## Neg

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#### Debt Ceiling will pass before the August recess, but negotiations with Dems is key.

Carney 7/11 – (Jordain, “McConnell: 'Ideally' debt ceiling vote is before August recess,” <http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/senate/341505-mcconnell-ideally-debt-ceiling-vote-is-before-august-recess>, 7/11/17)//DD

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) signaled on Tuesday that he wants a vote on raising the debt ceiling before lawmakers leave for the August recess. "Ideally we'll deal with the debt ceiling before the August recess," he told reporters. The timeline comes after Senate Republicans announced they would delay the start of the August recess by two weeks — moving the recess start date from July 31 to August 14. The move, McConnell suggested, could give lawmakers time to deal with a backlog of delayed legislation and work out an agreement to increase the debt ceiling before they leave Washington until early September. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has urged Congress to increase the debt ceiling before the August recess, but the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the country will not run out of borrowing options until mid-October. Conservatives typically want the vote tied to entitlement reform or spending cuts — a move that would likely draw pushback from Democrats. McConnell sidestepped Tuesday on saying if the vote needed to be tied to spending cuts. "We'll see, but the debt ceiling must be raised," he said. The House Freedom Caucus outlined on Monday three possible options to raise the debt ceiling that could win their vote. One option would require the Treasury secretary to issue GDP-linked bonds to pay the country’s debt in the event that the debt ceiling is reached, and allow the president to authorize the sale of certain government assets to raise funds for the payments. The second option would tie the debt ceiling to a budget resolution and require $250 billion in mandatory spending cuts. The third option would tie the debt ceiling vote to an ObamaCare repeal effort in case Republicans split repeal and replace. Julia Lawless, a spokeswoman for Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), said the Senate Finance Committee chairman has started talking to the administration about when Congress should vote. "Chairman Hatch is working with the administration to get more details on what the appropriate time will be for Congress to act to raise the debt ceiling and is continuing to work with his colleagues in Congress to find a viable path forward to achieve this goal," she told The Hill late last week. Republicans are expected to need to negotiate with Democrats on how to raise the debt ceiling for the first time since a vote in 2014. Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) warned on Tuesday that would be "very hard" for Democrats to support the move if it was tied to tax cuts for high-income earners. "The burden of proof is on them to come up with a proposal," he said.

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### ACA Thumper

#### ACA Thumps – it needs to be decided before the debt ceiling.

Snell et al. 7/11 – staff writers at the Chicago Tribune (Kelsy with Sean Sullivan and Juliet Eilperin, “McConnell delays August recess to complete work on health care bill, other issues,” <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ct-mcconnell-delays-recess-healthcare-bill-20170711-story.html>, 7/11/17)//DD

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced Tuesday that he would cut the chamber's August recess in half, saying the GOP needed more time to achieve its legislative goals given the protracted negotiations over health-care legislation and continued opposition from Democrats on several fronts. "To provide more time to complete action on important legislative items and process nominees that have been stalled by a lack of cooperation from our friends across the aisle, the Senate will delay the start of the August recess until the third week of August," McConnell, R-Ky., said in a statement. In addition to health care and appointments, the Senate will also devote time to passing a defense authorization bill "and other important issues," McConnell said. The Senate will now remain at work through the week of Aug. 7. The fate of the Senate's health-care bill remained uncertain Tuesday, although McConnell told reporters he plans to release a revised bill by Thursday morning and hopes to receive a Congressional Budget Office analysis of the new version by the beginning of next week so the chamber can vote quickly. McConnell's announcement appeared designed to give Republicans time to move to other matters, such as raising the federal debt ceiling, after dispatching with a health-care vote. "The debt ceiling must be raised," McConnell told reporters.