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Arrington lays the groundwork for Reconciliation 2.0

DORAL, Fla. — House Budget Committee Chair Jodey Arrington (R-Texas) said he will mark up a budget resolution within the next 30 days, the clearest sign yet that House Republicans are getting serious about passing a second reconciliation package ahead of the midterms.

But “reconciliation 2.0” is still far from a sure thing, Arrington noted.

“It doesn’t mean that it’ll have reconciliation initially. We may have to come back for instructions,” Arrington told reporters of the budget resolution. “We’re not going to do anything unless consent is there from the conference.”

Arrington said the resolution will feature a “10-year fiscal framework” and will set a top-line spending figure for discretionary spending.

Arrington said another reconciliation bill is a political imperative ahead of November.

“Our base needs to be extra motivated this time,” Arrington said. “And I don’t think putting the car in neutral and coasting from a governing agenda is the answer to getting them more motivated.”

Along with Speaker Mike Johnson, Arrington is one of the GOP conference’s most fervent proponents of passing another sweeping reconciliation bill. We reported last week that other members of the Republican leadership team are skeptical that another reconciliation package is feasible, given the slim House majority.

Exhibit A: House Ways and Means Committee Chair Jason Smith (R-Mo.) — a chief architect of the One Big Beautiful Bill — again poured cold water on reconciliation 2.0 during a Tuesday news conference.

“I would absolutely love a second reconciliation bill,” Smith said. “I would love that, but I just don’t think it will ever happen.”

Johnson said he was more optimistic than Smith but also cautioned Republicans to be “realistic” about what could be achieved.

“It will not be as big, but it can be just as beautiful,” Johnson said.

Today's sessions at the Republican retreat were light on details about what would be in a reconciliation package.

But House Freedom Caucus Chair Andy Harris (R-Md.) said he wanted to tackle fraud in government programs like TANF in a "narrowly focused" reconciliation bill.

Republican Study Committee Chair August Pfluger (R-Texas) is on Arrington's side in the reconciliation debate.

"Chairman Arrington moving on a budget resolution with potential instructions in the next 30 days is exactly the momentum we need right now in the House," Pfluger said in a statement. "We cannot slow walk this."

- *Max Cohen*, *Laura Weiss*