



## The terrifying implications of McConnell's sequester plan

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McConnell has proposed giving the President the flexibility to choose what cuts go into effect under sequestration, propose his alternative to Congress, and give Congress the option to reject this alternative with a 2/3rds supermajority only.

This would be a terrible precedent and we must not allow it to pass. With this precedent in mind, should it become established in law, it will only take a future Mitt Romney to propose heinous, savage cuts to our social insurance programs and flout a powerless Congress, even if that Congress were solidly (but not 2/3) Democratic.

We must stop this in its tracks. We cannot let a precedent like this set a path towards it becoming established in law. (By the way, I can't help but think the whole idea seems unconstitutional, but can we count on a conservative SCOTUS to prevent Congress from giving this power away to the executive?)

These maneuvers are becoming a pattern with McConnell, who seems to recognize his obstruction has rendered his own political body incapable of governing. His willingness to cede this power to the President, and previously the authority to unilaterally raise the debt ceiling suggests he is more interested in grandstanding without the repercussions associated with governing, or in political power for its own sake.

I've long feared a parallel between Cato and the Optimates and the Cato Institute and the Republicans. I'm not suggesting we will end up with a dictator, but I do predict more and more power will accrue to the executive as the Congress continues to prove ineffective at governing. It's already happening: the President already has unlimited power to intervene militarily anywhere in the world in pursuit of GWOT, spy on Americans without warrant (SCOTUS has proven equally disinterested in checking executive power here), etc. Now, Republicans are flirting with the idea of ceding the power of the purse, or parts of it, which will be a terrible thing when that power falls into the wrong hands.