LA TIMES: Congress starts new duel over payroll tax breaK

A slow-moving conference committee of Democrats and Republicans will meet again this week to try to resolve the issue.

So far, the committee appears stuck on policy priorities being pushed by the GOP — such as giving states the authority to drug-test people receiving unemployment benefits or the power to block environmental restrictions on mercury emissions from industrial boilers.

"We should not let controversial items put at risk the lifeline that 160 million American working families are counting on," Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-Los Angeles) said last week.

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