Alliance for Retired Americans®

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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 Readler Confirmation

The Senate considered the nomination of Chad Readler to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. While a senior Justice Department political appointee, Readler filed the brief on behalf of the Trump Administration to strike down the Affordable Care Act (ACA). If the ACA is overturned, 25 million seniors 50-64 years old, could lose health insurance. Readler was confirmed 52- 47. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. PN 248, Roll Call 37, March 6, 2019.

2 House Disaster Relief

The Senate voted on a resolution to debate the House disaster relief supplemental bill, which would provide $14.2 billion in assistance to communities hurt by natural disasters, including many low-income seniors who were impacted by them. The resolution failed 46-48. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 268, Roll Call 56, April 1, 2019.

3 9/11 Responders Funds

Senator Lee, R-UT, offered an amendment to limit funding for the Sept 11th Victim Compensation Fund. The bill fully funds health benefits for Sept 11th first responders who were exposed to toxic chemicals and whose average age is 50. Many have become ill, disabled or have died. The amendment failed 32-66. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. Amdt. 928 to H.R. 1327, Roll Call 222, July 23, 2019.

4 Seniors Programs Cuts I

Senator Paul, R-KY, offered an amendment requiring cuts in other programs, including seniors programs, in order to fund the Sept 11th Victim Compensation Fund. The bill fully funds health benefits for Sept 9/11 first responders who were exposed to toxic chemicals and whose average age is 50. Many have become ill, disabled or have died. The amendment failed 22-77. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. Amdt. 929 to H.R. 1327, Roll Call 223, July 23, 2019.

5 Balanced Budget Amendment

Senator Paul, R-KY, offered an amendment to the Bipartisan Budget Act allowing an increase in the debt ceiling only after Congress enacts a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the amendment would require $11.3 trillion in cuts from projected spending levels over 10 years disproportionately affecting health programs for seniors. The vote failed 23-70. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. Amdt. 932 to H.R. 3877, Roll Call 260, August 1, 2019.

6 Seniors Programs Funding

The Senate voted on a motion to debate the Labor, HHS and Defense appropriations bills. The Senate Labor, HHS bill only included a 1% increase in funding. The small increase threatens public health and Older Americans Act programs that allow seniors to remain in the home. The motion failed by 51-44. Sixty votes are needed to proceed. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2740, Roll Call 292, September 18, 2019.

7 Family Leave Cutbacks

The Senate debated a motion to instruct the defense bill conferees reviewing family and medical leave to consider providing compensatory time or tax incentives rather than monetary assistance. Most sick workers or caregivers need monetary assistance during sickness or caregiving. The motion passed 55-39. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S.Res. 336, Roll Call 307, September 25, 2019.

8 Scalia Confirmation

The Senate voted on the nomination of Eugene Scalia to become the Secretary of Labor. As Solicitor of Labor in 2002 and 2003, Scalia was criticized for failing to adequately protect workers, including health benefits issues. In private practice, he fought the fiduciary rule for retirement accounts, which would have required financial advisers to put the interest of their clients ahead of their own. Scalia was confirmed 52-42. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. PN 1099, Roll Call 309, September 25, 2019.

9 Seniors Programs Cuts II

Senator Paul, R-KY, offered an amendment to the government funding bill requiring a 2% cut to discretionary spending. Many programs that allow seniors to remain independent and in their homes such as Meals on Wheels, transportation and home care are funded through discretionary spending. The amendment failed 24-73. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R.4378, Roll Call 310, September 26, 2019.

10 Protect Health Care

The Senate debated a resolution of disapproval against a 2018 guidance issued by the Department of Health and Human Services expanding the ability of states to grant insurance standards waivers. These waivers would allow states to approve plans that do not provide coverage for pre-existing conditions. The resolution failed 43-52. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S.J.Res. 52, Roll Call 337, October 30, 2019.

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 Disaster Relief

Rep. Lowey, D-NY, introduced the House Disaster Relief Supplemental bill, which would provide $14.2 billion in assistance to communities hurt by natural disasters, including many low-income seniors. The bill passed 237-187. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 268, Roll Call 39, January 16, 2019.

