

From: "Rep. Bradley Byrne" <Congressman.Byrne@mail.house.gov>

Date: January 8, 2017 at 4:59:34 PM CST

Subject: What The House Did Last Week

News from Representative Bradley Byrne

BRADLEY BYRNE

REPRESENTING THE 1ST DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

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Dear William,

The new 115th Congress kicked off on Tuesday, and we really hit the ground running by passing bills designed to roll back costly government regulations and starting work on a bill to repeal Obamacare. I have identified five areas where I think you will most likely see Congress take action.

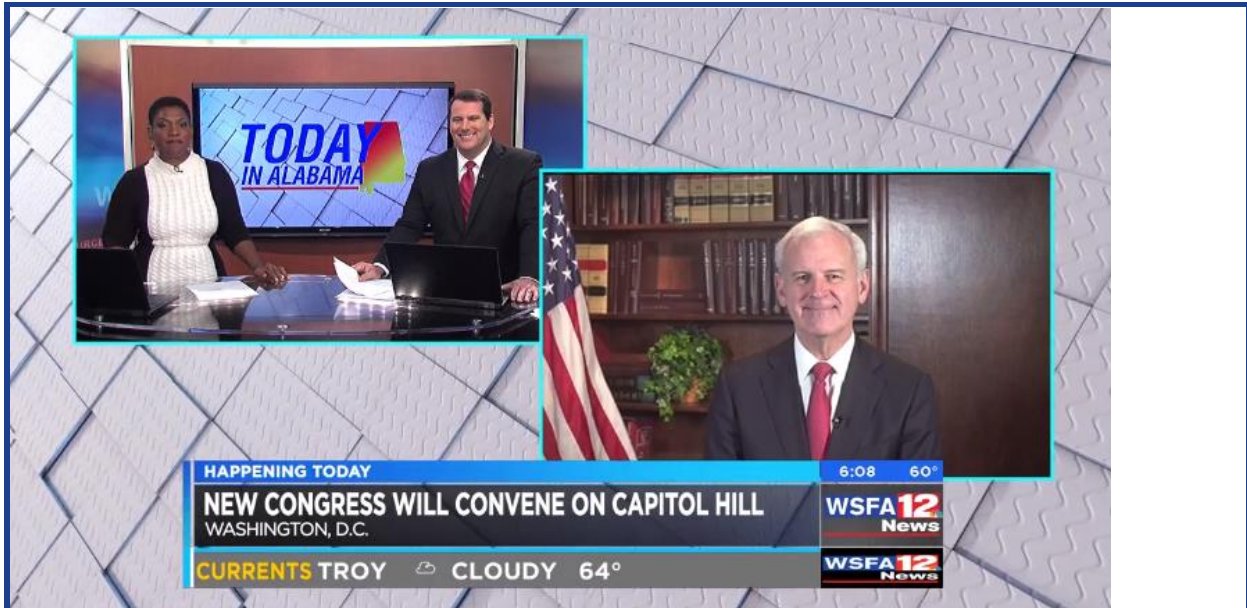
1. Health Care Relief – Far too many American families are suffering under the ill-conceived Affordable Care Act. A top priority must be to repeal this disastrous law and begin moving forward with health care reforms that lower costs, boost competition, and spur innovation. The work has already started on a repeal bill, and I look forward to continuing to support those efforts.

2. A Stronger Military – Under President Obama, our military has taken a hit and that trend must be reversed. Despite these funding cuts, we continue to ask our military men and women to do more and more. Under President-elect Trump, I am hopeful we will grow our military in a way that helps project peace through strength. This includes building up our Navy's fleet with an ultimate goal of at least 350 ships.



3. Regulatory Reform – Unnecessary and costly government regulations are making it harder for businesses to grow, resulting in higher costs for American consumers. These regulations impact everything from energy to agriculture to labor laws. Just last week alone, the House passed two important regulatory reform bills: the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act and the Midnight Rules Relief Act.

