



**Town Hall with  
Congressman  
Mark DeSaulnier**

**February 7, 2026**

# House Ethics: Congressional vs. Campaign Activity

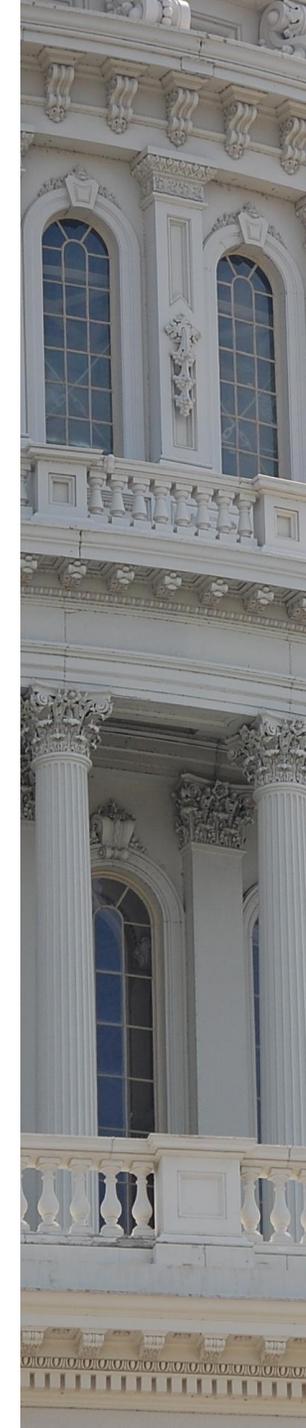
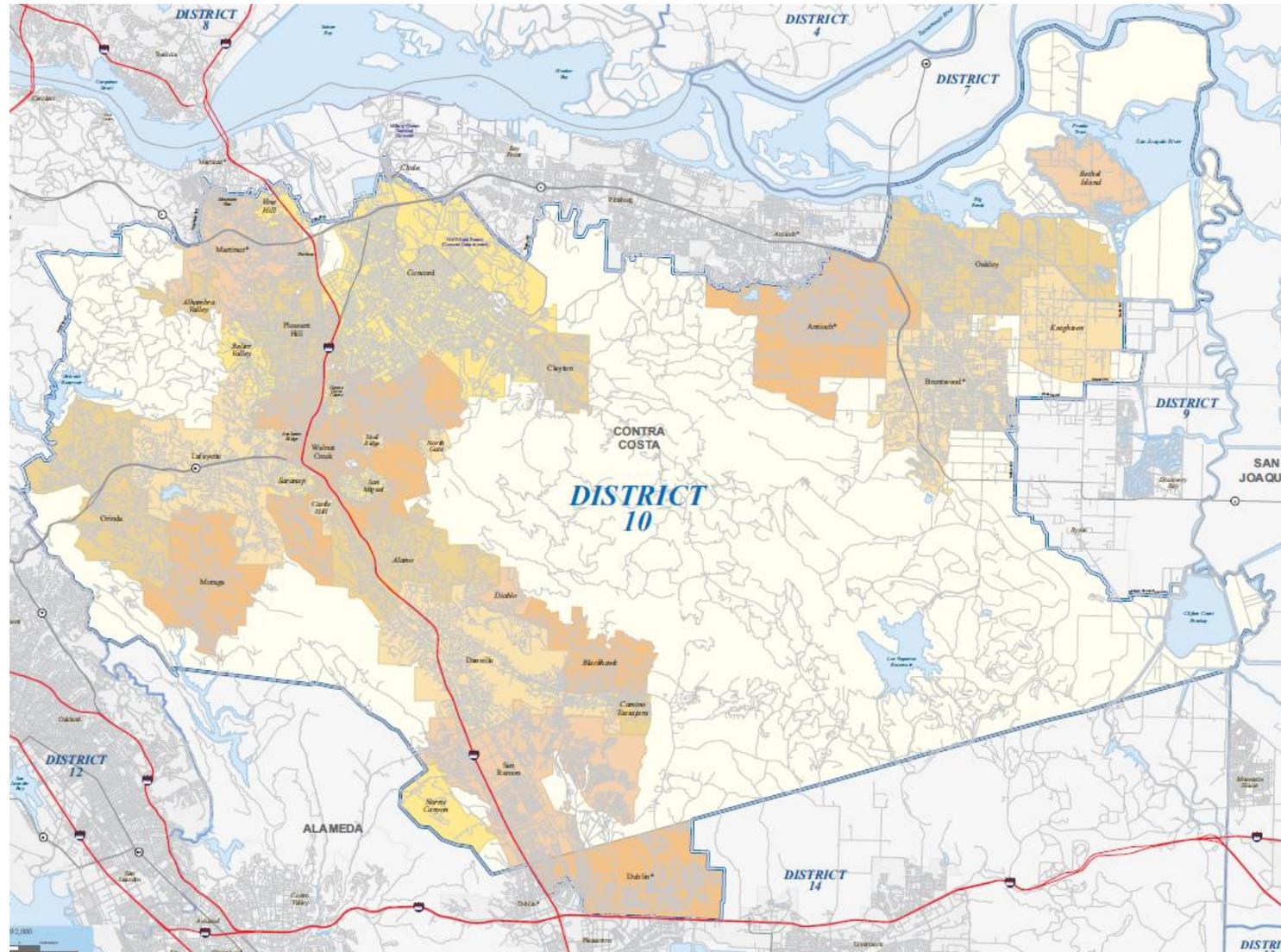
- Members of Congress are governed by the House Code of Official Conduct, which includes standards for whether, how, when, and where Members may engage in campaign activity.
  - This town hall is being hosted in my official capacity as Representative for California's 10<sup>th</sup> District, not as a candidate in a campaign. Therefore, House Rules prevent me from:
    - Solicitating, receiving, and accepting campaign contributions.
    - Making political endorsements.
    - Directing attendees to websites, resources, or events created or operated by a campaign or any campaign-related entity, including political parties and campaign committees.

