



# Sequestering Common Sense

***If Democrats Thought Flexibility Was Important For FAA's Sequester Cuts, Why Not Other Areas That Are Unnecessarily Hurting Americans?***

***The Washington Post's Ezra Klein: "The Democrats Have Lost On Sequestration"*** (Ezra Klein, "The Democrats Have Lost On Sequestration," [The Washington Post's WonkBlog](#), 4/26/13)

**Democrats Have Thus Far "Resisted Bills Giving Them The Ability To Choose, Within Sequestration's Broad Parameters, How To Allocate The Cuts."** "At this point, it probably makes sense for the White House to push for and accept an expanded version of the Inhofe-Toomey bill giving them some discretion over how the cuts are distributed. So far, they've resisted bills giving them the ability to choose, within sequestration's broad parameters, how to allocate the cuts." (Ezra Klein, "The Democrats Have Lost On Sequestration," [The Washington Post's WonkBlog](#), 4/26/13)

## **LAST WEEK, THE GOP CALLED OBAMA AND THE DEMOCRATS' BLUFF ON MINDLESS FAA CUTS**

***Bloomberg Government Found That The FAA "Has More Than Enough Air Traffic Controllers To Manage Furloughs Without Flight Delays."*** "The Federal Aviation Administration has more than enough air traffic controllers to manage furloughs without flight delays, according to a Bloomberg Government analysis of the agency's staffing data." (Matthew Hummer, "FAA Has Room For Furloughs Without Flight Delays: BGOV Insight," [Bloomberg Government](#), 4/24/13)

- ***Bloomberg Government: "The FAA, With The Consent Of The Controllers' Union, Could Keep Sequestration From Affecting Flights By Targeting Furloughs At Airports With Excess Numbers Of Controllers, But The Agency Has Declined To Pursue That Strategy."*** (Matthew Hummer, "FAA Has Room For Furloughs Without Flight Delays: BGOV Insight," [Bloomberg Government](#), 4/24/13)

***Chicago Tribune: "Somewhere Between The Oval Office And A Snarled Airport Near You, The Stunt Pilots In The Obama Administration Made A Terrible Miscalculation."*** (Editorial, "The Stunt Pilots Misread Their Gauges," [Chicago Tribune](#), 4/26/13)

- ***Chicago Tribune: "Most Citizens Are Able To Read. They're Seeing Numerous Articles In The Public Prints Explaining How The Federal Aviation Administration's Layoff Scheme Created A Crisis That Simply Doesn't Have To Be."*** (Editorial, "The Stunt Pilots Misread Their Gauges," [Chicago Tribune](#), 4/26/13)

***Politico Headline: "Democrats Blink First On Aviation Cuts"*** (Kathryn A. Wolfe and Burgess Everett, "Democrats Blink First On Aviation Cuts," [Politico](#), 4/25/13)

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- **“Democrats Caved In And Agreed To Allow The Federal Aviation Administration To Keep Air Traffic Control Towers Running At Close To Full Capacity. All It Took Was A Few Thousand People Standing In Line At The Airport.”** “The White House and Democrats in Congress argued for months against a piecemeal fix to the budget problems caused by the sequester. But on Thursday, Democrats caved in and agreed to allow the Federal Aviation Administration to keep air traffic control towers running at close to full capacity. All it took was a few thousand people standing in line at the airport.” (Kathryn A. Wolfe and Burgess Everett, “Democrats Blink First On Aviation Cuts,” [Politico](#), 4/25/13)

## **OBAMA HAS THWARTED EVERY GOP ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE SEQUESTER'S CUTS SMARTER AND LESS PAINFUL**

**November 2011: Obama Said “I Will Veto Any Effort To Get Rid Of Those Automatic Spending Cuts To Domestic And Defense Spending.”** OBAMA: “Already some in Congress are trying to undo these automatic spending cuts. My message to them is simple: No. I will veto any effort to get rid of those automatic spending cuts to domestic and defense spending. There will be no easy off ramps on this one.” (President Barack Obama, [Statement On The Supercommittee](#), Washington, DC, 11/21/11)

