News



U.S. House Rules Committee meets after the Senate passed President Donald Trump's sweeping spending and tax bill, on Capitol Hill in Washington, July 1, 2025. After House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., set a new House floor speech record in remarks objecting to GOP-backing of One Big Beautiful Bill Act July 3, 2025, the House voted on the measure. (OSV News/Reuters/Elizabeth Frantz)

Kate Scanlon

View Author Profile

OSV News

View Author Profile

Join the Conversation

Send your thoughts to *Letters to the Editor*. Learn more

Washington — July 3, 2025
Share on BlueskyShare on FacebookShare on TwitterEmail to a friendPrint

The U.S. House on July 3 approved the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which would enact key provisions of President Donald Trump's legislative agenda on taxes and immigration, meaning the legislation will reach the president's desk for his signature.

The Senate approved the reconciliation package on July 1, after Trump urged them to do so by Independence Day, July 4.

Catholic leaders have alternately praised and criticized various provisions in the legislation. But in a July 1 action alert emailed to its supporters, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops ultimately said the bill "currently fails the poorest families."

Only two Republicans — Reps. Thomas Massie, Ky., and Brian Fitzpatrick, Pa. — voted against the measure. Massie cited the bill's projected increase to the national debt, while Fitzpatrick, who is Catholic, cited the way Medicaid cuts would impact his district.

The bill's passage came after House Democrats sought to defeat Trump's signature piece of legislation, including a record-breaking floor speech by House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y.

Archbishop Timothy Broglio, bishops' conference president and head of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, said in a July 3 statement after the vote that he and the bishops had "repeatedly and consistently" urged lawmakers to make sure the bill would help families in need and "to change course" on aspects "that fail the poor and vulnerable."

"The final version of the bill includes unconscionable cuts to healthcare and food assistance, tax cuts that increase inequality, immigration provisions that harm families and children, and cuts to programs that protect God's creation," Broglio said. "The bill, as passed, will cause the greatest harm to those who are especially

vulnerable in our society. As its provisions go into effect, people will lose access to healthcare and struggle to buy groceries, family members will be separated, and vulnerable communities will be less prepared to cope with environmental impacts of pollution and extreme weather."

The conference president said, "More must be done to prevent these devastating effects."

He noted the church's own teaching on human dignity and the common good compels it "to redouble our efforts and offer concrete help to those who will be in greater need and continue to advocate for legislative efforts that will provide better possibilities in the future for those in need."



U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., speaks with other members of the House July 3, 2025, on Capitol Hill in Washington after final passage of U.S. President Donald Trump's sweeping spending and tax bill. (OSV News/Reuters/Jonathan Ernst)

House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., said at a press conference following the vote that Republicans "did not want to waste that opportunity" of having control of both chambers of Congress and the White House to enact Trump's agenda.

"A lot of the estimations about what this legislation would do in a negative manner to communities in my state or any other are far overblown," Johnson said when asked about criticism of the bill from faith groups in his state. "I can tell you that this bill is going to be a great thing for everybody around the country, my constituents, especially. What's good for Louisiana is good for America."

During his eight hour and 44 minute floor speech — part of a House procedure known as the "magic minute" where members in leadership can speak for as long as they please during "one minute" speeches without subtracting the extra time from the debate, Jeffries said, "I rise today in strong opposition to Donald Trump's disgusting abomination."

Jeffries said the legislation "guts Medicaid, rips food from the mouths of children, seniors and veterans, and rewards billionaires with massive tax breaks."

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated nearly 12 million people will lose health coverage under the legislation.

Ingrid Delgado, national director of public policy and advocacy for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA, told OSV News, "Such large cuts to the social safety net are really concerning, with how it'll impact our most marginalized."

"The Catholic Church approaches both access to food and health care as fundamental human rights," Delgado said. "And so the people who access SNAP in our country and the people who access Medicaid are our most marginalized and poorest brothers and sisters."

Delgado said cuts to those programs could lead to "more people who are uninsured, who don't have food on their tables, and more people facing the risk of homelessness."

The legislation will significantly increase funds for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE, and Customs and Border Patrol as the Trump administration seeks to implement its hardline immigration policies, including the mass deportation of immigrants lacking legal authorization to live and work in the

U.S. The bill authorized about $150 billion in new spending for immigration and border enforcement.

Advertisement

Prior to the bill's passage, Vice President JD Vance touted immigration enforcement as the key reason he thought Congressional Republicans should approve the bill.

Joan Neal, interim executive director of Network, a Catholic social justice lobby, said in a statement, "The damage done by this cruel, un-American bill will be devastating, intergenerational, and require decades-long reform to repair."

"People will die if the country robs millions of us of access to food and health care, creates even more obscene wealth inequality, and funds increasing detention, deportation, and ICE raids. The United States will be unrecognizable, and it will take a very long time to rebuild," Neal said. "This is a moral failure for the lawmakers who passed it and a betrayal of the trust of their constituents who elected them to look after their interests. They should be ashamed of themselves."

But others celebrated a provision in the legislation that would strip funds from Planned Parenthood for only one year — down from an original proposal of 10 years — with funding resumed thereafter.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, told OSV News the day before the House vote, "This is the possible culminating point of the first year where federal taxpayers are not forced to fund Big Abortion and that would be huge."

Dannenfelser said that one year was the most amount of time they could achieve through the bill under Senate rules, which limit policy changes in reconciliation legislation.

"One year is a beginning, and it sets a new precedent, which is exactly what we want," she said.

In a fundraising pitch on its website, Planned Parenthood said the impact of the legislation "will be immediate and devastating."

"As many as 200 Planned Parenthood health centers are at risk of shutting down," they said.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated the legislation would increase the deficit by nearly $3.3 trillion from 2025 to 2034. The U.S. national debt currently stands at $36.2 trillion, and has downstream impacts on the rest of society.

A June 26 letter to senators from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops praised the provision that would strip funds from Planned Parenthood while opposing others that they said would raise taxes "on the working poor while simultaneously giving large tax cuts to the wealthiest."

The letter added, "Because of this, millions of poor families will not be able to afford life-saving healthcare and will struggle to buy food for their children. Some rural hospitals will likely close." The bishops called these provisions "unconscionable and unacceptable."

The same day, 20 U.S. Catholic bishops signed onto an interfaith effort urging the Senate to reject the bill, citing cuts to nutrition assistance and Medicaid, and its impact on immigrants among other concerns, calling it "draconian" and a "moral failure."

Trump is expected to sign the bill on July 4.

Related: Editorial: Trump's bill, set to be signed on July 4th, shows democracy in decay

This article has been updated with additional details and reaction.