

Speaker Ryan: Statement on conclusion of litigation to protect House spending power

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CONTACT

[AshLee Strong](#), [Doug Andres](#)

202-225-0600

WASHINGTON—House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) today released the following statement after all parties settled in the case *United States House of Representatives v. Alex M. Azar II*, et al. This suit, originally known as *House v. Burwell*, was initiated to challenge the Obama administration's action to spend money without a House appropriation. The settlement today at the DC Court of Appeals preserves a lower court ruling that found the executive branch did not have the authority to make the payments.

"In a battle over the separation of powers, the House has prevailed. When former Speaker John Boehner initiated this suit, it was to protect one of the House's most primary authorities: the power to spend. Fighting for a successful conclusion has been an important priority for my speakership, and the result today preserves that only Congress, not the executive, can authorize spending. This is a historic outcome that leaves this institution stronger."