

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Despite record-low approval ratings, House lawmakers Wednesday agreed to an approximately \$4,400 pay raise that will increase their salaries to almost \$170,000 next year.

The cost-of-living raise gets lawmakers back on track for automatic pay raises after a fight between Democrats and Republicans last year and again in January killed the pay hike that was due this year. That was the first interruption of the annual congressional raise in seven years.

The blowup came after Democrats last year fulfilled a campaign promise to deny themselves a pay hike until Congress raised the minimum wage. Delays in the minimum wage bill cost every lawmaker about \$3,100 this year.

On a 244-181 vote Wednesday, Democrats and Republicans killed a bid by Republican Rep. Lee Terry of Nebraska and Democratic Rep. Jim Matheson of Utah to get a direct vote to block the cost of living adjustment, which is automatically awarded unless lawmakers vote to block it.

The Senate has not indicated when it will deal with a similar measure.



