



SOUTH DAKOTA

Congressional Voting Record

117th Congress, 1st Session
January 2021 — December 2021

*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 Minimum Wage

Senator Sanders, I-VT, offered an amendment to 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 security. The amendment failed 42-58. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1319, Roll Call 74, March 5, 2021.

2 Health Care Cuts

The Senate voted on an amendment by Senator Lee, R-UT, to limit the expansion of Affordable Care Act premium assistance for households above 500% of the federal poverty level. Many Americans over 55 years of age have difficulty affording health insurance. The amendment failed 49-50. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1319, Roll Call 105, March 6, 2021.

3 Stimulus Payments

The Senate voted on the American Rescue Plan (ARP). ARP provided a \$1400 stimulus check to most Americans, including seniors, fixed the multiemployer pension program and provided funding for nutrition, vaccines, PPE and other life-saving measures. The measure passed 50-49. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1319, Roll Call 110, March 6, 2021.

4 Becerra Confirmation

The Senate voted to confirm Xavier Becerra as Secretary of Health and Human Services. As the Attorney General of California, Mr. Becerra argued to protect the Affordable Care Act in court. Mr. Becerra was confirmed 50-49. **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. PN78-2, Roll Call 125, March 18, 2021.

5 Protect Medicare

The Senate voted to protect Medicare from spending cuts as required by the budget paygo rules after passage of the American Recovery Act. The bill passed 90-2. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1868, Roll Call 142, March 25, 2021.

6 Tax Code Inequity

Senator Romney, R-UT, offered an amendment to the Budget Reconciliation bill to prevent revisions to the tax code; thus, eliminating a way to pay for the Build Back Better Act, including coverage for home care and Medicare expansion. The amendment failed 49-50. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree. S. Amdt. 3652 to S.Con.Res. 14, Roll Call 340, August 10, 2021.

7 Debt Ceiling Extension

The Senate voted on a motion to proceed to H.R. 5305, a bill to fund the government and to lift the debt ceiling. The bill ensures that the U.S. will not default on its debt obligations and seniors will continue to receive Social Security benefits. The motion failed 48-50. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 5305, Roll Call 385, September 27, 2021.

8 Election Reform

The Senate voted on a motion to proceed to S. 2747, a bill which strengthens election laws. The bill expands voter registration, vote by mail and early voting and safeguards voting by requiring paper backup and increased cybersecurity. Seniors are increasingly voting by mail. The motion failed 49-51. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 2747, Roll Call 420, October 20, 2021.

9 Voting Rights

The Senate voted on a motion to proceed to S. 4, a bill to restore provisions of the Voting Rights Act and end vote discrimination against people of color, including older people of color. The motion failed 49-50. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 4, Roll Call 459, November 3, 2021.

10 Defund Vaccine Mandate

The Senate voted on an amendment by Senator Marshall, R-KS, to prohibit federal funding to implement the COVID-19 vaccine mandate. Vaccines help protect Americans, particularly older Americans who are the most susceptible to serious illness or death. The amendment was rejected 48-50. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S.Amdt. 4868 to H.R. 6119, Roll Call 476, December 2, 2021.

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 Stimulus Payments

Representative Yarmuth, D-KY, introduced the American Rescue Plan. This bill provided a \$1400 stimulus check to most Americans, including seniors, fixed the multiemployer pension program and provided funding for nutrition, vaccines, PPE and other lifesaving measures. The bill passed 219-212. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1319, Roll Call 49, February 27, 2021.

2 Protect Voting Rights

Representative Sarbanes, D-MD, introduced a bill to protect the right to vote, including increased access to vote by mail and early voting, the use of paper ballots as backup and protecting voting machines from cyber attacks. The bill passed 220-210. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1, Roll Call 62, March 3, 2021.

3 Workers' Rights

Representative Scott, D-VA, introduced the PRO Act, which would protect the right of workers to organize. Union jobs provide higher wages and benefits leading to higher Social Security and retirement benefits. The bill passed 225-206. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 842, Roll Call 70, March 9, 2021.

4 Stop Medicare Cuts

Representative Yarmuth, D-KY, introduced legislation to protect Medicare from spending cuts as required by the budget paygo rules due to the passage of the American Recovery Act. The bill passed 245-175. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1868, Roll Call 96, March 19, 2021.

5 Protect Health Workers

The House voted on the rule to allow the consideration of legislation directing the Secretary of Labor to issue occupational and health standards protecting health care workers from violence. At a time when the country is combatting a pandemic, we need to ensure the safety of health workers. The resolution passed 217-208. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.Res. 303, Roll Call 102, April 14, 2021.

6 Age Discrimination Rights

Representative Scott, D-VA, introduced a bill to protect older workers from discrimination by restoring protections lost through a U.S. Supreme Court decision, which raised the burden of proof to prove age discrimination in the workplace. The bill passed 247-178. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2062, Roll Call 180, June 23, 2021.

7 Protect Consumers

Representative Cardenas, D-CA, introduced a bill authorizing the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to go after fraudsters and recoup money that was gained through illegal activities. It also allows the FTC to seek injunctive and monetary relief for consumers in federal court. Seniors often fall prey to scammers. The bill passed 221-205. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2668, Roll Call 214, July 20, 2021.

8 Government Funding

Representative DeLauro, D-CT, introduced a bill to fund the government and to lift the debt ceiling. The bill ensures that the U.S. will not default on its debt obligations and seniors will continue to receive Social Security benefits. The bill passed 220-211. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 5305, Roll Call 267, September 21, 2021.

9 Protect Older Workers

Representative Garcia, D-TX, introduced legislation to ensure that older job applicants are protected against age discrimination during the hiring process, so they may rejoin the workforce. The bill passed 224-220. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3992, Roll Call 358, November 4, 2021.

10 Drug Negotiations

Representative Yarmuth, D-KY, introduced a bill requiring Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices for seniors, cap out-of-pocket drug costs at \$2,000 a year and cap insulin copays to \$35 a month. It also provides for Medicare hearing benefits and \$150 billion for Medicaid home care services. The bill passed 220-213. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 5376, Roll Call 385, November 19, 2021.

SENATE VOTES

1. Minimum Wage 2. Health Care Cuts 3. Stimulus Payments 4. Becerra Confirmation 5. Protect Medicare 6. Tax Code Inequity 7. Debt Ceiling Extension 8. Election Reform 9. Voting Rights 10. Defund Vaccine Mandate Pro-Retiree Score '21 Lifetime Score													1. Minimum Wage 2. Health Care Cuts 3. Stimulus Payments 4. Becerra Confirmation 5. Protect Medicare 6. Tax Code Inequity 7. Debt Ceiling Extension 8. Election Reform 9. Voting Rights 10. Defund Vaccine Mandate Pro-Retiree Score '21 Lifetime Score												
Alliance Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	%	%	Alliance Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	%	%
Thune (R)	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	?	11	11	Rounds (R)	X	X	X	X	✓	?	X	X	?	X	13	14

HOUSE VOTES

1. Stimulus Payments 2. Protect Voting Rights 3. Workers' Rights 4. Stop Medicare Cuts 5. Protect Health Workers 6. Age Discrimination Rights 7. Protect Consumers 8. Government Funding 9. Protect Older Workers 10. Drug Negotiations Pro-Retiree Score '21 Lifetime Score													Alliance Position	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	%	%
AL Johnson (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10

How To Read This Record

Democrat (D) Republican (R) Independent (I)
 ✓ Voted With Alliance Policy
 X 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

*On Senate Votes 7- 9, Senator Schumer voted with the Alliance position then changed his votes to preserve parliamentary options for a later vote.

