

Trump's Big Beautiful Billionaires Bill

By Don Bryant, President, CPA

The Trump Administration's "Big Beautiful" billionaires' bill, HR 1, increases outlays to the Pentagon and to the Department of Homeland Security, while defunding housing and food assistance and Medicaid for the working class and the poor. When we hear House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mike Rogers, R-Ala., say, "We can't afford to wait any longer to begin rebuilding our military capacity..." it makes us wonder what the hell the war department did with the trillion dollars we gave them in the last two fiscal years. Several of the Trump administration's priorities will be bolstered with an additional \$150 Billion. This includes a plan for a massive air defense system, the "Golden Dome," at \$25 billion. This is bound to begin a new arms race and will likely prove as [unreliable as Israel's missile defense](#) was in deflecting Iranian missiles fired in response to Israeli attacks in June 2025.

Fraud and abuse will likely increase. The undemocratic reconciliation process of congressional budgeting allows the U.S. Senate to bypass the normal rules that require at least 60 votes to pass legislation. As a result, only a simple majority vote is needed. By July 3, 2025, the "big beautiful" billionaire's bill/HR 1 passed the Senate and the House with the slimmest of majorities. In the Senate, three Republicans joined the Democrats and Independents to vote against the bill with Vice President Vance casting a tie-breaker vote. In the House, it passed by four votes with two Republicans dissenting with the Democrats. The autocratic reconciliation process excludes directives about how the funds must be used, which prevents members of Congress from conducting meaningful oversight.

Border and immigration enforcement will receive billions of dollars and will impose many mandatory and cost-prohibitive fees on certain immigration service applications. The Department of Homeland Security will receive \$170.7 billion for border and immigration enforcement. These funds will be distributed between Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the Department of Defense (DOD) for U.S. troops on the southern border.

HR 1 dedicates \$45 billion for new immigration detention facilities, including family detention, representing [a 308 per cent increase](#) over ICE's FY 2024 detention budget. Based on ICE's calculations, this will allow an increase of at least 116,000 beds, with \$6 billion per year spent on contracting with existing detention centers and \$8 billion per year spent on building and operating new temporary detention camps with tents and trailers, primarily.

A most disturbing aspect in the bill removes legal protections for children by overriding provisions in [the Flores agreement](#) that limit the time minors can be detained. The courts will decide whether the bill's language overrules this agreement.

The big billionaires' bill allocates \$29.9 billion for ICE's enforcement and deportation operations, including funding to hire an additional 10,000 ICE officers in five years and to streamline deportation. It also funds new ICE attorneys to represent the government in immigration court. The bill will limit the number of immigration judges to 800, which is totally inadequate and will decrease immigration services even more. Application fees for asylum and Temporary Protective Status will be increased putting the burden of the backlogged immigration system on the applicants. Mandatory

and embedded fee increases in the application process can effectively restrict those unable to afford them.

Additionally, H.R. 1 includes at least \$14 billion for states to support border-related immigration enforcement; \$450 million for Operation Stonegarden, a grant program that provides funding to state, local, and tribal police to collaborate with CPB; provides \$10 billion for a “State Border Security Reinforcement Fund” for constructing border barriers and apprehending migrants; \$3.5 billion for reimbursements to state or local governments for costs related to immigration-related enforcement, detention, and criminal prosecutions. Another \$10 billion will finance the Border Enforcement Fund H.R. to reimburse DHS for costs related to border security.

With our first official trillion-dollar war budget and a souped-up police state apparatus, we must support our immigrant siblings, boycott big billionaire goods and services, strategize how to rebuild our broken democracy, unite against war, embrace nonviolence, and build community empowerment.