



Congressional Voting Record

115th Congress, 2nd Session
January 2018—December 2018

*A Special Report on Legislation
Vital to American Retirees*

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This past year a new Congress 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. Seniors and the nation deserve 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. In contrast, while attacks on core retiree programs continued, income inequality grows larger. 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. Americans continue to pay the highest prescription drug prices in the world. Yet Congress did nothing to stop it.

November 2018 saw the work of Congress judged at the election polls. Retirees, who vote in the greatest numbers, and the American people elected a new majority to the U.S. House. Whether the new Congress will be friendly to our issues depends in large part of the activism of Alliance members and all seniors. 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

The number before each name indicates Congressional District.

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 Azar Confirmation

The Senate voted on the nomination of Alex Azar for Secretary of Health & Human Services. He favors block granting Medicaid, which jeopardizes nursing home or home care coverage for seniors. Insulin prices tripled during his tenure as Eli Lilly president. Azar was confirmed 55-43. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. PN1371, Roll Call 21, January 24, 2018.

2 Stop Budget Rescission

The Senate voted on rescinding \$15 billion in already enacted spending, including \$7 billion for health care. This bill would have bypassed a bipartisan agreement and jeopardized funding for various programs, including affordable housing and community revitalization. The measure failed 48-50. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3, Roll Call 134, May 23, 2018.

3 Stop SNAP Work Requirements

The Senate voted to table an amendment by Sen. Kennedy, R-LA, to the farm bill, thereby eliminating expanded work requirements in the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. The amendment would have expanded work requirements for individuals 18 to 59 years old in the SNAP program and instituted an onerous reporting mandate. Two million beneficiaries would have lost benefits. The motion passed 68-30. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2, Roll Call 141, June 28, 2018.

4 Election Security

Sen. Leahy, D-VT, offered an amendment to a spending bill to provide \$250 million to state and local governments for election security. The funds would be used for upgraded software and voting machines as well as poll worker training. The amendment failed 50-47. Sixty votes are required for passage. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 6147, Roll Call 176, August 1, 2018.

5 Pharmacy Gag Clause

Sen. Lee, R-UT, sponsored an amendment that would limit the application of "gag clauses" to self-insured plans. Gag clauses bar pharmacists from telling consumers when it would be cheaper to pay cash for a prescription than using their insurance. Under the Lee amendment, retirees 50 to 64 years old in self-insured plans would not be eligible for the drug savings. The amendment failed 11-89. A **NO** Vote is a pro-retiree vote. S. 2554, Roll Call 208, September 17, 2018.

6 Opioid Treatment Under Medicare

The Senate voted on a House bill to provide opioid treatment to Medicare beneficiaries. Older Americans often use opioids after surgery or due to chronic pain, which can lead to opioid abuse. The bill passed 99-1. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 6, Roll Call 210, September 17, 2018.

7 Kavanaugh Nomination

The Senate voted on the nomination of Brett M. Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court. Judge Kavanaugh had ruled against the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. Nearly 1.5 million 50-64 year olds purchase insurance on the exchange and would be negatively affected without the ACA. Kavanaugh was confirmed 50-48. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. PN2259, Roll Call 223, October 6, 2018.

8 Stop Sham Health Plans

Sen. Baldwin, D-WI, sponsored a resolution of disapproval of the Trump Administration's rule on short-term limited insurance plans. These plans, which do not have to meet the coverage requirements under the ACA and often provide minimal coverage, would siphon off patients from the health exchanges; thereby increasing costs for 50 to 64 year olds in the exchanges. The resolution failed 50-50. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. S.J.Res. 63, Roll Call 226, October 10, 2018.

9 Farr Nomination

The Senate voted on the nomination of Thomas Alvin Farr to be the U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina. In the North Carolina legislature, Mr. Farr supported gerrymandering and voter ID laws, which often discriminate against seniors and minorities. The nomination failed 50-50. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. PN1412, Roll Call 249, November 28, 2018

10 Kraninger Nomination

The Senate voted on the nomination of Kathleen Laura Kraninger to head the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (CFPB). The CFPB is responsible for protecting American consumers, including seniors, from financial fraud. Ms. Kraninger had no experience in the financial sector. Ms. Kraninger was confirmed 50-49. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. PN2170, Roll Call 255, December 6, 2018.

