

# [***Republican Feud Stalls Border Deal, Says Democratic Negotiator Chris Murphy***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6B76-0551-DY68-1001-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Byline:** Alex J. Rouhandeh

**Highlight:** Democratic negotiator Chris Murphy blamed Republican ***politics*** for holding up the Senate's bipartisan border deal.

**Body**

A bipartisan border security deal is still mired in the [*Senate*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/senate?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) due to [*GOP*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/republicans?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) infighting, lead Democratic negotiator Chris Murphy told reporters Tuesday night.

While Republicans have made President [*Joe Biden*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/joe-biden?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships)'s handling of the border a hallmark of their party's critiques, some conservatives have come out against the deal—which has not been publicly released—as former President [*Donald Trump*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/donald-trump?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) has [*assailed the effort*](https://www.newsweek.com/maga-cant-sink-border-deal-negotiator-1864128?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships).

U.S. Customs and Border Protection [*encountered*](https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters) nearly 2.48 million migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border during financial year 2023 and has already tallied more than 785,000 over the first three months of the current fiscal year. As the pressure on Washington, D.C., continues to mount, the issue will play a pivotal role in shaping the November election.

Murphy, a senator from Connecticut, said: "The decision as to whether to proceed to a floor vote, which would involve releasing the text, is largely a decision being made by Republicans arguing as to whether they are still on board with a package of border policy changes."

Texas Senator John Cornyn, an ally of Senate Minority Leader [*Mitch McConnell*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/mitch-mcconnell?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) and former Republican whip who has worked closely on border issues, pushed back against Murphy's assertion that internal GOP ***politics*** are holding up a deal when asked by *Newsweek* to respond to the Connecticut senator's comments, while remaining supportive of the effort.

"I think it's all about policy at this point, trying to figure out how to change the status quo," Cornyn said. "I can't think of a subject that is more challenging than immigration and border policy. The whole time I've been here, I've been involved in every single discussion about that, and we've never been successful actually passing anything."

Despite the deal text having yet to be released, Trump has called the bill "horrific" and "not necessary" on Truth Social. In turn, Republican House Speaker [*Mike Johnson*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/mike-johnson?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) has been noncommittal as to whether he would bring a deal to vote on the House floor, and a [*growing number*](https://www.newsweek.com/maga-furious-border-deal-backed-republican-senators-surrender-1860511?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) of [*GOP lawmakers*](https://www.newsweek.com/josh-hawley-disagrees-gop-leaders-who-say-border-deal-helps-trump-1863013?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) have come out against the deal.

Rumors about the border agreement's near collapse intensified last week after the Congress-focused outlet Punch Bowl News reported that McConnell may be hedging his support for a deal after [*telling his conference*](https://www.newsweek.com/maga-cant-sink-border-deal-negotiator-1864128?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships), "we don't want to do anything to undermine [Trump]" as the former president prepares to potentially challenge Biden in November.

But proponents of the deal shot down speculation on Thursday, saying McConnell's comments were taken out of context and that he still backs a border proposal. [*Senate leadership*](https://www.newsweek.com/house-senate-jockey-control-biden-pushes-border-ukraine-deal-1861715?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) has stressed that they believe a deal struck now would benefit a GOP president in the future, as they do not believe [*Democrats*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/democrats?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) would be willing to make concessions if Trump were in office.

*Newsweek* contacted the offices of McConnell and Senator [*James Lankford*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/james-lankford?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) of Oklahoma, lead Republican negotiator, for comment via email on Tuesday.

[*Link to Image*](https://d.newsweek.com/en/full/2342712/gop-feud-stalls-border-deal.jpg)

**Graphic**

GOP Feud Stalls. Border Deal

Photo by SAUL LOEB,MANDEL NGAN/AFP via Getty Images

This combination of pictures created on February 16, 2021 shows President Donald Trump in Washington, DC, October 27, 2020 and Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC on February 5, 2020. The two represent opposing factions in the GOP dispute over a bipartisan border deal.

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