

Learning about Legislation #24: Motion to Table

When an issue is under debate on the floor of the House or the Senate, a member may bring up a “motion to table.” That stops debate on the current issue (a bill or resolution) and forces everyone to vote on whether debate should continue or whether the issue should be dropped from consideration, or tabled.

A more detailed description of this motion can be found on the Robert’s Rules of Order [online site](#) .

This week, House Speaker Paul Ryan reportedly forced the resignation of the House Chaplain, a move that caused an uproar. Representative Joseph Crowley (D-N.Y.) introduced a [resolution](#) to create a Select Committee to “investigate the actions and motivations behind the resignation of the House Chaplain” made up of members of the Ethics Committee. While this resolution was under consideration, a member introduced a motion to table. The motion to table was passed 215–171, and so all discussion of this resolution ended.

Fitzpatrick voted YES , to table the resolution.