

Memorandum

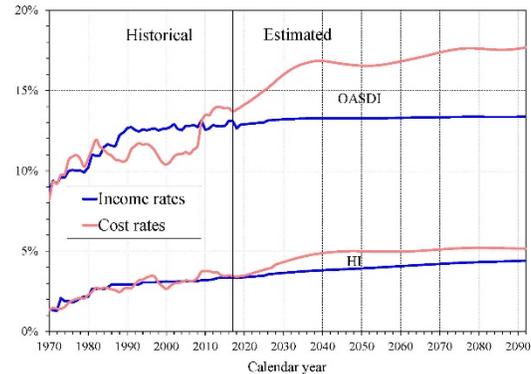
To: [District 32 Republican Club](#)  
Re: Legislation & Politics  
From: Chuck Serio, Legislative Committee Chairman  
Date: September 4, 2018



**S.3345 - A bill to provide paid parental leave benefits to parents following the birth or adoption of a child.**

Ivanka Trump promoted this program when she spoke at the Republican National Convention in 2016.

The bill’s summary claims that a parent who takes 8 weeks of paid leave, after the birth or adoption of a child, at over 70 percent of their wages would then delay Social Security retirement benefits by 3 to 6 months.<sup>1</sup> Marco Rubio (R-FL) has introduced it in the Senate; it has no cosponsors. Representative Ann Wagner (R-MO) has promised to introduce it in the House.<sup>2</sup> This chart, from the [summary of the report](#) of the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees indicate that the cost of the already authorized benefits are already exceeding the income from the payroll taxes and that deficit will grow in succeeding years. I have seen no proposals to address the existing problems that plague these federal programs, for which there is no constitutional authorization in the first place.



**S.Amdt.3402 — to S.Amdt.3399 — To prohibit the use of funds to carry out the District of Columbia's health insurance individual mandate**

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) proposed this amendment to an amendment to H.R. 6147 - Summary General Government Appropriations Act in order to prohibit the District of Columbia’s continuation of the Affordable Care Act’s individual mandate. The House had already passed a measure to stop the D.C. mandate. According to [The Federalist](#), “The provisions buried in that budget bill would not only reimpose the health insurance mandate penalty within the District of Columbia that Congress set to zero beginning in January, but would go further, by allowing DC authorities to place liens on, seize, and sell the property of individuals who cannot afford to pay the mandate tax.”<sup>3</sup> A motion to table was used to defeat the amendment. The motion to table was passed ([54-44](#)). Both of Maryland’s Senators voted to reimpose the

<sup>1</sup> Daniel Horowitz, *Conservative Review*, August 3, 2018

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Christopher Jacobs, *The Federalist*, July 17, 2018

mandate tax on the residents of D.C. They were joined by all of the rest of the Democrats and Republicans Cassidy (R-LA), Collins (R-ME), Hatch (R-UT), Murkowski (R-AK), and Shelby (R-AL)

### **PN1808 — Britt Cagle Grant— The Judiciary**

President Trump’s nominee, Britt Cagle Grant, to be a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit was confirmed on July 31, 2018 by a vote in the Senate of [\(52-46\)](#). This nomination was opposed by People for the [Un]American Way [\(PFAW\)](#) – that’s a positive indication. Their problems with her are centered around their fear that she may not be able to find the constitutional right to abortion in the Constitution.<sup>4</sup> Britt Grant is a member of the Federalist Society and graduated *summa cum laude* from Wake Forest University and graduated with distinction from Stanford Law School.<sup>5</sup>

Maryland’s Senators, Cardin and Van Hollen joined with 44 other Democrats voting against confirmation. Three Democrats, Heitkamp (D-ND), Manchin (D-WV), and Tester (D-MT) voted for confirmation. The fact that all three of them are facing serious challenges for reelection in November may have motivated them to abandon the “resistance” in this case.

### **S.Amdt.3967 to S.Amdt.3695 (defund Planned Parenthood)**

Senator Rand Paul (R-TN) proposed an amendment to an amendment to an appropriations bill, H.R. 6157. His amendment prohibited all federal funding of Planned Parenthood.<sup>6</sup> The amendment needed sixty votes to pass. It was defeated [\(45-48\)](#). Two Republicans, Collins of Maine and Murkowski of Alaska, joined Maryland’s Cardin and Van Hollen and the rest of the Democrats to defeat the amendment. Senators Collins and Murkowski are also among those who in the recent past voted against past voted against prohibiting abortions after 20 weeks gestation and opposed even the weakest repeal of the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare).<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Marge Baker, *People for the American Way*, May 22, 2018

<sup>5</sup> Daniel B. Tilley, *The Vetting Room*, May 15, 2018

<sup>6</sup> Terence P. Jeffrey, *CNS News*, August 24, 2018

<sup>7</sup> Nate Madden, *Conservative Review*, August 24, 2018