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Congressional Voting Record

114th Congress, 1st Session

January 2015—December 2015

*A Special Report on Legislation
Vital to American Retirees*

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This past year we saw a new Congress come to Washington. It unfortunately continued the unproductive ways of the last several Congresses, especially in areas that affect retirees. As America ages, issues like retirement security, the declining availability of guaranteed pensions and threats to the Social Security and Medicare systems continue. Congress passed fast track trade authority, which extinguishes the ability to scrutinize and amend proposed trade agreements that would lock in higher drug prices. Congress again went to the brink of closing the government, apparently not learning the lesson of 2013 when the shutdown cost taxpayers \$24 billion. The nation deserves better.

Many in Congress continued to attack our core retiree programs of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid as well as the pro-retiree provisions of the 2010 Affordable Care Act. Many in Congress voted to privatize Medicare and create a voucher-like system in its place. Many, too, voted to turn Medicaid into a block grant system, which would undercut its ability to provide care for millions of older Americans. Key positions like Commissioner of Social Security remain without a confirmed nominee in office.

In contrast, while attacks on core retiree programs continued, income inequality grows larger. Proposals to raise the minimum wage failed in Congress. For more than a decade, the wealthiest Americans have received trillions in tax breaks while older Americans have seen rising drug, health care, food, and energy costs.

It is up to us to advocate for those issues on which older Americans depend for a respectable quality of life in retirement.

This Voting Record reflects how committed our elected representatives are to retirees and older Americans. Use it to educate yourself on where your elected representatives stand. Get active today and help create an America that protects the health and economic security of seniors, strengthens families and builds safe and thriving communities.



Robert Roach, Jr.

President



Joseph Peters, Jr.

Secretary-Treasurer



Richard J. Fiesta

Executive Director

How To Read This Record

Democrat (D)	Republican (R)	Independent (I)
✓	Voted With Alliance Policy	
✗	Voted Against Alliance Policy	
S	Speaker Did Not Vote	
P	Present	
?	Did Not Vote	

O	Not Eligible Member
+	Announced For
-	Announced Against
AL	At-Large
<i>The number before each name indicates Congressional District.</i>	
100%	Best Score Possible

SENATE VOTES

The following is a list of ten key votes selected as representative of the votes of critical importance to retirees taken by the U.S. Senate:

1 Stop Social Security Privatization

Senator Wyden, D-OR, offered an amendment to the Senate budget resolution to create a point of order against legislation that would cut benefits, raise the retirement age, or privatize Social Security. The amendment needing 60 votes failed 51-48. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S.Con.Res. 11, Roll Call No. 84, March 24, 2015.

2 Stop Medicare Privatization

Senator Bennet, D-CO, offered an amendment to the Senate budget resolution to create a point of order against legislation that would privatize Medicare, cut guaranteed benefits, increase out-of-pocket spending, or turn Medicare into a premium support plan. The amendment failed 46-53. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S.Con.Res. 11, Roll Call No. 90, March 24, 2015.

3 Reverse Sequestration Cuts

Senator Murray, D-WA, offered an amendment to the Senate budget resolution to restore a below-sequester level cut of \$9 billion to nondefense discretionary spending in 2017, replacing sequestration in 2016 and 2017 and increasing funding above sequester levels by a total of \$148 billion for the 2 years, increasing defense and nondefense discretionary spending by equal amounts. The measure would be paid for by closing tax loopholes. The amendment failed 46-53. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S.Con.Res. 11, Roll Call No. 91, March 25, 2015.

4 Stop Medicaid Cuts

Senator Wyden, D-OR, offered an amendment to the Senate budget resolution that would strike more than \$1.2 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, preserving a critical source of comprehensive, affordable health and long-term care coverage for millions of otherwise uninsured low-income adults, parents and seniors. The amendment failed 47-53. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S.Con.Res. 11, Roll Call No. 95, March 26, 2015.

5 Stop Medicare Cuts

Senator Stabenow, D-MI, offered an amendment to the Senate budget resolution to reject the proposed \$435 billion in cuts to Medicare. The amendment failed 46-54. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S.Con.Res. 11, Roll Call No. 111, March 26, 2015.

6 Social Security Expansion

Senators Warren, D-MA, and Manchin, D-WV, introduced an amendment to the Senate budget resolution to expand Social Security. It requires that the Senate budget support the sustainable expansion of benefits, make the Social Security Trust Fund permanently solvent and accomplish these changes in a paid-for, deficit neutral way. The amendment failed 42-56. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S.Con.Res. 11, Roll Call No. 131, March 27, 2015.

