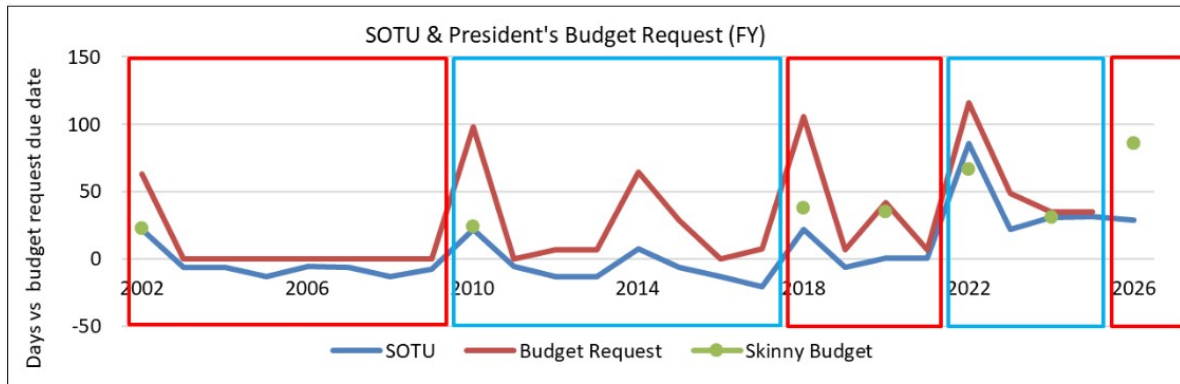




Put Teeth in Deadlines to Help Congress Succeed

Ask: Support the SUBMIT IT Act's mission of timely reports to Congress.

- S.3734/ H.R. 7249 (118th Congress) by Sen. Joni Ernst, Rep. Buddy Carter.
- Congress invites the president to give the State of the Union address after Congress gets the president's budget request and the national security strategy.



The SUBMIT IT Act

- **Send Us Budget Materials and International Tactics In Time Act**
- Reports, then SOTU: After Congress gets the President's budget request & national security strategy, Congress invites POTUS to give the State of the Union Address.
- Focal: Congress can already withhold the concurrent resolution for the SOTU, but a statute sets clear expectations.

Late budget requests delay appropriations.

- Appropriators need agency data: Budget request information is the foundation for appropriations legislation.
- POTUS request starts the budget cycle: Due by the first Monday in February (2 U.S.C. 631; 31 U.S.C. 1105).
- Late requests: FY2016 request was last on time; FY2022 request 116 days late; FY2026 incomplete.
- Late appropriations: Not all enacted before fiscal year since FY1997 (multiple causes).

Irregular security strategies undermine sound budgeting.

- Alongside budget request: Congress should get a national security strategy report by the first Monday in February each year as well (50 U.S.C. 3043).
- Umbrella for other strategies: Defense, military, nuclear, diplomacy, cybersecurity, and other strategies flow from the NSS.
- Irregular: Despite the law and a changing world, now only once per four-year term.

Flip the order: First reports, then SOTU.

- SOTU first does not work: This century, SOTU addresses have happened before Congress got the budget request. Report due dates lack teeth, and SOTU pageantry dominates substance.
- Better to share knowledge first: To do speech, POTUS would push OMB and NSC to do budget request and NSS sooner. Congress, press, and public would see the substance, encouraging POTUS to engage on proposals in SOTU.

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