Alliance for Retired Americans®

VIRGINIA

Congressional Voting Record

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A Special Report on Legislation Vital to American Retirees

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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.

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 Weaken ADA Protections

Rep. Poe, R-TX, introduced a bill to roll back the protections in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) law. The bill would not allow individuals to sue businesses who are out of compliance with ADA protections without first giving them 120 days of notice. The bill passed 225-192. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 620, Roll Call 80, February 15, 2018.

2 Balanced Budget Amendment

Rep. Goodlatte, R-VA, introduced a Balanced Budget Amendment that would force cuts in many government programs like Medicaid. The government would be unable to use funds in the Social Security ($2.9 trillion) and Medicare ($200 billion) trust funds to pay benefits or pay providers. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. The resolution failed 233-184. Two-thirds majority required for passage. H.J.Res. 2, Roll Call 138, April 12, 2018.

3 Budget Rescission

Rep. McCarthy, R-CA, introduced a bill that rescinds $15 billion from previously enacted federal spending, including $7 billion that would have gone towards health care. The bill passed 210-206. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3, Roll Call 243, June 7, 2018.

4 SNAP Work Requirements

Rep. Conaway, R-TX, introduced a bill that expands work requirements for individuals 18 to 59 years old receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and institutes an onerous reporting mandate. Two million beneficiaries would lose benefits. The bill passed 213-211. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2, Roll Call 284, June 21, 2018.

5 Repeal Medical Device Tax

Rep. Paulson, R-MN, introduced legislation to repeal the 2.3% excise tax on medical devices. The medical device tax is integral to health care financing and the repeal would increase the deficit by $2.2 billion a year. The bill passed 283-132. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 184, Roll Call 372, July 24, 2018.

How To Read This Record

Democrat (D) Republican (R) Independent (I)	**?** Did Not Vote
	O Not Eligible Member
✓ Voted With Alliance Policy	+ Announced For
✗ Voted Against Alliance Policy	– Announced Against
S Speaker Did Not Vote	**AL** At-Large
P Present	**100%** Best Score Possible

6 Increased Health Care Costs

Rep. Roskam, R-IL, introduced legislation that would allow insurance premium tax credits to be used to purchase lower coverage health plans outside of the exchange. The result would be increased costs for 50 to 64 year old Americans who purchase health care on the exchanges. The bill passed 246-176. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H R 6311, Roll Call 376, July 25, 2018.

7 Health Care Tax Shelters

Rep. Jenkins, R-KS, introduced legislation that would expand health savings accounts (HSAs). Studies conclude HSAs only benefit wealthier Americans. Only 5% of Americans with incomes under $100,000 have HSAs. The bill adds between $70 to 95 billion to the deficit. The bill passed 277-142. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 6199, Roll Call 377, July 25, 2018.

8 Retirement Tax Shelters

Rep. Kelly, R-PA, introduced legislation creating a new type of savings account that allows Americans to contribute up to $2,500 a year with tax free withdrawals. The plan is a new tax shelter for wealthy Americans. The bill passed 240-177. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 6757, Roll Call 411, September 27, 2018.

9 Skewed Tax Cuts

Rep. Davis, R-IL, introduced legislation that makes permanent the tax cuts for individuals. It also makes permanent the cap on mortgage interest deductions and the deductions of state and local taxes. These provisions disproportionately harm seniors who often have their major assets in their home values. The plan increases the deficit by $650 billion. The bill passed 220-191. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 6760, Roll Call 414, September 28, 2018.

10 Medicaid Protections

Rep. Barton, R-TX, introduced a bill to reauthorize the Money Follows the Person (MFP) and the Medicaid spousal impoverishment provision for three-months. MFP allows older adults and the disabled to transition from a nursing home into the community. Medicaid spousal impoverishment protects from poverty an individual whose spouse is receiving home care. The measure passed 400-11. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 7217, Roll Call 428, December 11, 2018.

SENATE VOTES

	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	Lifetime Score
Alliance Position	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	%	%
Warner (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**100**	**84**

	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	Lifetime Score
Alliance Position	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	%	%
Kaine (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**100**	**97**

HOUSE VOTES

	1. Weaken ADA Protections	2. Balanced Budget Amendment	3. Budget Rescission	4. SNAP Work Requirements	5. Repeal Medical Device Tax	6. Increased Health Care Costs	7. Health Care Tax Shelters	8. Retirement Tax Shelters	9. Skewed Tax Cuts	10. Medicaid Protections	Pro-Retiree Score '18	Lifetime Score
Alliance Position	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	%	%
1 Wittman (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	**10**	**11**
2 Taylor (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	**10**	**5**
3 Scott (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**100**	**99**
4 McEachin (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**100**	**100**
5 Garrett (R)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	**10**	**10**
6 Goodlatte (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	**10**	**7**

	1. Weaken ADA Protections	2. Balanced Budget Amendment	3. Budget Rescission	4. SNAP Work Requirements	5. Repeal Medical Device Tax	6. Increased Health Care Costs	7. Health Care Tax Shelters	8. Retirement Tax Shelters	9. Skewed Tax Cuts	10. Medicaid Protections	Pro-Retiree Score '18	Lifetime Score
Alliance Position	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	%	%
7 Brat (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	**10**	**8**
8 Beyer (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	**100**	**94**
9 Griffith (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	**10**	**10**
10 Comstock (R)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	**20**	**15**
11 Connolly (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**100**	**97**

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The number before each name indicates Congressional District.