You can learn more about the House Code of Official Conduct and how it relates to this event here:



# California's 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

CA-10 includes most of Contra Costa and part of Alameda County



# Committees and Caucuses

- **Ethics Committee – Ranking Member**
- **Education & Workforce Committee**
  - **Ranking Member of the Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee**
  - **Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development**
- **Transportation & Infrastructure Committee**
  - **Subcommittees on Highways, Aviation, Water Resources and Environment, and Railroads**
- **Member of several important and influential caucuses, including:**
  - **Congressional Progressive Caucus**
  - **Bipartisan Cancer Survivors Caucus – Co-Chair**
  - **Urban Regional Studies Caucus – Co-Chair**
  - **Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition**
    - **Climate Jobs Task Force – Co-Chair**
  - **Gun Violence Prevention Task Force**



2025  
In  
Review

*Assisted*  
**1,491**  
*Constituents*

*Hosted*  
**23**  
*Town Halls*

*Sponsored*  
**228**  
*Bills*

*Town Hall*  
**5,735**  
*Attendees*

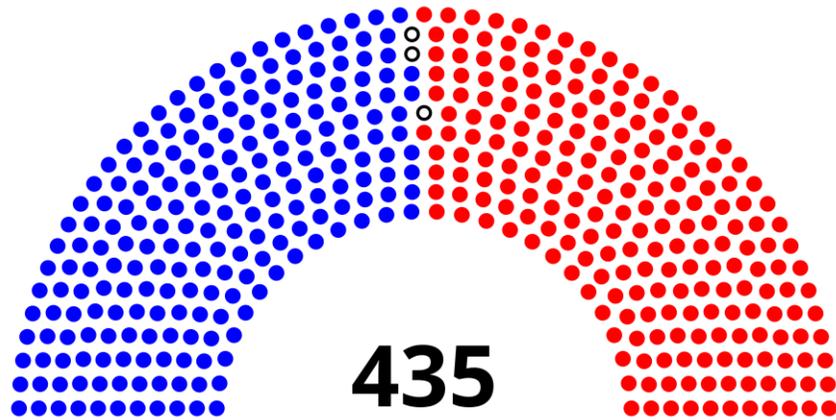
*Responded to*  
**172,672**  
*Constituent  
Inquiries*

