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## **Congressional Voting Record**

107<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session  
January 2001 — December 2001

***A Special Report on Legislation  
Vital to American Retirees***

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[www.retiredamericans.org](http://www.retiredamericans.org)

Retired Americans face challenges in their lives everyday. From prescription drug prices, to Medicare and Social Security payments, to housing and energy prices, older Americans know that retirement security is essential. That is why the Alliance for Retired Americans, created in January and launched in May 2001, is a strong, new voice for retired workers and their families. Our mission is to protect the health and economic security of seniors, reward work, strengthen families and build thriving communities. In just our first year, we are over 2.5 million members strong—and still growing.

This past year saw even more challenges for older Americans. The tragic events of September 11 have left a permanent mark on all segments of American society. Retired Americans, many of whom remember and responded to the Pearl Harbor attack, responded this year as well by volunteering in their communities, giving blood, and contributing time and money to relief efforts. In addition to those efforts, we all owe a great debt of gratitude to the heroic workers who sacrificed their lives in response to the attacks. The attacks and response show how precious our democracy is as well as the enduring strength of the American people.

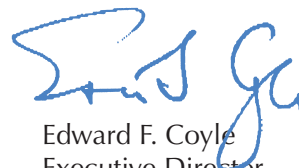
A keystone of that precious democracy is holding our elected officials accountable for their actions. This Voting Record pinpoints the key votes in Congress on the vital issues for retirees and their families. This past session of Congress, even before the September 11 attacks, was unfriendly to retirees. Promises of a Medicare prescription drug benefit went unfulfilled. Irresponsible budget and taxation policies threatened the Social Security and Medicare surpluses. Unjustifiable efforts to privatize the Social Security system continued throughout the year. Even a consensus railroad retirement bill took the entire year to pass. The midyear switch in control of the Senate slowed the pace of more devastating legislation.

Stopping bad legislation is not enough. The Alliance is committed to working with a broad coalition of elected officials, regardless of party, to enact legislation that improves the quality of life for older Americans. We must work hard to enact a comprehensive Medicare prescription drug benefit, to ensure that quality care is available for those who need long-term and nursing home care, and to stand sentry against attempts to erode the stability of the Social Security system. Remember that it was during the early days of World War II that recipients began to receive the first Social Security benefits and the Medicare program began at the height of the Vietnam conflict. There is no reason to retreat from the fight for a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

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 join us as we build an America that protects the health and economic security of seniors, strengthens families and builds safe and thriving communities.



George J. Kourpias  
President



Edward F. Coyle  
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  
? 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 Social Security & Medicare Lockbox

Senator Conrad, D-ND, offered an amendment to a bankruptcy bill to create a “lockbox” for Social Security and Medicare surplus funds. The proposal would have taken the Medicare, Part A (Hospital) Trust Fund off the general federal budget. It would also have required the votes of 60 senators to use any of the Medicare or Social Security surplus funds for general governmental expenses. Although a majority of the Senate supported the amendment, it failed 53-47 because this amendment required 60 votes to pass under the Budget Act. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 420, Roll Call No. 22, March 13, 2001.

## 2 Medicare Prescription Drug Benefits I

Senator Baucus, D-MT, offered an amendment to include \$311 billion for a Medicare prescription drug benefit program in the fiscal year 2002 budget resolution. Funding would have been generated by reducing future tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. The amendment failed 50-50. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H. Con. Res. 83, Roll Call No. 66, April 3, 2001.

## 3 Fiscal Year 2002 Budget

The budget resolution was the first step toward the \$1.3 trillion tax cut legislation, which was heavily weighted to the wealthiest Americans and corporations. The tax cuts outlined in the budget resolution effectively use up the Social Security and Medicare surpluses and cap vital domestic programs for retirees and older Americans. The Senate adopted the budget resolution 65-35. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H. Con. Res. 83, Roll Call No. 86, April 6, 2001.

## 4 Medicare Prescription Drug Benefits II

Senator Rockefeller, D-WV, offered an amendment during debate on the Administration’s tax cut legislation to delay a reduction in the top tax rate for the wealthiest until Congress enacted a Medicare prescription drug benefit program. The amendment failed 48-51. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1836, Roll Call No. 117, May 21, 2001.

## 5 Social Security & Medicare Trust Funds

Senator Byrd, D-WV, moved to strike all reduction in tax rates except for lower income Americans and to strike estate tax reductions after 2006. The savings from this proposal would be used to extend the solvency of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds and enact a Medicare prescription drug benefit program. The amendment failed 39-60. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1836, Roll Call No. 122, May 21, 2001.

## 6 Medicaid Estate Recovery

Senator Feingold, D-WI, moved to repeal the Medicaid Estate Recovery Program and replace any funds lost to the federal government by reducing cuts in the estate tax. The Medicaid Estate Recovery Program allows states to seize some of the estates of deceased Medicaid users to repay Medicaid funds used while they were alive. Older Americans are among the heaviest users of the Medicaid program, especially for nursing home care. The amendment failed 41-58. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1836, Roll Call No. 132, May 22, 2001.

