



Alliance
for Retired
Americans®

Congressional Voting Record

114th Congress, 2nd Session

January 2016—December 2016

*A Special Report on Legislation
Vital to American Retirees*

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This past year 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, Medicare, and Medicaid systems continue. The nation deserves 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. Many in Congress continue to support efforts to privatize Medicare and create a voucher-like system in its place. Many, too, continue to push to turn Medicaid into a block grant system, which would undercut its ability to provide care for millions of older Americans. Key positions like Commissioner of Social Security continue to remain without a confirmed nominee in office.

In contrast, while attacks on core retiree programs continued, income inequality grows larger. Proposals to raise the minimum wage failed in Congress. 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.

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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink.

Robert Roach, Jr.

A handwritten signature in blue ink.

Joseph Peters, Jr.

A handwritten signature in blue ink.

Richard J. Fiesta

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
<i>The number before each name indicates Congressional District.</i>	
100%	Best Score Possible

On Senate Vote 10, Senator McConnell voted against the Alliance position then changed his vote to preserve parliamentary options for a later vote.

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 Drug Treatment for Seniors

Senator Wyden, D-OR, offered an amendment to a drug addiction bill to provide drug treatment to seniors who are addicted to pain killers. The measure also doubles the penalties for opioid manufacturers that provide kickbacks to prescribers. The vote failed 46-50. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 524, Roll Call No. 29, March 2, 2016.

2 Opioid Funding

Senator Shaheen, D-NH, offered an amendment to a drug addiction bill to provide funding for opioid treatment programs. A growing number of seniors suffer from substance abuse problems as a result of using prescription drugs for pain medicine. Opiate addiction is responsible for increasing falls among seniors. The motion failed 48-47. Sixty votes were required for passage. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 524, Roll Call No. 30, March 2, 2016.

3 Airplane Safety

Senator Schumer, D-NY, offered an amendment to a transportation bill to require the FAA to establish minimum standards for space on passenger planes. Shrinking space on planes makes it difficult for passengers, particularly seniors who may need special assistance, to meet the FAA requirement to evacuate a plane in 90 seconds after a crash. Seniors are also more likely to suffer deep vein thrombosis due to cramped spaces on planes. The amendment failed 42-54. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 636, Roll Call No. 43, April 7, 2016.

4 Zika Funding I

Senator Nelson, D-FL, offered an amendment to a spending bill to provide funding to combat the Zika virus. The amendment provides \$1.9 billion, the amount requested by the Obama Administration. The amendment failed 50-47. Sixty votes are necessary to invoke cloture on the amendment. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2577, Roll Call No. 73, May 17, 2016.

5 Endangering Public Health

Senator Cornyn, R-TX, introduced an amendment to a spending bill to provide funding for the Zika virus. However, the amendment would be paid for by taking funds from the Public Health and Prevention Fund. This would jeopardize \$1 billion provided to the Centers for Disease Control and local governments to deal with other epidemic and public health emergencies. The motion was rejected 52-45. Sixty votes are necessary to invoke cloture on the amendment. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2577, Roll Call No. 74, May 17, 2016.

6 Veterans Health Care

Senator McCain, R-AZ, offered an amendment to spending bill to extend treatment of veterans in the community and establish criteria and standards relating to the use of private providers by the Veterans Administration (VA). This amendment ensures veterans receive timely care, while safeguarding and strengthening VA health care facilities. The amendment passed 84-14. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2577, Roll Call No. 79, May 19, 2016.

7 Fiduciary Rule Repeal

The Senate voted on H.J.Res. 88 to overturn the Department of Labor Fiduciary Rule, which requires that financial advisers put the interest of their clients ahead of their own. Working and middle-class Americans lose \$17 billion a year in retirement savings due to advice that favors the adviser's, not the client's, interests. The resolution passed 56-41. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.J.Res. 88, Roll Call No. 84, May 24, 2016.

8 Zika Funding II

Senator Nelson, D-FL, moved to instruct conferees to reject proposals to rescind existing Ebola virus emergency funds and insist that Ebola accounts be reimbursed with \$510 million. Using Ebola funding to combat Zika jeopardizes efforts against the Ebola virus. The vote failed 46-49. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2577, Roll Call 93, June 8, 2016.

9 Domestic Funding Increase

Senator Reed, D-RI, offered an amendment to a spending bill to raise the sequestration cap for both defense and non-defense discretionary spending by \$18 billion. Increasing discretionary spending helps fund domestic priorities like infrastructure and cybersecurity, efforts to combat the heroin epidemic and the Zika virus and numerous seniors programs. The amendment failed 43-55. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 2943, Roll Call No. 95, June 9, 2016.

