House Republicans yield on payroll tax deal

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WASHINGTON — House Republican leaders, bowing to pressure from the White House and their Senate colleagues, agreed to a stopgap measure that will forestall a tax increase that was scheduled to take effect on American workers Jan. 1.

The deal is expected to come to a vote Friday under procedures that would require all members in both chambers to agree. If any member objects, Speaker John Boehner will call the House back into full session next week for a vote, he told reporters Thursday.

In addition to keeping Social Security payroll taxes at current levels for an additional two months, the deal would maintain unemployment insurance for people who have been jobless for an extended period and would block a cut in the payments doctors receive for treating Medicare patients. After Jan. 1, congressional negotiators would meet to decide how to extend the provisions for the rest of 2012.

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