- **Obama:** “The only way these spending cuts will not take place is if Congress gets back to work and agrees on a balanced plan to reduce the deficit by at least \$1.2 trillion. That’s exactly what they need to do. That’s the job they promised to do. And they’ve still got a year to figure it out.” (President Barack Obama, [Statement On The Supercommittee](#), Washington, DC, 11/21/11)

**November 2011: White House Press Secretary Jay Carney Said “The President Also Made Clear That He Will Not Accept Any Measure That Attempts To Turn Off Part Of The Sequester.”** WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY JAY CARNEY: “The President also made clear that he will not accept any measure that attempts to turn off part of the sequester. The sequester was agreed to by both parties to ensure there was a meaningful enforcement mechanism to force a result from the committee. Congress must not shirk its responsibilities. The American people deserve to have their leaders come together and make the tough choices necessary to live within our means, just as American families do every day in these tough economic times.” (Jay Carney, Press Gaggle Aboard Air Force One, [En Route San Diego, CA](#), 11/11/11)

**May 2012: The White House Issued A Statement Of Administration Policy That Threatened To Veto A House Proposal To Replace The Sequester, H.R. 5652.** “If the President were presented with S. 16, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.” (“Statement Of Administration Policy: H.R. 5652 – Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act Of 2012,” [The White House](#), 5/9/12)

- [See The House-Passed H.R. 5652, The “Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act”](#)

**December 2012: The White House Issued A Statement Of Administration Policy That Threatened To Veto Another House Proposal To Replace The Sequester, H.R. 6684.** “If the President were presented with H.R. 6684, he would veto the bill.” (“Statement Of Administration Policy: H.W. 6684 – Spending Reduction Act Of 2012,” [The White House](#), 12/20/12)

- [See H.R. 6684, The “Spending Reduction Act Of 2012,” An Additional House Bill Passed To Replace Sequestration](#)

**February 2013: The White House Issued A Statement Of Administration Policy That Threatened To Veto The Toomey-Inhofe Proposal In The Senate To Provide Flexibility In Implementing The**

**Sequester, S. 16.** “If the President were presented with S. 16, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.” (“Statement Of Administration Policy: S. 16 – Cancellation Of Budgetary Resources,” [The White House](#), 2/28/13)

- **Carney Indicated The Administration Was Against A Senate Bill Proposed By Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA) And Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) That Would Provide Flexibility On The Sequester.** WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY JAY CARNEY: “Secondly, I’d like to mention the Republican bill in the Senate that supposedly would provide flexibility on how to deal with or implement the sequester. We have put out a statement of administration policy on this, and I think you will note that we believe no amount of flexibility changes the fact that these severe cuts threaten thousands of middle-class jobs and slash vital services for children, seniors and our troops and military families. ... This doesn’t solve the problem; it makes the problem worse. This bill is an effort to shift the focus away from the need for the Congress to work toward a bipartisan compromise that would avoid sequestration. The Congress must act responsibly to avert sequestration through balanced deficit reduction, and stop endangering the nation's economic recovery.” ([Press Briefing](#), Washington, D.C., 2/28/13)
- **[See The Toomey-Inhofe Senate Bill To Give The White House More Flexibility On Implementing Sequestration](#)**

**March 2013: Carney Said “Flexibility Does Not Help The Overall Problem” With Regards To Finding Ways To Reduce The Impacts Of The Sequester.** REPORTER: “Is the President open to having talks, or perhaps having talks already, with lawmakers specifically on finding ways to reduce the impacts of the sequester?” CARNEY: “I think we’ve been very clear about the way the law is written and the fact that flexibility does not help the overall problem, because, as the Chairman of the Fed has said and many others have said, \$85 billion withdrawn from our defense and nondefense discretionary budgets will have a negative impact. That’s what the CBO has said. That’s what outside economists have said.” ([Press Briefing](#), Washington, D.C., 3/4/13)