

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 Drug Treatment for Seniors

Senator Wyden, D-OR, offered an amendment to a drug addiction bill to provide drug treatment to seniors who are addicted to pain killers. The measure also doubles the penalties for opioid manufacturers that provide kickbacks to prescribers. The vote failed 46-50. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 524, Roll Call No. 29, March 2, 2016.

2 Opioid Funding

Senator Shaheen, D-NH, offered an amendment to a drug addiction bill to provide funding for opioid treatment programs. A growing number of seniors suffer from substance abuse problems as a result of using prescription drugs for pain medicine. Opiate addiction is responsible for increasing falls among seniors. The motion failed 48-47. Sixty votes were required for passage. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 524, Roll Call No. 30, March 2, 2016.

3 Airplane Safety

Senator Schumer, D-NY, offered an amendment to a transportation bill to require the FAA to establish minimum standards for space on passenger planes. Shrinking space on planes makes it difficult for passengers, particularly seniors who may need special assistance, to meet the FAA requirement to evacuate a plane in 90 seconds after a crash. Seniors are also more likely to suffer deep vein thrombosis due to cramped spaces on planes. The amendment failed 42-54. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 636, Roll Call No. 43, April 7, 2016.

4 Zika Funding I

Senator Nelson, D-FL, offered an amendment to a spending bill to provide funding to combat the Zika virus. The amendment provides \$1.9 billion, the amount requested by the Obama Administration. The amendment failed 50-47. Sixty votes are necessary to invoke cloture on the amendment. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2577, Roll Call No. 73, May 17, 2016.

5 Endangering Public Health

Senator Cornyn, R-TX, introduced an amendment to a spending bill to provide funding for the Zika virus. However, the amendment would be paid for by taking funds from the Public Health and Prevention Fund. This would jeopardize \$1 billion provided to the Centers for Disease Control and local governments to deal with other epidemic and public health emergencies. The motion was rejected 52-45. Sixty votes are necessary to invoke cloture on the amendment. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2577, Roll Call No. 74, May 17, 2016.

6 Veterans Health Care

Senator McCain, R-AZ, offered an amendment to spending bill to extend treatment of veterans in the community and establish criteria and standards relating to the use of private providers by the Veterans Administration (VA). This amendment ensures veterans receive timely care, while safeguarding and strengthening VA health care facilities. The amendment passed 84-14. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2577, Roll Call No. 79, May 19, 2016.

7 Fiduciary Rule Repeal

The Senate voted on H.J.Res. 88 to overturn the Department of Labor Fiduciary Rule, which requires that financial advisers put the interest of their clients ahead of their own. Working and middle-class Americans lose \$17 billion a year in retirement savings due to advice that favors the adviser's, not the client's, interests. The resolution passed 56-41. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.J.Res. 88, Roll Call No. 84, May 24, 2016.

8 Zika Funding II

Senator Nelson, D-FL, moved to instruct conferees to reject proposals to rescind existing Ebola virus emergency funds and insist that Ebola accounts be reimbursed with \$510 million. Using Ebola funding to combat Zika jeopardizes efforts against the Ebola virus. The vote failed 46-49. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2577, Roll Call 93, June 8, 2016.

9 Domestic Funding Increase

Senator Reed, D-RI, offered an amendment to a spending bill to raise the sequestration cap for both defense and non-defense discretionary spending by \$18 billion. Increasing discretionary spending helps fund domestic priorities like infrastructure and cybersecurity, efforts to combat the heroin epidemic and the Zika virus and numerous seniors programs. The amendment failed 43-55. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 2943, Roll Call No. 95, June 9, 2016.

10 Lower Water Standards

Senator McConnell, R-KY, moved to file cloture on a spending bill conference report. While the conference report provided more funding Zika, it exempts pesticide spraying from Clean Water Act standards. The bill jeopardizes public health by contaminating water supplies, putting older Americans at higher health risks. The motion was rejected 52-48. Sixty votes are necessary to invoke cloture. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2577, Roll Call No. 112, June 28, 2016.