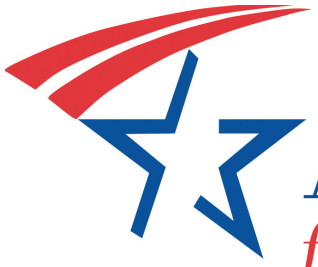

Alliance for Retired Americans®

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Congressional Voting Record

116th Congress, 2nd Session

January 2020—December 2020

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 Paid Family and Medical Leave

Senator Murray, D-WA, offered an amendment to provide paid sick time and leave for workers to address their and family health needs. Many workers take time off to care for their parents. The amendment failed 47-51. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. S.Amdt. 1559 to H.R. 6201, Roll Call 74, March 18, 2020.

2 Eliminate Paid Leave

Senator Johnson, R-WI, offered an amendment to eliminate paid leave for federal workers and replace it with state administered unemployment insurance funds. The amendment failed 50-48. Sixty votes are required for passage. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. S. Amdt. 1558 to H.R. 6201, Roll Call 75, March 18, 2020.

3 Health Tax Repeal

The Senate voted on legislation repealing the 40% excise tax on employer-sponsored health plans. If implemented, retiree health plans are the most at risk of elimination. The bill passed 96-0. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 748, Roll Call 80, March 25, 2020.

4 Walker Confirmation

The Senate debated the nomination of Justin Walker to the federal District of Columbia Circuit Court. Previously, Walker had argued for overturning the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA provides protections for American with pre-existing conditions, including more than 5 million between 50 and 64. Walker was confirmed 51-42. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. PN 1748, Roll Call 123, June 18, 2020.

5 Stop Health Care Repeal

The Senate voted on a motion to end debate and vote on a bill by Senator Schumer, D-NY, to prohibit the Department of Justice from arguing in court to overturn the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA protects individuals with pre-existing conditions, including more than 5 million Americans ages 55 to 64. The bill failed 51-43. Sixty votes are required to invoke cloture. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. S. 4653, Roll Call 200, October 1, 2020.

6 Stop Deficient Health Bill

The Senate voted on a request to table the motion to proceed on S.4675, which would provide inadequate health protections for individuals with pre-existing conditions. The measure failed 45-52. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. Motion on S. 4675, Roll Call 204, October 20, 2020.

7 Stop Deficient Health Protections

The Senate voted to table an amendment by Senator Tillis, R-NC, to prohibit insurers from discriminating against people with pre-existing conditions. However, the amendment did not require that the cost of coverage be affordable. The amendment failed 47-47. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. S. 178, Roll Call 199, September 30, 2020.

8 Barrett Confirmation

The Senate debated the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court. Previously, Judge Barrett ruled that the Age Discrimination in Employment Act only protects current employees and not job applicants in age discrimination cases. Judge Barrett was confirmed 52-48. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. PN 2252, Roll Call 224, October 26, 2020.

9 Benefits Garnishment

Senator Grassley, R-IA, offered an amendment to require the Social Security Administration to garnish 10% instead of $10 a month from disabled beneficiaries who received an overpayment. This change would create unnecessary economic hardship. The amendment failed 48-49. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. S. 578, Roll Call 249, December 2, 2020.

10 Eliminate ALS Waiting Period

The Senate voted on a bill introduced by Senator Whitehouse, D-RI, to eliminate the five month waiting period for Social Security Disability benefits for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). The bill passed 96-1. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. S. 578, Roll Call 250, December 2, 2020.

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 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 261-155. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1230, Roll Call 21, January 15, 2020.

2 Postal Pensions Reform

Representative DeFazio, D-OR, introduced a bill to repeal the requirement that the U.S. Postal Service prepay future retirement health benefits. Since 2006, the Postal Service has been required to prepay its retiree health benefits for the next 75 years. The prefunding is responsible for more than 84% of the Postal Service losses. The bill passed 309-106. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2382, Roll Call 37, February 5, 2020.

3 Protect Benefits

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. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. The measure passed 224-194. H.R. 2474, Roll Call 50, February 6, 2020.

