less help for families, more money for Trump's deportation agenda.
- In 2022, Democrats used the reconciliation process to lower prescription drug costs and invest in clean energy. Republicans are using reconciliation to bankroll Trump's priorities while families struggle with health care, groceries, gas, rent, and child care.
- **Republicans' message to American families is clear: there is no money when you need help, but there is always money when Donald Trump wants more power, more agents, more raids, and more spectacle.**

This is a \$70 Billion Blank Check

- ICE and CBP already received an unprecedented windfall of taxpayer funds last year. An estimated \$150 billion remains unspent.
- What Republicans are voting for now is not something these agencies need. It is an excessive blank check.
- Trump's OBBBA already made ICE the highest-funded law enforcement agency in the country. Now—for reasons that are beyond understanding—Republicans are going back for overkill.
- **This bill would cost \$530 per American household.** Republicans are asking families already squeezed by higher costs to bankroll another massive immigration enforcement slush fund.

Republicans Are Bypassing Oversight Instead of Demanding Guardrails

- Republicans are trying to fund ICE and Border Patrol for three years, effectively giving up Congress's last meaningful tool to check this administration's mass deportation agenda.
- A three-year blank check is an abdication of governance.
- Instead of using Congress's leverage to impose standards, Republicans are bypassing the normal appropriations process to avoid them.
- They are repeating the exact formula that helped create this mess: more money, less oversight, and less accountability.
- By using reconciliation, Republicans are weakening Congress's own role in overseeing federal law enforcement and leaving little room to revisit the funds or impose reforms for the next three years.

No Guardrails Means More Abuse in American Communities

- Under President Trump, US citizens have been shot, detained, assaulted, and killed during immigration enforcement operations.
- **At a moment when Congress should be demanding stronger training standards, reporting requirements, visible identification, and real accountability, Republicans are giving up their leverage.**
- There are no meaningful guardrails in this bill. No guarantee of body cameras. No real accountability. No serious oversight of masked agents operating in American communities.

- This is not law and order. This is Congress writing a permission slip for abuse.
- Just last week, ICE arrested a 20-year-old US citizen in the Bronx while DHS continues denying that US citizens are being detained by ICE and CBP. Expanding funding without reform will only allow this behavior to grow.

The Tradeoffs Are Staggering

- Another \$70 billion could transform communities if invested in economic security, health care, education, or public safety. Republicans are choosing not to make those investments.
- That same funding could support student higher education grants for five years, expand preschool development grants for decades, or sustain rural health programs for generations.
- At a time when rural hospitals—many in Republican districts—are under threat because of Republican health care cuts, the GOP is prioritizing an unprecedented expansion of immigration enforcement over investments that would directly improve Americans' daily lives.
- This is a massive cash grab of taxpayer dollars that could help address the affordability crisis Trump has made worse. Instead, it is being used to fund aggressive enforcement tactics with little oversight or accountability.

Republicans Are Abusing the Reconciliation Process

- Rather than moderating their unpopular policies, Republicans are relying on reconciliation to force through Trump's agenda without normal checks that should apply to law enforcement funding.
- Trump set a deadline for this bill to reach his desk, and Republicans appear determined to meet it at any cost.
- That tells you everything: **the GOP values its standing with Trump more than the economic security, public safety, and constitutional rights of the American people.**