2 Protect Health Care

Rep. Kuster, D-NH, introduced legislation that nullifies a 2018 guidance issued by the Department of Health and Human Services expanding state health insurance waivers. These waivers allow states to approve plans that do not cover pre-existing conditions. The bill passed 230-183. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 986, Roll Call 196, May 9, 2019.

3 Lower Drug Prices

Rep. Blunt Rochester, D-DE, introduced legislation that reverses the Administration's efforts to abolish the Affordable Care Act by providing funding for enrollment and state exchanges and outlawing so-called "junk plans" that do not cover pre-existing conditions. The bill also reduces drug prices by removing barriers that will allow generics to come to market more quickly. The bill passed 234-183. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. HR. 987, Roll Call 214, May 16, 2019.

4 Scam Protections

Rep. Waters, D-CA, introduced legislation that would restore the powers of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). The CFPB was created in the aftermath of the 2008 crisis to help protect consumers, including seniors from predatory lenders. The Trump Administration had proposed to eliminate its funding. The bill passed 231-191. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1500, Roll Call 228, May 22, 2019.

5 9/11 Responders Health

Rep. Maloney, D-NY, introduced legislation to fund the September 11th Victims Compensation Fund to assist first responders who were exposed to toxic chemicals. The bill fully funds health benefits until 2090. The average age of 9/11 first responders is 50. Many have become ill, disabled or have died. The bill passed 402-12. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1327, Roll Call 474, July 12, 2019.

6 Health Tax Repeal

Rep. Courtney, D-CT, introduced legislation repealing the 40% excise tax on many employer-sponsored health plans. If implemented, retirees under 65 could see cuts to their health benefits and those with Medicare could have their supplemental coverage eliminated. The bill passed 419-6. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 748, Roll Call 493, July 17, 2019.

7 Minimum Wage Increase

Rep. Scott, D-VA, introduced legislation that would raise the federal minimum wage to $15 an hour over a 7-year period, raising the wages of 40 million Americans, including 5.8 million older workers. Raising the minimum wage increases Social Security contributions, which improves retirement benefits and the Social Security trust fund solvency. The bill passed 231-199. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 582, Roll Call 496, July 18, 2019.

8 Protect Pensions

Rep. Neal, D-MA, introduced legislation that provides 30-year government loans to troubled multiemployer pension plans. The bill will help 1.3 million retirees who are in plans at risk of insolvency. It will strengthen the multiemployer insurance fund of the federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. The bill passed 264-169. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 397, Roll Call 505, July 24, 2019.

9 Debt Ceiling Increase

Rep. Yarmuth, K-KY, introduced legislation that raises the federal debt limit until 2021 and enacts a two-year budget agreement. This bill ensures that the U.S. will not default on its debt obligations. Seniors programs funded through discretionary spending, including nutrition, housing and transportation will see funding increases. The bill passed 284-149. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3877, Roll Call 511, July 25, 2019.

10 Drug Negotiations

The legislation requires the HHS Secretary to negotiate lower drug prices for 250 of the highest cost drugs. The bill caps out-of-pocket spending for Medicare Part D at $2,000. Savings from the bill will be used to provide Medicare vision, dental and hearing benefits. The bill passed 230-192. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3, Roll Call 682, December 12, 2019.

Senate Votes

	1. Readler Confirmation	2. House Disaster Relief	3. 9/11 Responders Funds	4. Seniors Programs Cuts I	5. Balanced Budget Amendment	6. Seniors Programs Funding	7. Family Leave Cutbacks	8. Scalia Confirmation	9. Seniors Programs Cuts II	10. Protect Health Care	Pro-Retiree Score '19	Lifetime Score
Alliance Position	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	%	%
Collins (R)	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	**60**	**42**
King (I)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	**90**	**97**

HOUSE VOTES

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	1. House Disaster Relief	2. Protect Health Care	3. Lower Drug Prices	4. Scam Protections	5. 9/11 Responders Health	6. Health Tax Repeal	7. Minimum Wage Increase	8. Protect Pensions	9. Debt Ceiling Increase	10. Drug Negotiations	Pro-Retiree Score '19	Lifetime Score
Alliance Position	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	%	%
1 Pingree (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**100**	**98**
2 Golden (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**100**	**100**

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