

CONGRESS RETURNS, WAR TALKS, FUNDING FOR FY 2027



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Congress returns next week and will continue to work on the agenda of President Trump. Congress will start to hold hearings on the president's budget request for the new fiscal year that begins on Oct. 1.

There is usually more Washington news when the Congress is in session, meaning that there are 435 House members and 100 Senators ready to find a microphone and make news. The news cycles in the coming week are likely to be dominated by efforts to wrap up negotiations with Iran and secure an extension of the ceasefire. Optimistic reports have been coming from the White House, but no final agreement has been signed by either side.

Reports continue that the two sides are close to approving an agreement.

The defeat of senior Texas Republican John Cornyn may increase the pressure on the president's agenda as Cornyn, who was defeated by a Trump-backed candidate, no longer needs to worry about the repercussions of going against the president. Additionally, with Louisiana Senator Bill Cassidy and several retiring Senators, the president may face more opposition from the Republican-controlled Senate.

The coming week will see several cabinet members appear before Congressional committees to argue in favor of their department's budgets. One of the most contentious will be the Defense Department budget at a record setting \$1.5 trillion. The Department needs to resupply weapons and equipment that have been lost during the war with Iran.

Congress may also turn to the special fund the president has requested for those arrested during Jan. 6, 2021. There has been some resistance, but the president has demonstrated his ability to get his agenda through Congress.

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