10 Lower Water Standards

Senator McConnell, R-KY, moved to file cloture on a spending bill conference report. While the conference report provided more funding Zika, it exempts pesticide spraying from Clean Water Act standards. The bill jeopardizes public health by contaminating water supplies, putting older Americans at higher health risks. The motion was rejected 52-48. Sixty votes are necessary to invoke cloture. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2577, Roll Call No. 112, June 28, 2016.

SENATE VOTES

1. Drug Treatment for Seniors
2. Opioid Funding
3. Airplane Safety
4. Zika Funding I
5. Endangering Public Health
6. Veterans Health Care
7. Fiduciary Rule Repeal
8. Zika Funding II
9. Domestic Funding Increase
10. Lower Water Standards
- Pro-Retiree Score '16
- Lifetime Score

Alliance Position Y Y Y Y N Y Y Y N % %

Alabama

Shelby (R) X X X X X X X X X X 0 10
Sessions (R) X X X X X X X X X X 0 8

Alaska

Murkowski (R) X X X X X X X X X X 0 14
Sullivan (R) X X X X X X X X X X 0 0

Arizona

McCain (R) X X X X X ✓ X X X X 10 19
Flake (R) X X X X X ✓ X X X X 10 3

Arkansas

Boozman (R) X X X X X ✓ X X X X 10 7
Cotton (R) X X X X X ✓ X X X X 10 5

California

Feinstein (D) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 100 94
Boxer (D) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 100 99

Colorado

Bennet (D) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 100 93
Gardner (R) X X X X X ✓ X X X X 10 5

Connecticut

Blumenthal (D) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 100 100
Murphy (D) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 100 100

Delaware

Carper (D) ✓ ✓ X ✓ ✓ ? ✓ X ✓ ✓ 78 83
Coons (D) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 100 93

Florida

Nelson (D) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 100 95
Rubio (R) ? ? X ✓ ✓ X ✓ ✓ X X 38 9

Georgia

Isakson (R) X X X X X ✓ X X X X 10 5
Perdue (R) X X X X X ✓ X X X X 0 0

Hawaii

Schatz (D) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 100 100
Hirono (D) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 100 100

Idaho

Crapo (R) X X X X X ✓ X X X X 10 4
Risch (R) X X X X X ✓ X X X X 10 4

1. Drug Treatment for Seniors
2. Opioid Funding
3. Airplane Safety
4. Zika Funding I
5. Endangering Public Health
6. Veterans Health Care
7. Fiduciary Rule Repeal
8. Zika Funding II
9. Domestic Funding Increase
10. Lower Water Standards
- Pro-Retiree Score '16
- Lifetime Score

Alliance Position Y Y Y Y N Y Y Y N % %

Illinois

Durbin (D) ✓ ✓ ? ✓ ✓ ✓ X ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 89 96
Kirk (R) X ✓ X ✓ ✓ X ✓ X X X X 30 18

Indiana

Coats (R) X X X X X X X X X X 0 3
Donnelly (D) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 80 93

Iowa

Grassley (R) X X X X X X ✓ X X X X 10 10
Ernst (R) X X X X X X ✓ X X X X 10 5

Kansas

Roberts (R) X X X X X ✓ X X X X 10 7
Moran (R) X X X X X ✓ X X X X 10 2

Kentucky

McConnell (R) X X X X X X ✓ X X X X 10 7
Paul (R) X X X X X X ✓ X X X X 0 12

Louisiana

Vitter (R) X X X X X ✓ X X X X 10 10
Cassidy (R) X X X X X ✓ X X X X 20 10

Maine

Collins (R) ✓ ✓ ✓ X X ✓ X X X X 40 41
King (I) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 100 98

Maryland

Mikulski (D) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ? ✓ ✓ 100 97
Cardin (D) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 100 99

Massachusetts

Warren (D) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 100 100
Markey (D) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 100 100

Michigan

Stabenow (D) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 100 99
Peters (D) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 100 100

Minnesota

Klobuchar (D) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 100 99
Franken (D) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 100 99

Mississippi

Cochran (R) X X X X X ✓ X X X X 10 10
Wicker (R) X X X X X ✓ X X X X 10 12

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 Health Care Repeal

Representative Price, R-GA, introduced legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The bill repeals the individual and employer mandates, the Medicaid expansion and tax subsidies that help 50-64 year old seniors purchase health insurance on the exchanges. Repeal would result in more than 20 million people losing health insurance. The bill passed 240-181. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3762, Roll Call No. 6, January 6, 2016.