4 Medicaid Block Grants

Representative Veasey, D-TX, introduced a resolution opposing Trump Administration guidance permitting block grants for states that expand Medicaid. Block grants create insufficient funding, requiring states to cut benefits or reduce eligibility. The resolution passed 223-190. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.Res. 826, Roll Call 51, February 6, 2020.

5 COVID Relief

Representative Lowey, D-NY, introduced a bill to provide relief due to the COVID pandemic, including funding for testing, nursing homes, state and local governments and vaccine distribution. The bill passed 208-199. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 6800, Roll Call 109, May 15, 2020.

6 Protect Health Care

Representative Craig, D-MN, introduced a bill to lower premiums for individuals purchasing health insurance on the exchange portals. Thirty-one million Americans ages 55 to 64 have at least one pre-existing condition, and many obtain insurance on the health exchanges. The bill passed 234-179. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1425, Roll Call 124, June 29, 2020.

7 Emergency Housing

Representative Waters, D-CA, introduced a bill providing housing assistance and a one-year eviction moratorium due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The bill would help many seniors remain in their homes. The bill passed 232-180. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 7301, Roll Call 128, June 29, 2020.

8 Cut Health Funding

Representative Allen, R-GA, offered an amendment to cut the Department of Health and Human Services budget -- which funds public health agencies, including FDA and CDC-- by 5%. The measure failed 123-292. A **NO** vote is a pro-retiree vote. Amdmt. to H.R. 7617, Roll Call 176, July 31, 2020.

9 Postal Funding

Representative Maloney, D-NY, introduced a bill to adequately fund the postal service during the COVID pandemic and ensure the delivery of election related mail. Older Americans are the most susceptible to COVID. Voting by mail ensures that they can exercise their right to vote safely. The bill passed 257-150. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. HR. 8015, Roll Call 182, August 22, 2020.

10 Higher Stimulus Checks

Representative Neal, D-MA, introduced a bill to increase the COVID relief stimulus payment from $600 to $2000. The payments would go to individuals with adjusted gross incomes up to $75,000, including Social Security beneficiaries, veterans and SSI recipients and their dependents, and pro-rated for those making up to $87,000. The bill passed 275-134. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 9051, Roll Call 252, December 28, 2020.

SENATE VOTES

Alliance Position	1. Paid Family and Medical Leave Y	2. Eliminate Paid Leave N	3. Health Tax Repeal Y	4. Walker Confirmation N	5. Stop Health Care Repeal Y	6. Stop Deficient Health Bill Y	7. Stop Deficient Health Protections Y	8. Barrett Confirmation N	9. Benefits Garnishment N	10. Eliminate ALS Waiting Period Y	Pro-Retiree Score '20 %	Lifetime Score %
Blunt (R)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	20	10
Hawley (R)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	30	35

HOUSE VOTES

	Alliance Position	1. Age Discrimination Rights Y	2. Postal Pensions Reform Y	3. Protect Benefits Y	4. Medicaid Block Grants Y	5. COVID Relief Y	6. Protect Health Care Y	7. Emergency Housing Y	8. Cut Health Funding N	9. Postal Funding Y	10. Higher Stimulus Checks Y	Pro-Retiree Score '20 %	Lifetime Score %
1	Clay (D)	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	98
2	Wagner (R)	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	40	10
3	Luetkemeyer (R)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	20	8
4	Hartzler (R)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	8

	Alliance Position	1. Age Discrimination Rights Y	2. Postal Pensions Reform Y	3. Protect Benefits Y	4. Medicaid Block Grants Y	5. COVID Relief Y	6. Protect Health Care Y	7. Emergency Housing Y	8. Cut Health Funding N	9. Postal Funding Y	10. Higher Stimulus Checks Y	Pro-Retiree Score '20 %	Lifetime Score %
5	Cleaver (D)	✓	?	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	99
6	Graves (R)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	20	8
7	Long (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	4
8	Smith (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	10	7

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

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