



House Republicans have really outdone themselves on their so-called “transportation” bill this week. Like a room full of mad scientists, they stitched together an entirely partisan, 1,000-page monstrosity that contains everything from oil drilling, to the Keystone XL pipeline, to federal pension policy. They call their creation Transportation Bill – we call it H.R. Frankenbill.

Yesterday -- when they realized that H.R. Frankenbill would fail -- they wheeled it into the emergency room at the House Rules Committee – and carved it back up into three separate bills. They pulled a bait-and-switch, which left members of the House scratching their heads. All of those amendments – over 300 amendments proposed – would now be applied to new bills that they had never seen.

As Congresswoman [Slaughter noted in a letter](#) to Rules Chairman Dreier yesterday about the process employed by Republican leadership in advancing H.R. Frankenbill:

**“The result is a 1,000 page amalgam which cobbled together arbitrary and unrelated measures, some of which have never been considered by any House Committee. In the words of Transportation Secretary and former Republican Congressman Ray LaHood, ‘This is the most partisan transportation bill that I have ever seen...It’s the worst transportation bill I’ve ever seen during 35 years of public service.’”**

Predictably, Republicans chose to just sweep these violations under the rug – saying this was all done “to increase transparency” ([Boehner/Dreier statement, 2/14](#)).

**Why would House Republicans do all these legislative acrobatics? Because they know they don't have the votes to pass their Frankenbill – otherwise on life-support – in a straightforward way. They're willing to tie the House up in knots and twist themselves into a pretzel to pass a bill that is dead on arrival in the Senate – and which the President has already said he would veto.**

This Frankenbill, a hodgepodge made from spare parts, then torn apart and sewn back together for political expediency, is classic House GOP contortionism – twisting themselves and the legislative process into a pretzel to pass a bill that would otherwise be dead.

**The Quadruple  
Contortion**



For this impressive piece of contortionism, we give the House GOP **FOUR** “Grand Old Pretzels,” or the coveted Quadruple Contortion. Congratulations House Republicans!

*“Grand Old Pretzels” is a ranking system to provide simple insight into complicated tricks. Through a ranking of 1-5, we will rate the level of contortion House Republicans will go through to twist their no-compromise agenda through the House. The more contortions, the more Pretzels they will receive.*

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