## 7 Social Security & Medicare Solvency

Senator Harkin, D-IA, moved to delay the effective date of the tax-cut reductions in the highest income bracket until the Congress passed legislation providing for the long-term solvency of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. The amendment failed 45-54. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1836, Roll Call No. 137, May 22, 2001.

## 8 Fair Tax Cuts

Senator Daschle, D-SD, offered a substitute to the Administration’s tax cut legislation. The Daschle amendment would create a lower rate for low income Americans, raise the standard deduction for married couples, increase child tax credits, and increase estate tax exemptions for average income Americans. The substitute spread tax reductions more fairly across all income levels and did not threaten the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds. The substitute failed 41-58. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1836, Roll Call No. 144, May 22, 2001.

## 9 Waive Court Rights

Senator Kyl, R-AZ, offered an amendment to the Patients’ Bill of Rights legislation that would permit insurance companies to issue lower cost policies that would require patients to waive their right to use the court when their rights were violated. The amendment failed 42-54. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 1052, Roll Call No. 218, June 29, 2001.

## 10 Patients’ Bill of Rights

The Patients’ Bill of Rights legislation, introduced by Senator McCain, R-AZ, would create national protections for Americans participating in health insurance plans. The bill would allow patients to protect their rights in state and federal courts over quality of care issues. The bill also ensures that Americans have access to specialty and emergency medical treatment. The Senate passed the bill 59-36. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 1052, Roll Call No. 220, June 29, 2001.







# 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 Pro-Retiree Budget

Representative Spratt, D-SC, offered a substitute for the Republican plan. Under the Spratt proposal, one-third of the non-Medicare, non-Social Security surplus funds would be used to increase domestic spending, one-third for cutting taxes, and one-third to reduce the federal debt and provide the Medicare and Social Security systems with needed additional resources. Under the Republican plan, most of these surplus funds were to be used for tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. The substitute failed 183-243. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H. Con. Res. 83, Roll Call No. 69, March 28, 2001.

## 2 Skewed Estate Taxes

This bill, introduced by Rep. Dunn, R-WA, reduces federal revenues by \$185.6 billion over ten years by lowering estate and gift taxes for the top 2 percent of Americans. All federal estate taxes would be repealed in 2011. The loss of these funds would seriously jeopardize the creation of a Medicare prescription drug program. The bill passed the House 274-154. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 8, Roll Call No. 84, April 4, 2001.

## 3 Medicare Budget Protection

Representative Spratt, D-SC, moved to instruct the House conferees during the House-Senate negotiations on the federal budget. The instructions would have been to create a federal budget for fiscal year 2002 that includes a Medicare prescription drug program, protection of the Medicare Hospital Trust Fund surplus, and increased aid to education. The motion was rejected 200-207. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H. Con. Res. 83, Roll Call No. 85, April 24, 2001.

## 4 Pension Opportunities

Representative Neal, D-MA, offered a substitute amendment to a pension bill in order to assist low and moderate-income workers participate in employer 401(k) plans. The Neal proposal would provide a \$1,000 refundable tax credit to contribute to such plans. The proposal also provided tax incentives for small employers to create pension plans and tax credits for employer contributions to retirement plans on behalf of lower paid workers. The amendment failed 207-223. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 10, Roll Call No. 94, May 2, 2001.

## 5 Pension Protections

Representative Sanders, I-VT, moved that the House send a pension bill back to the appropriate committees in order to add protections for workers whose employers are converting pension plans to cash balance formats and to allow workers to remain in their existing defined benefit plans. Cash balance plans have been shown often to reduce the pension benefits for long-term and older workers. The motion failed 153-276. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 10, Roll Call No. 95, May 2, 2001.

## 6 Anti-Retiree Budget

The budget resolution, introduced by Rep. Nussle, R-IA, was the first step toward the \$1.3 trillion tax cut legislation, which was heavily weighted to the wealthiest Americans and corporations. The tax cuts outlined in the budget resolution effectively use up the Social Security and Medicare surpluses and cap vital domestic programs for retirees and older Americans. The House adopted the budget resolution 221-207. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H. Con. Res. 83, Roll Call No. 104, May 9, 2001.

## 7 Stop Biased Social Security Commission

Representative Filner, D-CA, offered an amendment to prohibit the use of federal funds to implement the recommendations of the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security. All of President Bush's appointees favored privatization of Social Security accounts. In addition, there was no member representing workers or Social Security beneficiaries on the Commission. The amendment failed 188-238. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2590, Roll Call No. 273, July 25, 2001.

## 8 Protect Social Security & Medicare Surpluses

Representative Thurman, D-FL, moved to send the energy bill back to the appropriate committee in order to add language that the pending tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans are contingent on protecting the Social Security and Medicare surpluses first. The motion was defeated 206-223. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 4, Roll Call No. 319, August 2, 2001.