*Authored*  
**11**  
*Bills*

# Republicans Hold Majorities in Both Chambers of Congress

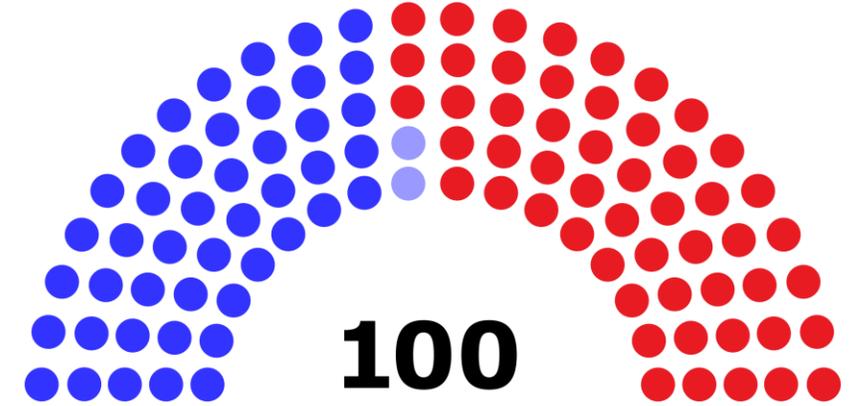
U.S. House

218 **Republicans**, 214 **Democrats**, and 3 vacancies (CA-01, GA-14, and NJ-11)



U.S. Senate

53 **Republicans**, 45 **Democrats**, and two **Independents**



Being in the minority means Democrats do not have the power to decide which bills are voted on or debated, or to call hearings.

*But that doesn't mean we aren't taking action.*

# Federal Funding Update

- **Legislation to fund almost all federal agencies and programs for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026 has been signed into law.**
- **The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is currently operating under temporary stopgap funding until next Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. DHS agencies include:**
  - **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)**
  - **Customs and Border Protection (CBP)**
  - **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**
  - **Coast Guard**
  - **Transportation Security Administration**



# Federal Funding Update (cont.)

- House and Senate Democrats are demanding strict limits on President Trump's immigration crackdown to rein in ICE and end the violence.
- Specific demands include:
  - Banning immigration enforcement officers from wearing face masks.
  - Requiring body cameras and visible identification.
  - Ending roving patrols and requiring judicial warrants for searches.
  - Strong use-of-force standards and accountability for violators.
  - Independent investigations into killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti.



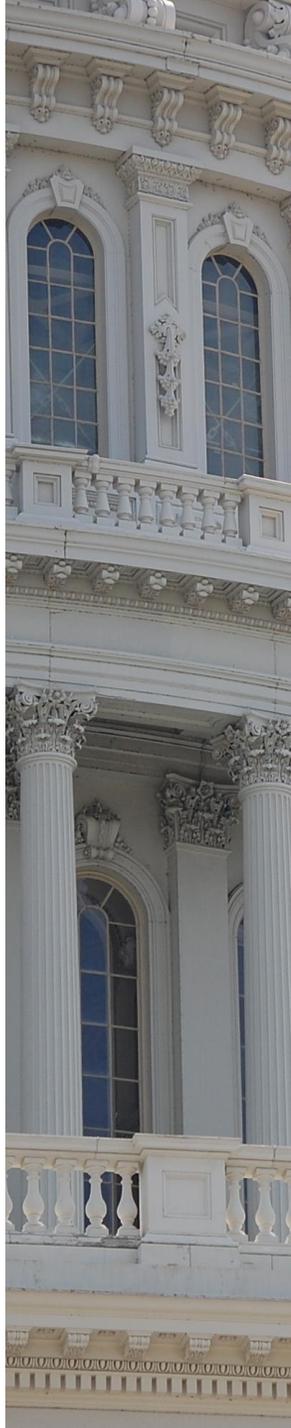
# Federal Funding Update (cont.)

