# Twitter Thread by Chad Pergram



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## A) This is “Capitol Crunch.” Congress often faces an avalanche of activity in December as lawmakers try to wrap up for the year. And the challenges this year are particularly acute.

B) Talks go on behind the scenes about a potential coronavirus relief package. We truly don’t know the size of the final product. But we keep hearing that the bipartisan “baseline” will be a little more than $900 billion.

C) But there are still major sticking points over liability protections and money for state and local governments.

D) It appears that the only way to advance any sort of coronavirus bill will be to latch it to the big, $1.4 trillion, omnibus spending bill which leaders and appropriators have been working on for weeks. But that’s far from settled, too.

E) Issues still remain regarding migrant detention policy and money for the wall.

Frankly, it’s going to take until at least early next week to get a coronavirus bill which can jell – let alone, the bill to avoid a government shutdown at 11:59:59 pm et on December 11.

F) So, expect lawmakers to craft a short-term, one-week, interim spending bill (known as a CR, short for “Continuing Resolution”) to keep the government open past Friday night. This bill will simply renew all funding at existing levels.

G) That said, we do expect the House and Senate to move the final version of the defense bill early this week. President Trump is threatening to veto the package. He opposes a provision in the bill to drop the names of military bases named after Confederates.

H) Moreover, The President re-upped his veto threat after lawmakers didn’t include a provision in the bill to terminate “Section 230.” That’s short-hand for a portion of telecommunications policy which grants big tech firms liability protections.

I) Any potential override attempt would likely have to come next week – depending on how fast Congress can approve the new bill and if the President vetoes the bill quickly and returns it to Capitol Hill.

J) What this means is that lawmakers hoped for a one-week sprint. They are now staring at a two-week sprint.

Expect a lot of machinations behind the scenes this week. This week will likely be the prelude to the true crunch week: next week.