SENATE VOTES

1. Azar Confirmation
 2. Stop Budget Rescission
 3. Stop SNAP Work Requirements
 4. Election Security
 5. Pharmacy Gag Clause
 6. Opioid Treatment Under Medicare
 7. Kavanaugh Nomination
 8. Stop Sham Health Plans
 9. Farr Nomination
 10. Kraninger Nomination
- Pro-Retiree Score '18
Lifetime Score

1. Azar Confirmation
 2. Stop Budget Rescission
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- Pro-Retiree Score '18
Lifetime Score

Alliance Position	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	%	%
Alabama												
Jones (D)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	90
Shelby (R)	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	30	17
Alaska												
Murkowski (R)	X	X	✓	X	✓	?	X	X	X	X	33	16
Sullivan (R)	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	30	8
Arizona												
Kyl (R)	O	O	O	O	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	33	4
Flake (R)	X	X	X	?	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	22	7
Arkansas												
Boozman (R)	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	30	10
Cotton (R)	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	20	8
California												
Feinstein (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	94
Harris (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
Colorado												
Bennet (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	93
Gardner (R)	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	20	8
Connecticut												
Blumenthal (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
Murphy (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
Delaware												
Carper (D)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	83
Coons (D)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	93
Florida												
Nelson (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	95
Rubio (R)	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	20	9
Georgia												
Isakson (R)	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	30	7
Perdue (R)	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	30	8
Hawaii												
Schatz (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
Hirono (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
Idaho												
Crapo (R)	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	20	5
Risch (R)	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	10	4

Alliance Position	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	%	%
Illinois												
Durbin (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	96
Duckworth (D)	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
Indiana												
Donnelly (D)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	92
Young (R)	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	20	10
Iowa												
Grassley (R)	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	30	11
Ernst (R)	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	20	8
Kansas												
Roberts (R)	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	30	8
Moran (R)	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	30	5
Kentucky												
McConnell (R)	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	20	7
Paul (R)	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	30	15
Louisiana												
Cassidy (R)	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	20	10
Kennedy (R)	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	20	15
Maine												
Collins (R)	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X	50	41
King (I)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	97
Maryland												
Cardin (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	99
Van Hollen (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
Massachusetts												
Warren (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
Markey (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
Michigan												
Stabenow (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	99
Peters (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
Minnesota												
Klobuchar (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	99
Smith (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
Mississippi												
Wicker (R)	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	20	12
Hyde-Smith (R)	O	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	11	11

SENATE VOTES

Alliance Position	1. Azar Confirmation 2. Stop Budget Rescission 3. Stop SNAP Work Requirements 4. Election Security 5. Pharmacy Cag Clause 6. Opioid Treatment Under Medicare 7. Kavanaugh Nomination 8. Stop Sham Health Plans 9. Farr Nomination 10. Kraninger Nomination Pro-Retiree Score '18										%	%
	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N		
Missouri												
McCaskill (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	89
Blunt (R)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	30	9
Montana												
Tester (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	92
Daines (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	?	✗	✗	✗	11	5
Nebraska												
Fischer (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	20	7
Sasse (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	5
Nevada												
Heller (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	20	19
Cortez Masto (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
New Hampshire												
Shaheen (D)	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	97
Hassan (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
New Jersey												
Menendez (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	93
Booker (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	98
New Mexico												
Udall (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
Heinrich (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	98
New York												
Schumer (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	97
Gillibrand (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	96
North Carolina												
Burr (R)	✗	✓	✗	?	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	33	7
Tillis (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	?	22	11
North Dakota												
Hooven (R)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	30	9
Heitkamp (D)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	90
Ohio												
Brown (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
Portman (R)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	30	13
Oklahoma												
Inhofe (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	20	5
Lankford (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	20	8
Oregon												
Wyden (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	94
Merkley (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100

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	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N		
Pennsylvania												
Casey (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	97
Toomey (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	5
Rhode Island												
Reed (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	99
Whitehouse (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	99
South Carolina												
Graham (R)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	30	10
Scott (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	4
South Dakota												
Thune (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	20	11
Rounds (R)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	30	13
Tennessee												
Alexander (R)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	30	8
Corker (R)	?	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	44	13
Texas												
Cornyn (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	20	6
Cruz (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	20	13
Utah												
Hatch (R)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	20	6
Lee (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	8
Vermont												
Leahy (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	98
Sanders (I)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
Virginia												
Warner (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	84
Kaine (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	97
Washington												
Murray (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	95
Cantwell (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	96
West Virginia												
Manchin (D)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	80	83
Capito (R)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	30	13
Wisconsin												
Johnson (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	3
Baldwin (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
Wyoming												
Enzi (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	20	3
Barrasso (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	20	5