- **Congressman DeSaulnier opposed both attempts this year to give ICE any additional funding and has not voted to give a single penny more to ICE since Trump took office.**
- **Thanks to the Big Ugly Bill, ICE currently has more funds than any other federal law enforcement agency and many of the world's militaries.**
- **I believe that ICE is too lawless and violent to be reformed and have called for it to be abolished.**
  - **We need to find a way to enforce our immigration laws in adherence with the Constitution and basic humanity.**



# The Challenge of Immigration Reform

- Immigration reform efforts today are stalled thanks to the efforts President Trump and senior staff in his Administration, including Stephen Miller.
- Trump, Miller, and others would rather use immigration as a talking point against Democratic policies and immigrants than advance bipartisan legislation to address the issues in our system.



# Attempts at Immigration Reform

It doesn't have to be this way. In the past, Democrats and Republicans have tried to work together on immigration reform:

- In 2013, a bipartisan group of U.S. Senators, referred to as the Gang of Eight, came up with a proposal that would have increased border security and provided a pathway to legal status for undocumented immigrants. The bill passed the Senate but was never considered in the House.
- In 2018, Reps. Pete Aguilar (D-CA) and Will Hurd (R-TX) introduced a bipartisan bill to provide a pathway to permanent legal status for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.
- In 2024, a bipartisan group of U.S. Senators, led by Sen. James Lankford (R-OK), developed a bill to address border security. After criticism from then-candidate Trump, the deal fell apart.



# Community Project Funding

- This year, Congressman DeSaulnier secured over \$14 million in federal funding for projects in the district, including:
  - Over \$2.8 million for Antioch, Danville, and Oakley to install smart traffic signal technology as part of the Contra Costa-wide effort to fight congestion.
  - Over \$1.9 million for the Contra Costa Fire Protection District to upgrade and repair infrastructure used for first responder communication.
  - \$850,000 for the East Bay Regional Park District to make improvements that will allow the Thurgood Marshall Regional Park to be opened up to the public.
  - \$500,000 to help the Contra Costa District Attorney's office create a retail theft prosecution unit.

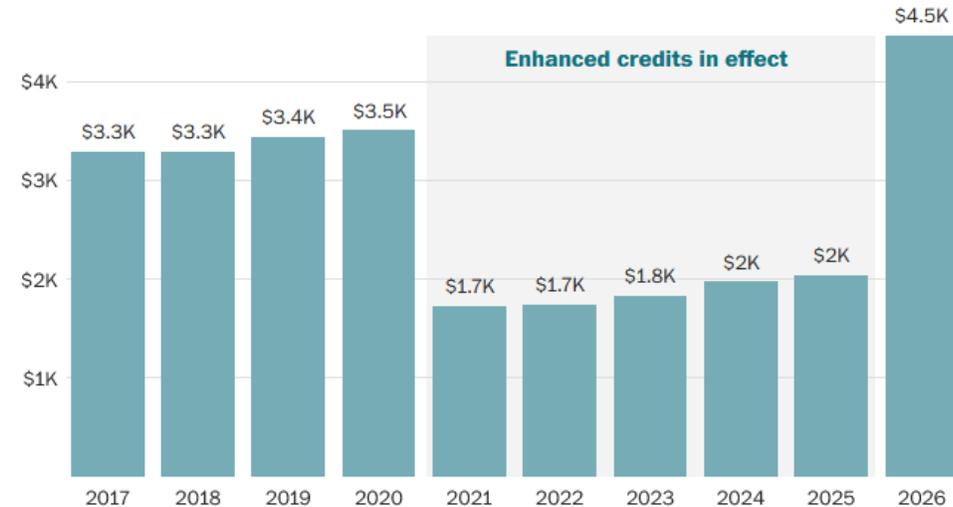


# Health Care Update

- The Affordable Care Act (2010) created the Premium Tax Credit.
  - This tax credit helps low- and middle-income individuals and families afford health insurance purchased through the exchange (known as Covered California in our state).
  - The PTC was enhanced in President Biden's American Rescue Plan and extended through the Inflation Reduction Act, both of which Congressman DeSaulnier voted for.
  - **The enhanced PTC expired at the end of 2025, making it harder for millions of Americans to afford health care coverage, as shown by the chart to the right.**