2 Health Care Override

The House voted to override President Obama's veto of the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. The bill repeals the individual and employer mandates, the Medicaid expansion and tax subsidies that help 50-64 year olds purchase health insurance on the exchanges. Repeal would result in more than 20 million people losing health insurance. The override failed 241-186. A two-thirds vote is needed to override a veto. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3762, Roll Call No. 53, February 2, 2016.

3 Fiduciary Rule Repeal

Representative Roe, R-TN, introduced legislation to repeal the Department of Labor Fiduciary Rule, which requires that financial advisers put the interest of their clients ahead of their own. Working and middle class Americans lose \$17 billion a year in retirement savings due to advice that favors the adviser's, not the client's, interests. The bill passed 284-183. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.J.Res. 88, Roll Call No. 176, April 28, 2016.

4 Freeze Domestic Spending

Representative Byrne, R-AL, introduced a resolution for the consideration of the Defense authorization bill. The bill redirects \$18 billion of Overseas Contingency Operations. The legislation provides increased funding for defense programs without comparable increases in domestic spending. The resolution passed 234-181. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.J.Res. 732, Roll Call No. 197, May 17, 2016.

5 Inadequate Zika Funding

Representative Hal Rogers, R-KY, introduced a spending bill, which includes funding against the Zika virus. However, the proposed funding was insufficient and took funds away from other health programs. The bill cut \$543 million in unused funds from health care implementation, \$107 million from Ebola funds, and \$100 million in funds for the Health and Human Services Department. The Zika virus attacks can be devastating for the elderly and individuals with a compromised immune system. The bill passed 241-184. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 5243, Roll Call No. 207, May 18, 2016.

6 Cut Emergency Phone

Representative Austin, R-GA, introduced a bill that would end federal distribution of subsidies for mobile phone and wireless broadband to low-income consumers. The Lifeline program is an important tool that helps many low-income seniors to have access to essential communications services. The bill passed 207-143. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 5525, Roll Call No. 334, June 21, 2016.

7 Fiduciary Rule Override

The House voted to override President Obama's veto of the H.J.Res. 88, which blocks the implementation of the Department of Labor Fiduciary Rule. This rule requires that financial advisers put the interest of their clients ahead of their own. Working and middle class Americans lose \$17 billion a year in retirement savings due to advice that favors the adviser's, not the client's, interests. The override failed 239-180. A two-thirds vote is required. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.J.Res. 88, Roll Call No. 338, June 22, 2016.

8 Lower Water Standards

The House voted on the conference report on a spending bill. While the conference report provided more Zika virus funding, it requires cuts in Ebola funding and exempts pesticide spraying from Clean Water Act standards. The bill jeopardizes public health by contaminating water supplies, putting older Americans at higher health risks. The conference report passed 239-171. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2577, Roll Call No. 342, June 23, 2016.

9 Skewed Tax Breaks

Representative Lynn Jenkins, R-KS, introduced legislation that increases the amount individuals can put in Flexible Spending Accounts. To pay for it, the bill requires low-income and middle class Americans who received health subsidies to make higher repayments if they received more than their initial determination. The bill funds tax breaks for higher income Americans while increasing taxes to lower-income and middle class families. The bill passed 243-164. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1270, Roll Call No. 351, July 6, 2016.

10 Destabilizing Insurance

Representative Burgess, R-TX, introduced a resolution for the consideration of H.R. 954, which would exempt from the individual mandate individuals whose Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) was terminated. These individuals already have other means of obtaining coverage. Exempting them would destabilize the health care exchanges. The bill passed 243-177. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.Res. 893, Roll Call No. 559, September 27, 2016.

HOUSE VOTES

Alliance Position												
	1. Health Care Repeal	2. Health Care Override	3. Fiduciary Rule Repeal	4. Freeze Domestic Spending	5. Inadequate Zika Funding	6. Cut Emergency Phone	7. Fiduciary Rule Override	8. Lower Water Standards	9. Skewed Tax Breaks	10. Destabilizing Insurance	Pro-Retiree Score '16	Lifetime Score
Washington	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	%	%	
1 DelBene (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	88	
2 Larsen (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	92	
3 Herrera Beutler (R)	X	X	X	?	?	?	?	?	X	0	9	
4 Newhouse (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	5	
5 McMorris Rodgers (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	9	
6 Kilmer (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	93	
7 McDermott (D)	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	99	
8 Reichert (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10	19	
9 Smith (D)	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	91	
10 Heck (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	98	
West Virginia												
1 McKinley (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	15	
Wisconsin	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	%	%	
2 Mooney (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	11
3 Jenkins (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10
Wyoming												
AL Lummis (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	4

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