

Waste Action Alert

A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)
Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman

Sunset All ‘Czars’

March 28, 2012

Program or Item Targeted: Funding for the Presidential ‘Czars.’

Cost of Program or Item: On account of lack of transparency, the exact amount this would save is unknown.

Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted: The title ‘czar’ in this context is a commonly used but unofficial phrase for a public administrator, appointed by the President without confirmation by the Senate, who oversees a major policy under the President. A ‘czar’ in this context performs or delegates functions which typically would be performed or delegated by an individual in a position that the President appoints by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. This includes individuals such as policy advisors who are responsible for interagency development or coordination of any rule, regulation, or policy.

Why This Item Is Wasteful: The American people demand accountability and transparency from Congress. This large number of unconfirmed, regulation-enacting, rule-making czars—and more than 30 of these “policy advisors” appointed by President Obama—usurps Congress’ Constitutional powers of oversight. The President has a right to organize his administration, but any executive branch employee who enjoys the powers of a cabinet-level appointee should first undergo the same level of scrutiny and accountability prescribed to a cabinet-level appointee. The ‘czars’ hide behind a curtain of vague duties and ill-defined responsibilities, wielding powers similar to those held by cabinet secretaries and agency heads. The appointment of ‘czars’ without Senate oversight, then, goes against government transparency and accountability. The American people should not be forced to subsidize this questionable and unchecked system of Presidential advisement.

MEMBER ACTION ITEM: Rep. Steve Scalise has introduced H.R. 59. This legislation forbids future funds from being appropriated for these positions and their offices, while requiring Senate confirmation for all future appointees with similar duties. For more information or to cosponsor, please contact Brett Horton at Brett.Horton@mail.house.gov.

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov.

Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

*“The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it,
working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn’t be paying for.”*

