

Machine Transcript - C-SPAN, *Speaker Johnson: “We’re Not Defunding Courts,”* House Republican Leadership News Conference press event featuring Speaker Mike Johnson (Apr. 1, 2025), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_1rFYKzyXA.

We're talking about this problem of uh rogue rulings and um you know the Democrats, our colleagues here, they, they, they talk all about this so-called constitutional crisis that they see around every tree. They don't like President Trump's policies and so that's their, that's their catchphrase they use for everything. But there really is a constitutional crisis that's developing. It's not the one that the Democrats claim, though. Listen to these numbers and we've shared them before: 67% of all injunctions issued by district court judges against a President since the year 2000 were issued against one man and his name's President Donald J. Trump; 92% of those injunctions against the President were issued by Democrat appointed judges. Um, there, there's a problem. I've mentioned before, I was a constitutional law litigator, routinely would run into judges that I would describe as activists. Um, but it was much more rare than it is now, and it's a problem that has been noted, uh, needs to be addressed. Under the existing framework one singular district court judge out of 677 of them anywhere in America can subvert the will of the duly elected President carrying out his constitutional duties. And, and they're doing that. And so we've got to step into this. Um, despite the American people's wholesale rejection of Democrat ideas at the ballot box, you have activist judges who are abusing the system to legislate from the bench. That's effectively what an activist judge is. This is not how the system our founders designed is supposed to work. Under our Constitution we have three co-equal branches of government, each with the ability to provide a check on the other. And we do have that authority. Um, Democrats seem to have forgotten that. Um, I, I mentioned at a at a press conference or a gaggle maybe it was last week with all of you, I can't remember so many of these, but somebody asked me repeatedly about, um, you know, impeachment and they asked me about our authority

under the Constitution, what authority do we have under Article III. The, the Congress is given the authority, uh, to determine, define, fund all lower courts. Only the Supreme Court is mentioned itself in the Constitution, and the lower courts are within the purview of the Congress, and, and I was asked and, and I offered the answer yes, yes, I mean we could defund those courts. I wasn't saying, let me clarify, I wasn't saying that we're doing that. I was trying to describe what the Constitution says. Go read it for yourselves. We have broad scope. We have all authority over the lower courts. Okay, we're not, we're not defunding courts and we're not doing anything other than limiting in this legislation the, the ability of a judge to issue a nationwide injunction because that is the problem that has gotten totally out of control. And we need this check on the judiciary. And I think we're going to prove that on the floor. One activist judge should not issue a nationwide injunction against the President's policies. And, and, and these district courts have to stay, uh, within their constitutional bounds.