7 Anti-Retiree Budget

Senator Enzi, R-WY, introduced the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Resolution. The budget transforms Medicaid into a block-grant system with \$400 billion in additional cuts over 10 years and cuts \$435 billion from Medicare. The budget also preserves sequester-level spending for all non-defense discretionary spending in addition to cutting spending further by \$236 billion over the next decade and impacting programs important to older and lower income Americans. The resolution passed by 52-46. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. Con. Res 11, Roll Call No. 135, March 27, 2015.

8 Trade Fast Track

This bill provides the President more authority to negotiate trade agreements. It also subjects Congress to only an up-or-down vote when considering the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and other trade agreements, without the possibility of amendments. The bill passed 60-38. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2146, Roll Call No. 219. June 24, 2014.

9 2016 Spending Agreement

This agreement lifts sequester levels for two years, increasing funding for defense and non-defense discretionary spending by \$80 billion, and lifts the debt-ceiling until 2017. The bill also reallocates funding to the Social Security disability program until 2022. It reduces increases in Medicare Part B premiums for 16 million Medicare beneficiaries who would have been subjected to a 52% increase in 2016. The bill passed 64-35. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1314, Roll Call No. 294, October 30, 2015.

10 Health Care Repeal

The Senate passed a budget reconciliation bill that repeals parts of the Affordable Care Act, including the individual and employer mandates, subsidies for individuals to purchase insurance, and Medicaid expansion. The repeal would result in more than 10 million people losing their health insurance. The bill passed 52-47. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3762, Roll Call No. 329, December 3, 2015.

SENATE VOTES

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	Senate Votes													
	Senate Votes													
	Senate Votes													
Alliance Position	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	%	%		
Missouri														
McCaskill (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	90	85		
Blunt (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	6		
Montana														
Tester (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	94		
Daines (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	0		
Nebraska														
Fischer (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	3		
Sasse (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	0		
Nevada														
Reid (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	96		
Heller (R)	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	20	21		
New Hampshire														
Shaheen (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	90	96		
Ayotte (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	10	4		
New Jersey														
Menendez (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	92		
Booker (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100		
New Mexico														
Udall (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100		
Heinrich (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100		
New York														
Schumer (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	96		
Gillibrand (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	94		
North Carolina														
Burr (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	4		
Tillis (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	10	10		
North Dakota														
Hoeven (R)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	6		
Heitkamp (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80	90		
Ohio														
Brown (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100		
Portman (R)	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	4		
Oklahoma														
Inhofe (R)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	4		
Lankford (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	0		
Oregon														
Wyden (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	93		
Merkley (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100		
Pennsylvania														
Casey (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	97		
Toomey (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	4		
Rhode Island														
Reed (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	99		
Whitehouse (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	99		
South Carolina														
Graham (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	9		
Scott (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	0		
South Dakota														
Thune (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	11		
Rounds (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	10		
Tennessee														
Alexander (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	6		
Corker (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	11		
Texas														
Cornyn (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	6		
Cruz (R)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	29	13		
Utah														
Hatch (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	5		
Lee (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	?	0	8		
Vermont														
Leahy (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	98		
Sanders (I)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100		
Virginia														
Warner (D)	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	70	81		
Kaine (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80	93		
Washington														
Murray (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	95		
Cantwell (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	95		
West Virginia														
Manchin (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	78		
Capito (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	10		
Wisconsin														
Johnson (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	0		
Baldwin (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100		
Wyoming														
Enzi (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	2		
Barrasso (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	5		

HOUSE VOTES

The following is a list of ten key votes selected as representative of the votes of critical importance to retirees taken by the U.S. House of Representatives:

1 House Rules

The House passed its procedural rules which contained a provision that would not allow Congress to reallocate funds to the Social Security disability insurance trust fund unless changes were made to the program making it more difficult for workers to obtain disability benefits. The rule passed 234-172. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H. Res. 5, Roll Call No. 6, January 6, 2015.

2 Health Care Repeal I

Representative Byrne, R-AL, introduced a bill that would repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Repeal would negatively impact America's seniors by revoking significant drug discounts for Medicare beneficiaries who fall into the Part D doughnut hole; revoking free wellness and preventive screenings; and revoking Medicaid options that allow older Americans with chronic conditions to live at home rather than in institutions. The bill passed 239-186. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 596, Roll Call No. 58, February 3, 2015.

