

Continuing resolution passes despite false fire alarm

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By Terry A. Hurlbut

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Last night the House of Representatives passed a continuing resolution, though a “Squad” member tried to delay the vote.

The continuing resolution

Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), Speaker of the House, announced final passage of the continuing resolution on X at 9:55 p.m.

- ✓ Passed by the House
- ✓ Passed by the Senate

I just signed and sent this short-term stop-gap bill to the White House in order to fund our troops, deliver emergency relief, and keep government open while Congress gets back to work through regular order. pic.twitter.com/1pn4z43Xci— Kevin McCarthy (@SpeakerMcCarthy) October 1, 2023

CNN has the [details](#) of the resolution, and an embed of its [text](#) from Document Cloud.

It essentially funds all government functions, at levels that the 117th Congress established, for forty-five days beginning today. (Today is the beginning of the fiscal year for the federal government.) But this bill does *not* include any more funding for Ukraine in its war with Russia.

The House passed the measure, 335-91, according to *The New York Times*. 90 Republicans and 1 Democrat voted against it, and 126 Republicans and 209 Democrats voted for it. McCarthy took the extraordinary step of passing it under suspension of the rules.

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The bill then went to the Senate, which also passed it, 88-9, according to *The New York Post*.

In signing the measure into law, President Joe Biden saw fit to blame “extremist Republicans” for the “delay” in passage. For her part, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) vowed to move to vacate the chair.

When you are done with this fake photo op, let us know so we can vote to vacate pic.twitter.com/RhkWMP1Mu0— Marjorie Taylor Greene Press Release (Parody) (@MTGrepp) October 1, 2023

Several other users expressed their disapproval of the continuing resolution.

Uni-Party strikes again. Kevin McCathy has sold the American people out once again siding with the Democrats to fund their big govt. that has been weaponized against the people.— Melissa Tate (@TheRightMelissa) October 1, 2023

Perfect depiction— Pat Colleps (DEFINITELY ULTRA MAGA!!) (@olcowboyway) October 1, 2023

Right the Republicans are active participants that’s the only way they can grift from their base— Acacia Grace (@NeoSoulSis) October 1, 2023

In fact, Laura Loomer, yesterday morning, openly called for a “shutdown” of the government.

I’m excited for the Government shutdown. Can we keep it forever?

Asking for 332 million friends.— Laura Loomer (@LauraLoomer) September 30, 2023

But unaccountably, one Democrat tried to delay the vote so that the resolution would miss the deadline.

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Jamaal Bowman turns in a false alarm

Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-N.Y.) pulled a fire alarm in a House office building before the House was set to vote. Oddly enough, *The New York Times* shows that he voted *for* the bill. Rep. Mike Quigley (D-Ill.) was the only House Democrat to vote against it.

Station KYW-TV (Channel 3, CBS, Philadelphia) has video of Bowman pulling a fire alarm on a wall near a door. This incident took place in the Cannon House Office Building on Independence Avenue, according to CNN. (The Office Buildings for the House and Senate contain some hearing rooms in addition to Members' offices. But all votes must take place in the House and Senate chambers in the Capitol.) Journalist Simon Ateba has this screencap:

CRAZIEST THING IN WASHINGTON TODAY: Democrat Rep. Jamaal Bowman of New York pulled the fire alarm potentially so Democrats would not vote and shut down the government. He later blamed ignorance. pic.twitter.com/B6TLm5HzVN— Simon Ateba (@simonateba) September 30, 2023

Bowman told the Capitol Police that his activation of the fire alarm was an accident. To be specific, he says he mistook the fire alarm handle for an automatic door opening handle. Rep. Bryan Stell (R-Wisc.), Chairman of the House Administration Committee, doesn't believe that. Neither did several other Members of Congress.

I'm about to flush the toilet. pic.twitter.com/jCTsXzt2vP— Rep. Mike Collins (@RepMikeCollins) September 30, 2023

George Santos releases a tutorial on fire alarms after Democrat Rep. Jamaal Bowman of New York pulled the fire alarm potentially so Democrats would not vote and shut down the government. WATCH pic.twitter.com/s3E57JgSQM— Simon Ateba (@simonateba) September 30, 2023

Well they might doubt that. Automatic door switches are push-button switches that one operates with the palm of the hand. Many of these have the Handicap Symbol on them. Fire alarms come in a narrow variety of types, but have many common features. They have bright red plastic housings with the legend FIRE ALARM prominent across the top.

Bowman later released a statement trying to explain his behavior.

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CRAZIEST THING IN DC: Statement from Democrat Congressman Jamaal Bowman of New York who pulled the fire alarm potentially so Democrats would not vote and shut down the government. READ! pic.twitter.com/cn4HHtzWZV— Simon Ateba (@simonateba) October 1, 2023

Omfg he wants us to believe he actually thought the fire alarm was the way to open the door. Nobody is buying this lie. The doors all were marked as EMERGENCY EXIT ALARM WILL SOUND! There was even a big red sign in front of the door [@RepBowman](#) exited.

He's a god damn liar.... <https://t.co/g8pFjRWL3m> pic.twitter.com/CdPiJnsfCv— Laura Loomer (@LauraLoomer) [October 1, 2023](#)

Why did he do it?

As outrageous as Bowman's behavior (and his attempted explanation) is, it is also mysterious. Why delay a vote when you intend to vote yes? One possible explanation suggests itself: he thought he could cause a government shutdown without appearing to. Even that strains credulity, however, for it suggests he did not know about the surveillance cameras at every door.

The other explanation: sheer carelessness. The door he was trying to exit was an emergency door, that had emergency door markings. Why didn't he go out the front door, which is easy of access? (Your editor has been in all three House buildings over the years of Marches for Life.) And again, no one could mistake a fire alarm for an automatic door switch.