4. Immigration Enforcement – Over the last eight years, the Obama Administration has consistently turned a blind eye to our nation’s immigration laws. Instead of enforcing the laws on the books, they have looked for ways around the law. Well, that will change come January 20th. Conversations are already ongoing regarding a plan to boost border security.



I appeared on six Alabama television stations to talk about issues I expect Congress will address in the new year. Take a minute to watch [this interview from WSFA](#) in Montgomery.

5. A Simpler Tax Code –The current tax code is far too complicated and confusing, and I have long been an advocate for wholesale tax reform that lowers rates for American families. Tax reform should make completing your taxes as simple as filling out a postcard sized form. We should also bring down our corporate tax rates, which are among the highest in the world in an effort to spur job creation and keep businesses in the United States. Tax reform is a key part of our efforts to grow the economy.

These are just four areas that deserve attention as we head into the new Congress and the Trump Administration. I will continue to keep you posted as we consider legislation.

Standing with Israel

In addition to the other bills passed last week, the House also passed an important bill to make clear our bipartisan support for Israel. 109 Democrats joined with 233 Republicans to pass the bill with over 340 votes.

There is no greater friend to the United States than Israel. Israel is a beacon of hope in a very dangerous part of the world. They are an important economic and military partner of the United States, and they play a critical role when it comes to

fighting radical Islamic terrorism.



Click the [video](#) above to watch my speech in support of our pro-Israel bill.

Given the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship, I was deeply disappointed to see the United Nations recently pass a flawed, anti-Israel resolution that will only make it more difficult to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Even more disappointing was the fact the United States just stood by and did nothing as it happened. Instead of vetoing the resolution, the U.S. Ambassador “abstained” from voting at all.

In other words, the United States turned our back and looked the other way as the UN passed a flawed resolution attacking Israel. This represents a dangerous break in a long-standing and bipartisan policy to protect our sole democratic ally in the region from one-sided resolutions at the UN.

And, let’s be clear: this resolution does absolutely nothing to make peace more likely in the region. Instead, it muddies the water and only further complicates what is already a very complex issue.

No solution to the ongoing problems with Israel and the Palestinian Authority is going to come from an international body, like the United Nations, telling them what to do. Any real solution must come through negotiations between the involved parties.

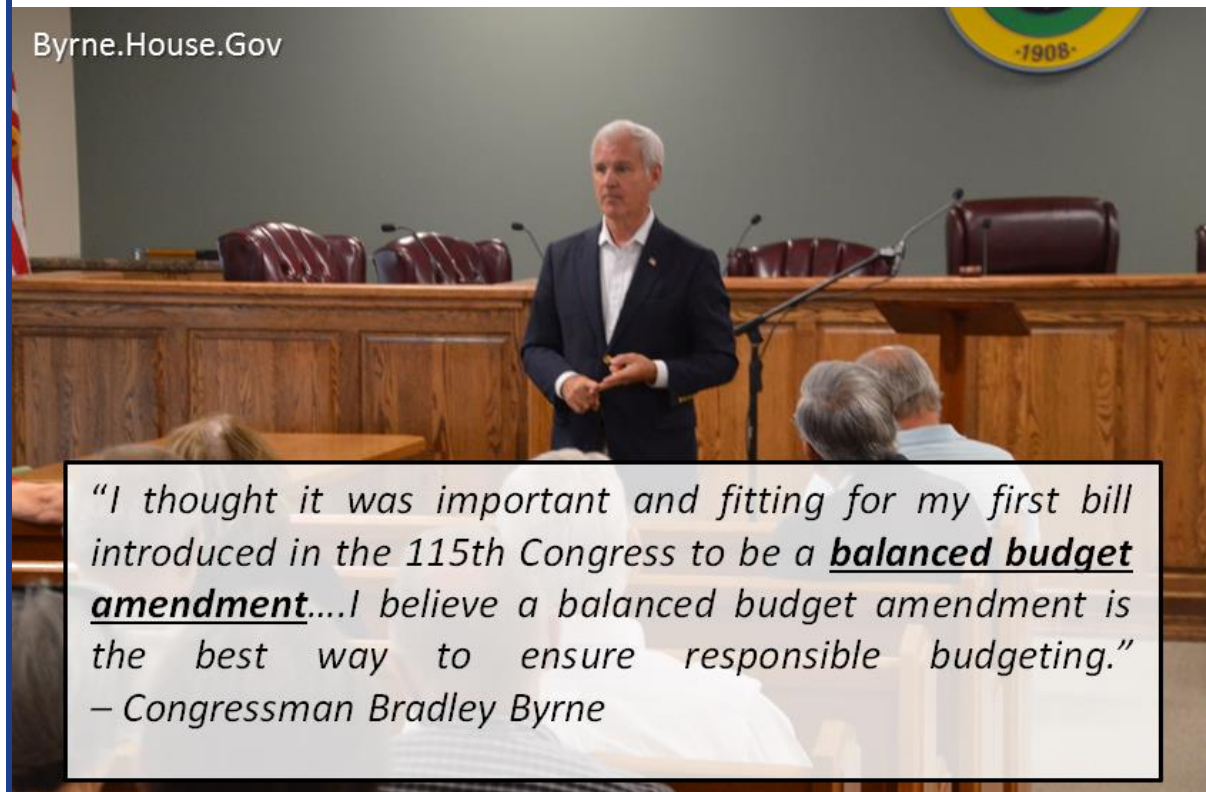
Honestly, given the many blunders from the Obama Administration on the world stage, I guess this most recent action shouldn't be all that surprising. But this action is one of the most irresponsible acts ever by an outgoing President. It will be a dark stain on an already disastrous legacy.