3 Pro-Retiree Budget

Representative Van Hollen, D-MD, offered a substitute to the House budget resolution that protects Medicare and Medicaid, reallocates funding for the Social Security disability insurance program. The amendment failed 160-264. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H. Con. Res. 27, Roll Call No. 139, March 25, 2015.

4 House Budget Resolution

Representative Price, R-GA, introduced the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Resolution that makes \$5.5 trillion in cuts to many domestic programs important to seniors. It also turns Medicare into a voucher program, severely cuts Medicaid, and repeals the Affordable Care Act. The resolution passed 228-199. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H. Con. Res. 27, Roll Call No. 142, March 25, 2015.

5 Estate Tax Repeal

The House passed a bill introduced by Representative Brady, R-TX, to repeal the federal estate tax. Repeal of the estate tax disproportionately benefits the wealthiest Americans. The loss of estate tax revenues further skews income inequality and adds to the national debt. The legislation passed 240-179. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1105, Roll Call No. 161, April 16, 2015.

6 Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)

The House voted to extend TAA, which provides aid for workers who have been adversely affected by trade deals by providing job training, economic assistance and health benefits assistance. However, the extension would be paid for by cutting \$950 million from Medicare, which the Alliance opposes. The bill failed 126-302. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1314, Roll Call No. 361, June 12, 2015.

7 Trade Fast Track

This bill provides the President more authority to negotiate trade agreements. It also subjects Congress only to an up-or-down vote when considering the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and other trade agreements, without the possibility of amendments. The bill passed 218-208. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2146, Roll Call No. 374, June 18, 2015.

8 Health Care Repeal II

The House passed budget reconciliation legislation that repeals parts of the Affordable Care Act, including the individual and employer mandates and subsidies for individuals to purchase insurance. The repeal would result in 10 million people losing their health insurance. The bill passed 240-189. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3762, Roll Call No. 568, October 23, 2015.

9 Retirement Advice Repeal

Representative Wagner, R-MO, introduced legislation to delay implementation of the Department of Labor (DOL) fiduciary rule, which requires that financial advisers provide advice that is in the best interest of their clients. DOL estimates that consumers lose \$17 billion a year due to advice that is not in their best interest. The legislation passed 245-186. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1090, Roll Call No. 575, October 27, 2015.

10 2016 Spending Agreement

This agreement lifts sequester levels for two years, increasing funding for defense and non-defense discretionary spending by \$80 billion, and lifts the debt-ceiling until 2017. The bill also reallocates funding to the Social Security disability program until 2022. It reduces increases in Medicare Part B premiums for 16 million Medicare beneficiaries who would have been subjected to a 52% increase in 2016. The bill passed 266-167. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1314, Roll Call No. 579, October 28, 2015.

HOUSE VOTES

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1. House Rules
2. Health Care Repeal I
3. Pro-Retiree Budget
4. House Budget Resolution
5. Estate Tax Repeal
6. Trade Adjmt. Assist. (TAA)
7. Trade Fast Track
8. Health Care Repeal II
9. Retirement Advice Repeal
10. '16 Spending Agreement
Pro-Retiree Score '15
Lifetime Score

1. House Rules
2. Health Care Repeal I
3. Pro-Retiree Budget
4. House Budget Resolution
5. Estate Tax Repeal
6. Trade Adjmt. Assist. (TAA)
7. Trade Fast Track
8. Health Care Repeal II
9. Retirement Advice Repeal
10. '16 Spending Agreement
Pro-Retiree Score '15
Lifetime Score

Alliance Position N N Y N N N N N Y % %

Alliance Position N N Y N N N N N Y % %

Washington

1 DelBene (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	80	83
2 Larsen (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	80	92
3 Herrera Beutler (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10
4 Newhouse (R)	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	10	10
5 McMorris Rodgers (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10	10
6 Kilmer (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	80	90
7 McDermott (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	99
8 Reichert (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10	20
9 Smith (D)	✓	✓	?	?	?	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	86	91
10 Heck (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	97

Alliance Position N N Y N N N N N Y % %

Wisconsin

1 Ryan (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10	5
2 Pocan (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
3 Kind (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	70	89
4 Moore (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
5 Sensenbrenner (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	20	6
6 Grothman (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	0
7 Duffy (R)	?	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	11	2
8 Ribble (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10	4

West Virginia

1 McKinley (R)	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	20	18
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AL Lummis (R) X X X X X ✓ ✓ X X X X 20 4

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