

CONGRESSIONAL RIDERS IMPACTING D.C.

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RIDERS

Riders are additions to proposed legislation, which usually have little or no connection to the legislation they are attached to. For years, D.C. has been impacted by riders placed on federal budget bills by members of Congress who do not represent D.C.

Micromanaging D.C. is not what voters elected members of Congress to accomplish. Congress has micromanaged D.C.'s affairs in the past in big and small ways. Some examples include:

- **Dornan Amendment:** Congress still blocks D.C. from using our own local tax dollars to provide abortion coverage for individuals enrolled in Medicaid — something that all other states are free to do. This rider has [consistently been included in D.C.'s appropriations language](#) since 2011.
- **Marijuana:** Congress has continuously blocked D.C. from using local funds to legalize marijuana, even though a [majority of D.C. voters](#) voted to make marijuana legal in 2014.
- **HIV Needle-Exchange Program:** Congress blocked D.C. from using our own funds to pay for a needle-exchange program, stalling the program by nearly a decade and costing D.C. residents' lives and money. A [2015 study](#) showed that the needle-exchange program, once enacted, led to a 70% drop in the average monthly rate of new HIV infections among drug users.
- **Traffic Control:** Congress continually tries to prohibit D.C. from using any funds to implement a law that would ban right turns on red. Congress also [tried to repeal](#) D.C.'s use of automatic traffic enforcement, a move that would have spurred a \$1 billion shortfall. D.C. should be able to determine how to use traffic cameras to identify and fine drivers who violate traffic laws.
- **Concealed Carry:** Congress has included riders in the past that would make it possible for visitors with concealed carry permits issued by other states to carry their weapons in D.C.