## 9 Conflicted Investment Advice

This legislation, introduced by Rep. Boehner, R-OH, permits investment advisers to give advice to workers when the advisers have an interest in the securities they are recommending. At a time when the use of defined contribution plans, like 401(k) plans, is increasing and defined benefit plans are decreasing, this legislation creates the potential for unscrupulous practices and decreased retirement advice protections. The bill passed the House 280-144. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2269, Roll Call No. 442, November 15, 2001.

## 10 Voting Access

Representative Menendez, D-NJ, moved to send the election reform bill back to the appropriate committee in order to add language that ensures that voters have opportunities to correct ballot errors, have increased access to provisional voting, and ensure better polling place access for the disabled. Older Americans need these provisions, especially in light of the 2000 elections. The House leadership did not give the House the opportunity to vote on these provisions. The motion failed 197-226. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3295, Roll Call No. 488, December 12, 2001.







# HOUSE VOTES

1. Pro-Retiree Budget  
2. Skewed Estate Taxes  
3. Medicare Budget Protection  
4. Pension Opportunities  
5. Pension Protections  
6. Anti-Retiree Budget  
7. Stop Biased Budget  
8. Protect Soc. Sec. & Medicare Comm.  
9. Conflicted Investment Advice  
10. Voting Access  
Pro-Retiree Score

Alliance Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	%
<b>KENTUCKY</b>											
1. Whitfield (R)	X	X	?	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
2. Lewis (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
3. Northup (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
4. Lucas (D)	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	40
5. Rogers (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
6. Fletcher (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0

Alliance Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	%
<b>LOUISIANA</b>											
1. Vitter (R)	X	X	?	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
2. Jefferson (D)	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90
3. Tauzin (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
4. McCrery (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
5. Cooksey (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
6. Baker (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
7. John (D)	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	40

Alliance Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	%
<b>MAINE</b>											
1. Allen (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	90
2. Baldacci (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100

Alliance Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	%
<b>MARYLAND</b>											
1. Gilchrest (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
2. Ehrlich (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
3. Cardin (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90
4. Wynn (D)	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80
5. Hoyer (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90
6. Bartlett (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
7. Cummings (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
8. Morella (R)	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	20

Alliance Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	%
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>											
1. Olver (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
2. Neal (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	80
3. McGovern (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
4. Frank (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
5. Meehan (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
6. Tierney (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
7. Markey (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
8. Capuano (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
9. Lynch (D)	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	100
10. Delahunt (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	100

Alliance Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	%
<b>MICHIGAN</b>											
1. Stupak (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
2. Hoekstra (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
3. Ehlers (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
4. Camp (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
5. Barcia (D)	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	80
6. Upton (R)	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10
7. Smith (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
8. Rogers (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0

1. Pro-Retiree Budget  
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10. Voting Access  
Pro-Retiree Score

Alliance Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	%
<b>KENTUCKY</b>											
9. Kildee (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
10. Bonior (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
11. Knollenberg (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
12. Levin (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
13. Rivers (D)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	89
14. Conyers (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
15. Kilpatrick (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
16. Dingell (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100

Alliance Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	%
<b>MINNESOTA</b>											
1. Gutknecht (R)	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	10
2. Kennedy (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
3. Ramstad (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
4. McCollum (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
5. Sabo (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	90
6. Luther (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	100
7. Peterson (D)	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	70
8. Oberstar (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100

Alliance Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	%
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>											
1. Wicker (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
2. Thompson (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
3. Pickering (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
4. Shows (D)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	60
5. Taylor (D)	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	50

Alliance Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	%
<b>MISSOURI</b>											
1. Clay (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
2. Akin (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
3. Gephardt (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
4. Skelton (D)	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	60
5. McCarthy (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	80
6. Graves (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
7. Blunt (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
8. Emerson (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
9. Hulshof (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0

Alliance Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	%
<b>MONTANA</b>											
AL Rehberg (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0

Alliance Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	%
<b>NEBRASKA</b>											
1. Bereuter (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
2. Terry (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
3. Osborne (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0

Alliance Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	%
<b>NEVADA</b>											
1. Berkley (D)	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90
2. Gibbons (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0

Alliance Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	%
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>											
1. Sununu (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
2. Bass (R)	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	10





# HOUSE VOTES

Alliance Position	10. Voting Access Pro-Retiree Score										%
	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	
<b>WASHINGTON</b>											
1. Inslee (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	90
2. Larsen (D)	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	80
3. Baird (D)	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	60
4. Hastings (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0
5. Nethercutt (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0
6. Dicks (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	90
7. McDermott (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
8. Dunn (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0
9. Smith (D)	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	50
<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>											
1. Mollohan (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	90
2. Capito (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0
3. Rahall (D)	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80
<b>WISCONSIN</b>											
1. Ryan (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0
2. Baldwin (D)	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
3. Kind (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	80
4. Kleczka (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
5. Barrett (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
6. Petri (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0
7. Obey (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
8. Green (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0
9. Sensenbrenner (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0
<b>WYOMING</b>											
AL Cubin (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	?	✗	✗	?	?	0

Get active! Make a difference in 2002!



## Congressional Voting Record

107<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session  
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