By abstaining and allowing this resolution to pass, the Obama Administration has upset decades of bipartisan policy as it relates to Israel and put a pathway to peace even further out of reach.

Now is the time to stand up for Israel, not turn away from them. It is my hope and my belief, that under President-elect Trump, the United States will once again stand arm in arm with Israel, and this bill was an important step in that direction.

A Balanced Budget

On Wednesday, I introduced my first bill of the 115th Congress: a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. I thought it was important and fitting for my first bill introduced in the 115th Congress to be a balanced budget amendment. With the national debt over \$19 trillion dollars, it is no secret the federal government has serious spending issues, and I believe a balanced budget amendment is the best way to ensure responsible budgeting.



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Requiring balanced budgets is not a far flung idea. Already, most states are required to have a balanced budget, and families and small businesses face the challenge of living within their means every single day. The federal government should have to play by the same rules in order to restore fiscal sanity in Washington.

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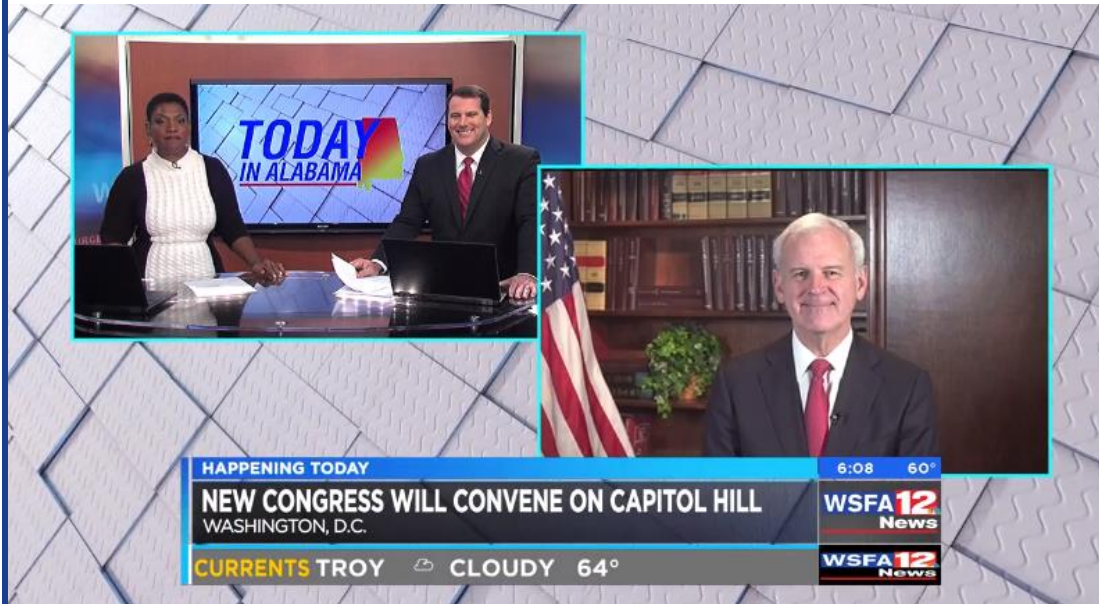
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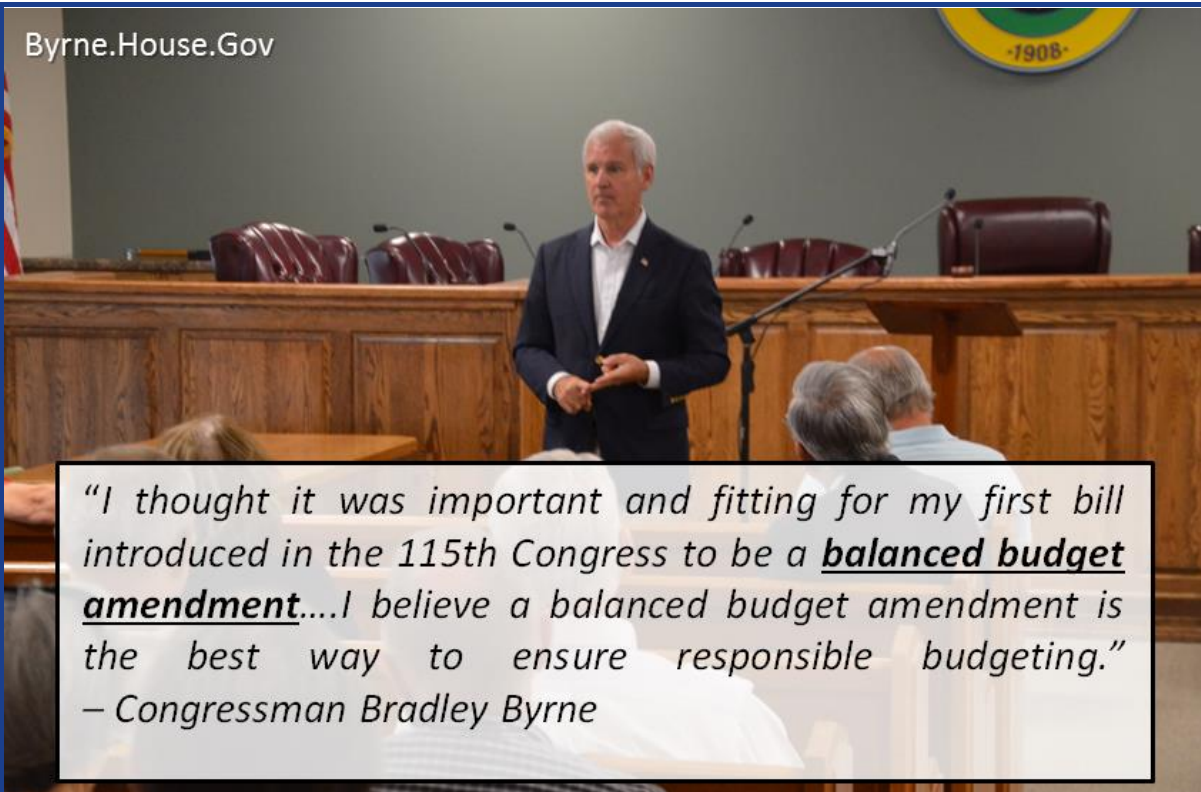
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Byrne.House.Gov

A photograph of Congressman Bradley Byrne speaking at a podium in a hearing room. He is wearing a dark suit and a white shirt. The room has wood-paneled walls and several microphones. A circular logo with the year '1908' is visible on the wall behind him.

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