## Premiums would more than double for a couple making \$53K

Without the enhanced credits, a family at 250% of the poverty level would pay about 8% of their income for a silver plan on the ACA marketplace



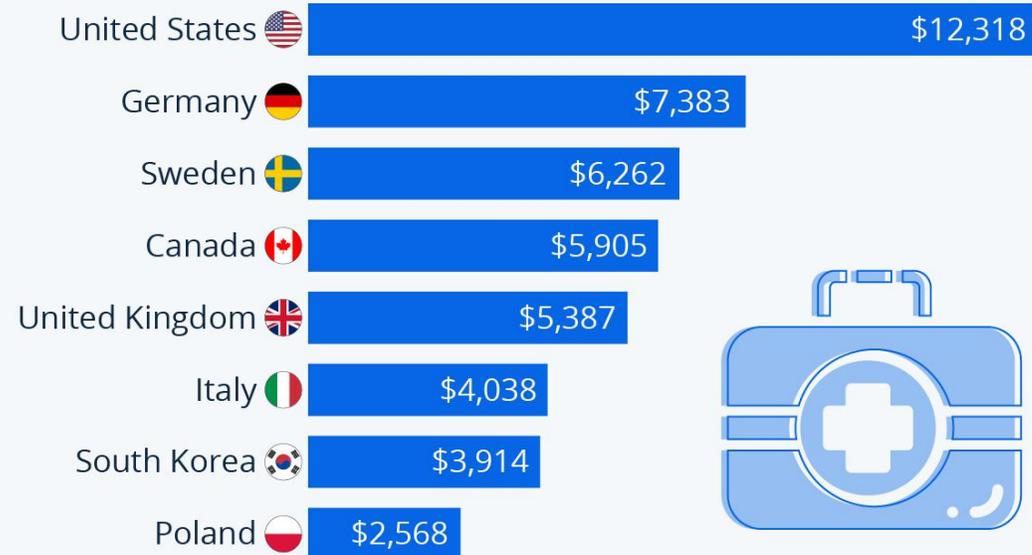
Estimates reflect the cost of a silver plan for a family of 2 with an income at 250% of the federal poverty level, which was \$40,600 in 2017 and \$52,875 in 2025.

# Health Care Update (cont.)

- Despite being in the minority, House Democrats used a procedural tool known as a discharge petition to force a vote on a bill (H.R. 1834) to extend the enhanced PTC for an additional three years.
  - This bill passed the House with all Democrats and 17 Republicans voting in support but the Senate hasn't acted.
- While a similar proposal previously failed to pass the Senate, House passage of this bill will put additional pressure on bipartisan negotiators to develop a plan that could provide real relief for Americans who are struggling with health care costs.

