

# [***House Speaker Mike Johnson Says He Hopes Biden's Latest Announcement On Israel Aid Was 'A Senior Moment'***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6C0C-9V61-JBFB-H008-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

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House Republican Speaker Mike Johnson told Politico Wednesday evening that he hopes President Joe Biden's announcement that he would shut off sending offensive aid to Israel if it goes into the populated areas of Rafah was “a senior moment.”

Biden [*threatened*](https://dailycaller.com/2024/05/08/biden-threatens-halt-weapons-israel-rafah/) to condition aid to Israel on Wednesday, telling CNN that he won't be “supplying the weapons that have been used historically to deal with Rafah, to deal with the cities.” Johnson [*reacted*](https://www.politico.com/playbook) to the news in an interview with Politico, and said he believes the president “went off-script” in his announcement because it was different than what he said administration officials had told him just hours earlier.

“My reaction, honestly, was, 'Wow, that is a complete turn from what I have been told, even in, you know, recent hours,'” Johnson told Politico. “I mean, 24 hours ago, it was confirmed to me by top administration officials that the policy's very different than what he stated there. So I hope that's a senior moment.” [***(RELATED: Biden Threatens To Halt Weapons To Israel 'If They Go Into Rafah')***](https://dailycaller.com/2024/05/08/biden-threatens-halt-weapons-israel-rafah/)

Johnson told the outlet that he met with administration officials in the sensitive compartmented information facility [SCIF] on Wednesday, where he was told that “there would be no delay whatsoever” in the “delivery of weapons to Israel.” The speaker added that he also spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and “he described exactly what was happening before the news was confirmed.”

“And then I went straight to the White House and I said ... 'Somebody's going to have to explain this to me, because it's very different than what I was told.' And they said, 'Oh, this has nothing to do with the supplemental package that you all passed,” Johnson relayed to Politico. “So this statement by the president tonight, I just want to - I hope, I believe he's off-script. I don't think that's something that staff told him to say.”

[*Link to Image*](https://cdn01.dailycaller.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2024-05-06T154615Z_2015945758_RC23L7ADOR9F_RTRMADP_3_USA-BIDEN-scaled-e1715096934204.jpg)

U.S. President Joe Biden disembarks from Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, U.S., following a weekend in Delaware, May 6, 2024. (REUTERS/Amanda Andrade-Rhoades)

Biden [*signed*](https://dailycaller.com/2024/04/24/pentagon-announces-1-billion-ukraine-aid-minutes-biden-signs-national-security-bill/) legislation on April 24 to provide $15 billion in military assistance to Israel, with an additional $9 billion for humanitarian aid, along with billions more to help Ukraine and Taiwan. The [*package*](https://dailycaller.com/2024/04/23/senate-votes-pass-foreign-aid-supplemental-ukraine-israel-taiwan/) also included language that could force the sale of TikTok, as well as provisions to put pressure on Iran and China.

However, if Biden did intend to threaten conditioning offensive aid to Israel during his CNN interview, Johnson signaled that he'd feel betrayed after Congress passed the foreign supplemental package.

“We've been very deliberate. We've been very open - very much in good faith,” Johnson said. “The Congress expressed its will through that vote. And so for the administration to make such a huge deviation in policy without, you know, any consultation with us - and in defiance of what we quite literally just voted on here days ago - to me, it raises a lot of alarm.”

Biden has faced political pressure from his left flank over his support for Israel's war on Gaza following the Oct. 7 Hamas terrorist attack, with [*protest*](https://dailycaller.com/2024/03/06/joe-biden-super-tuesday-victories-marred-protest-votes-massachusetts-minnesota-north-carolina-colorado-tennessee-alabama/) primary [*votes*](https://dailycaller.com/2024/03/13/protest-vote-washington-joe-biden-primary-victory/) popping up in key states like [*Michigan*](https://dailycaller.com/2024/02/27/massive-protest-vote-sucks-wind-out-biden-michigan-primary-victory/). The president has since become more [*critical*](https://dailycaller.com/2024/03/31/biden-has-changed-his-tune-on-gaza-ceasefire-as-activist-pressure-mounts-and-election-draws-near/) of Israel's counteroffensive due to the number of civilian casualties as the election draws nearer.

The White House did not immediately respond to the Daily Caller News Foundation's request for comment.

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**Graphic**

FILE PHOTO: U.S. Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA) makes a statement to members of the news media in Washington, U.S., February 27, 2024. REUTERS/Leah Millis/File Photo

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