

Ban on Use of Funds for NPR Programming:

House Republicans want to take over as Program Director at your local public radio station

Language in the Republican bill's appropriation for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) prohibits any 2013 CPB funds from being used to "pay dues to, acquire programs from, or otherwise support National Public Radio".

National Public Radio is a non-governmental, non-profit corporation which produces and distributes radio programming. The majority of its Board of Directors are local station managers elected by NPR's member stations. The largest portion of NPR's income comes from programming fees and dues paid by its member stations.

Congress does not make any appropriations directly to NPR. Funding for both public television and radio is provided through appropriations to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. By law, 93 percent of the CPB funds allocated to radio go directly to local stations to support their programming and operations.

Therefore, the main effect of the language in the Republican bill would be to prevent *local public radio stations* from using any funding they receive from the CPB to acquire programs from NPR such as *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, the *Diane Rehm Show*, or *Science Friday*.

The language would also block NPR from competing on the same basis as other program producers for grants made by the CPB out of the small portion of its appropriation set aside for national programming (or from another small set-aside for radio and television system support). Although NPR received no grants directly from the CPB in 2011, it did win CPB grants totaling about \$3 million in 2010 and \$2 million in 2009.

Some elements of the Republican Party apparently have great hostility towards NPR. It's not at all clear what objections they have to this particular organization, which is known mostly for production of high-quality and informative radio programs. Whatever their reasons, it seems a very bad precedent for Congress to start picking which particular radio programs can or cannot be acquired by local stations using their Corporation for Public Broadcasting grants, or to arbitrarily ban NPR from competing with its peers for CPB grants.