

## MEMO

TO: Interested Parties

Re: Congressional Republicans Head Home for Recess with Major Losses in Tow

FR: War Room, Center for American Progress Action Fund

DA: April 6, 2017

It is hard to remember a work period more disastrous than the one we just witnessed—and congressional Republicans have no one to blame but themselves.

Now, despite enjoying unified control of Washington for the first time in a decade, congressional Republicans head home to face their constituents during recess with four major losses in tow—all inflicted by President Donald Trump:

- 1. Trump's campaign is under FBI investigation for colluding with Russia.**
- 2. Republicans' top legislative priority—repealing Obamacare—went down in flames.**
- 3. Trump's revised Muslim ban was blocked by the courts.**
- 4. Trump's Supreme Court nominee failed to get enough support, forcing Mitch McConnell to blow up the rules to jam him through.**

The result? Trump's approval rating fell to [35 percent](#) in March, another record low for a new president.

### **Trump's campaign is under FBI investigation for colluding with Russia.**

On March 20, FBI Director James Comey made the bombshell announcement that Trump's campaign is under FBI investigation for potentially colluding with Russia to win the White House. Yet, instead of working to uncover the truth about this crisis, congressional Republicans continue to obstruct the investigation process in an effort to protect Trump.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes (R-CA) [coordinated](#) with the White House to lie to reporters about alleged "surveillance" of the Trump campaign. House Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) called it ["inappropriate"](#) for his committee to investigate Russian election interference. And Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) [blocked](#) the formation of a bipartisan committee to investigate Russia's attack.

Their efforts to shield Trump haven't worked. As Rep. Nunes himself [admitted](#), "a big gray cloud" now hangs over the administration, and congressional Republicans enter recess faced with these facts:

- Many of Trump’s closest advisers—including [Michael Flynn](#), [Paul Manafort](#), [Carter Page](#) and [Roger Stone](#)—are being investigated by the FBI.
- There were more than [20 known contacts](#) between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin before Trump took office.

### **Republicans’ top legislative priority—repealing Obamacare—went down in flames.**

After seven years of making repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) their top priority, President Trump and House Republicans proved they were the dog that caught the car: When they got what they were chasing, they had no idea what to do.

With a haphazard plan that would have stripped essential health benefits, hiked premiums for older Americans, and caused [24 million](#) fewer Americans to be insured by 2026, House Republicans and the Trump administration failed spectacularly to even vote on a bill.

The magnitude of their failure is borne out by the numbers:

- [17%](#) of Americans supported Trumpcare, compared to 56% who opposed it.
- [55%](#) of Americans now approve of the ACA, up from 42% in November.
- [75%](#) of Americans, including a majority of Trump supporters, want the administration to “do what they can to make the current health care law work.”

### **Trump’s revised Muslim ban was blocked by the courts.**

President Trump’s Muslim ban, fervently supported by dozens of Republicans in Congress, has been repeatedly blocked in federal courts. A Hawaii judge, the latest to block the ban nationwide, cited the president’s hateful campaign rhetoric as evidence for his ruling. The contrast couldn’t be clearer: As thousands of people across the country rallied against the ban, congressional Republicans allowed the administration to openly discriminate.

Trump can’t deliver on a signature campaign promise because it’s not actually legal—and the losses are stacking up:

- Trump’s Muslim ban has been blocked by eight courts, including [the 9th Circuit](#) and federal District Courts in [California](#), [Hawaii](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Maryland](#), [New York](#), [Virginia](#), and [Washington](#) state.

### **Trump’s Supreme Court nominee failed to gain enough support.**

Trump’s Supreme Court nominee, Judge Neil Gorsuch, had to convince just 61 senators that he is qualified to sit on the Court. He failed—and for good reason. Gorsuch’s smug and [evasive](#) demeanor, his [refusal](#) to meet with several female senators, his history of [plagiarism](#), and his consistent record of siding with corporate interests put him far outside the mainstream.

Now, to save an historically unpopular president from further embarrassment, Senate Republicans had to go nuclear and blow up a 100-year-old requirement that votes of extreme national significance be bipartisan.

It is one of the most craven and partisan moves in generations, and Senate Republicans will own that reality during recess and for years to come:

- Since President Dwight Eisenhower, [every nominee](#) confirmed to the Supreme Court has received 60 or more votes with the exception of Justice Clarence Thomas.
- In the history of the U.S. Senate, debate on a Supreme Court nominee has never been ended by less than 60 votes.

### **The bottom line**

President Trump's failures and governing incompetence have resulted in a historically low job approval rating, [35 percent](#).

During recess, constituents will want to know from their representatives in Congress: Will you continue to sink with Donald Trump or jump ship and work for me?