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Nov 17, 2017 - Politics & Policy

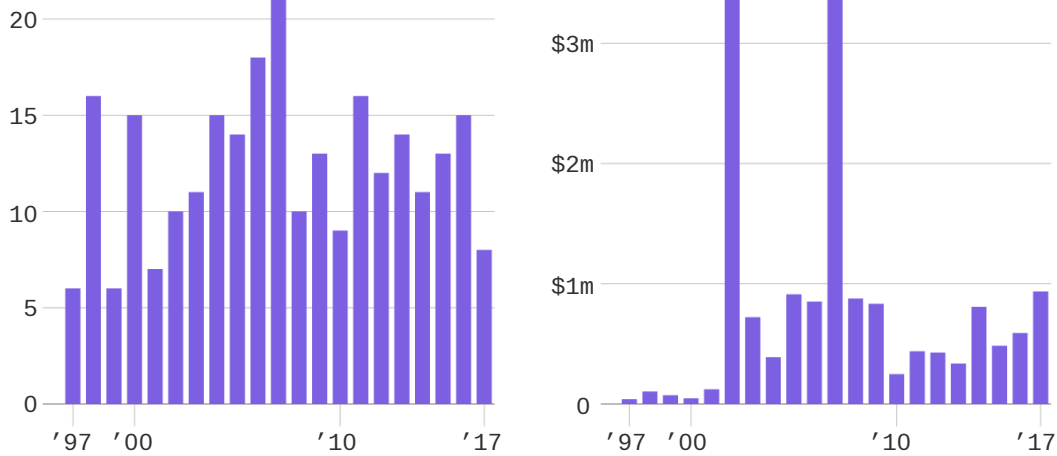
Congress has paid \$17 million in sexual misconduct and discrimination settlements



Shannon Vavra



Congress has paid out more than \$17.2 million over the last 20 years to cover 268 settlements on Capitol Hill, according to the [Office of Compliance](#), which was set up in 1995 under the Congressional Accountability Act. In 2002 and 2007 those tallies topped several million dollars.



Data: [U.S. Congress Office of Compliance](#); Chart: Lazaro Gamio / Axios

Why it matters: Lawmakers and aides in Congress have been speaking out about the prevalence of sexual misconduct on Capitol Hill, including allegations that current lawmakers have perpetrated such acts, and this gives documentation, to some extent, of the incidents and settlements.

But it's not 100% inclusive; a spokesperson for Rep. Jackie Speier, who introduced legislation on sexual assault in Congress this week, told [CNN](#) 80% of the people who have told their office about sexual misconduct choose not to report to the OOC.

- **The settlements may not necessarily be related to sexual misconduct alone**, since the OOC also handles racial, religious, or disability-related discrimination.

One controversial thing: The money comes from taxpayers, not from individual lawmakers' offices. Jenny Beth Martin, the leader of the Tea Party Patriots, [claims](#) that because these funds are not pulled from campaigns or offices shows they make up a "shush fund" that has "inadvertently institutionalized a cover-up culture, in which the

The OOC is not reporting the details of the settlements, in part because some of the settlements include multiple different allegations. The office has released the numbers "based on the volume of recent inquiries regarding payment of awards and settlements."

New Google Essentials course to help everyone learn to use AI

As the demand for AI-related professional skills increases, Google has launched AI Essentials, a self-paced course designed to help people across roles and industries learn AI skills to boost their productivity.

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- The chairman to the House Administration Committee, Rep. Gregg Harper, and the ranking member may be familiar with the details of the settlements, since they have to approve payments after a settlement is reached. Speaker Paul Ryan and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi are not aware of the details of the settlements, per CNN.

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Andrew Solender
Updated 15 mins ago - Politics & Policy

Trump warns Republicans to talk about abortion “correctly”



Former President Trump in Washington on June 13. Photo: ALLISON BAILEY/Middle East Images/AFP via Getty Images.

Former President Trump urged House Republicans on Thursday to adopt a measured tone on abortion on the 2024 campaign trail and to embrace exceptions to restrictions on the procedure, Axios has learned.

Why it matters: Abortion has emerged as [Democrats' most potent political weapon](#) in the two years since [Roe v. Wade](#) was overturned,

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Sareen Habeshian, April Rubin
Updated 17 mins ago - Health

Supreme Court preserves abortion pill access after tossing challenge



Abortion rights and anti-abortion supporters clash outside the Supreme Court on April 24. Photo: Andrew Harnik/Getty Images

The Supreme Court threw out its biggest [abortion-related case](#) since overturning [Roe v. Wade](#) two years ago, saying on Thursday that doctors opposed to a commonly used abortion pill lacked legal standing.

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Hans Nichols
1 hour ago - Politics & Policy

Scoop: Conservative group's ad targets 10 Dems on immigration



President Biden speaks during a campaign rally at Girard College on May 29 in Philadelphia. Photo: Andrew Harnik/Getty Images

A conservative group with close ties to the House GOP leadership is launching a \$9.5 million ad campaign targeting 10 vulnerable Democrats on immigration, Axios has learned.

Why it matters: The big buy by the American Action Network is a clear indication that Republicans believe that concerns about

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