## The U.S. Has the Most Expensive Healthcare in the World

Per-capita health expenditure in selected countries in 2021



Includes government and private/compulsory and voluntary spending

Source: OECD



statista

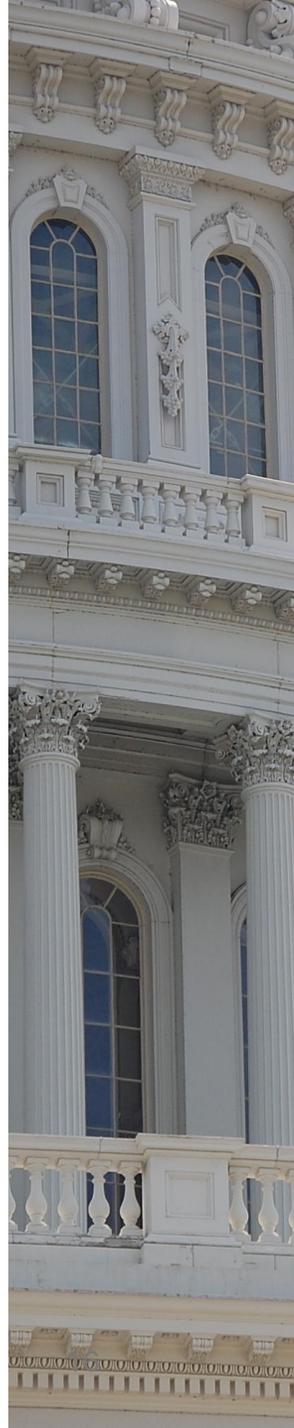
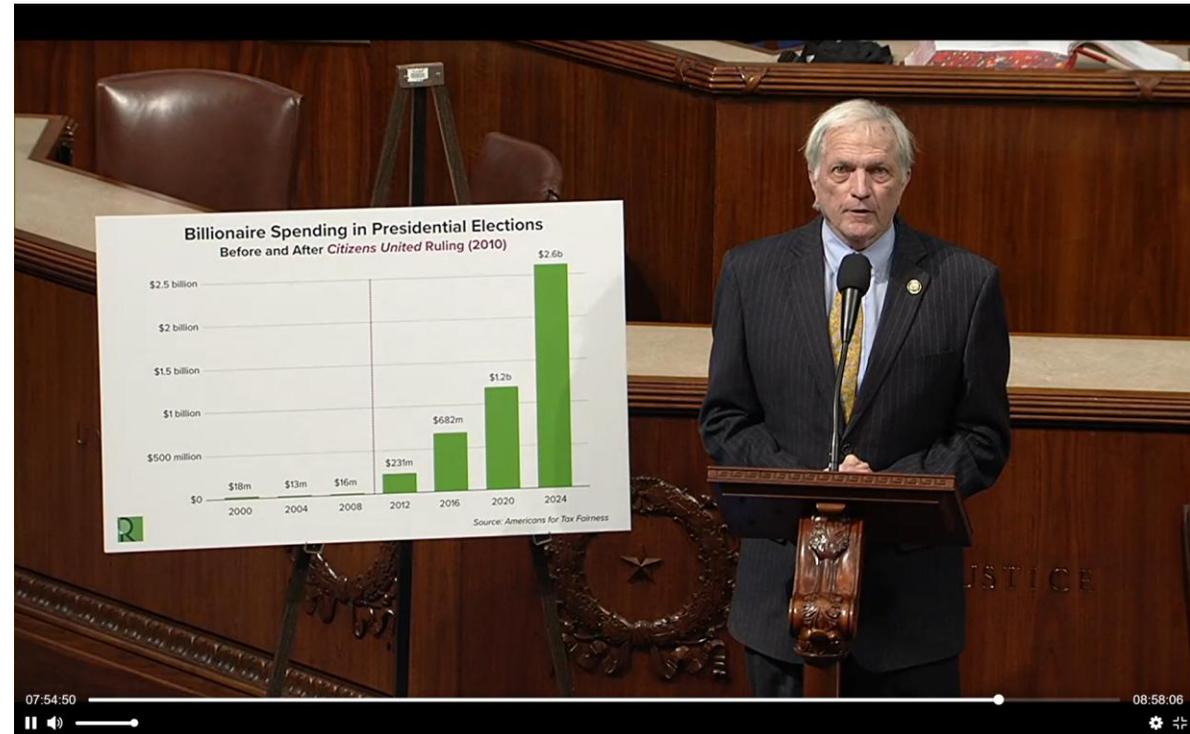
# Health Care Update (cont.)

- Negotiations are ongoing in the Senate to extend the enhanced PTC after it expired at the start of this year.
- What's being negotiated:
  - Length of extension.
  - Income limits for recipients.
  - Minimum payments for people who purchase health insurance.
  - Restrictions on abortion coverage.
  - Expanding the use of health savings accounts.



# Campaign Finance and Inequality

- In 2010, the Supreme Court ruled in *Citizens United v. FEC* that wealthy people and large corporations can spend unlimited amounts of dark money in political campaigns.
- Congressman DeSaulnier recently spoke on the House floor about how the ruling in *Citizens United* is driving inequality in our nation by giving wealthy and powerful interests an outsized voice in our democracy.



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