



SOUTH DAKOTA Congressional Voting Record

119th Congress, 1st Session
January 2025—December 2025

*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 Vought Nomination

The Senate voted to confirm Russell Vought as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). A key architect of Project 2025, he proposed deep spending cuts across all government, including programs important to older Americans, including nutrition assistance and Medicaid. Vought was confirmed 53-47. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. PN 11-22, Roll Call 37, February 6, 2025.

2 Kennedy, Jr. Nomination

The Senate voted to confirm Robert Kennedy, Jr. as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. During his confirmation hearing, he could not distinguish between Medicare and Medicaid or name the four key components of Medicare. Mr. Kennedy is also a longtime anti-vaccine advocate. Vaccines protect seniors from serious, preventable illnesses. Kennedy was confirmed 52-48. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. PN 11-8, Roll Call 52, February 13, 2025.

3 Oz Nomination

The Senate voted to confirm Dr. Mehmet Oz as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Dr. Oz, a proponent of Medicare Advantage plans, acknowledged that MA plans often cost more and have been linked to inefficiency and fraud. He has also touted controversial therapies and advocated for unproven theories about COVID-19 cures. Dr. Oz was confirmed 53-45. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. PN 12-34, Roll Call 167, April 3, 2025.

4 Bisignano Nomination

The Senate voted to confirm Frank Bisignano as Commissioner of the Social Security Administration. Mr. Bisignano refused to contradict Elon Musk's claim that Social Security is a Ponzi scheme. He failed to demonstrate an understanding of the unique needs of older and disabled Americans, particularly those with limited access to or familiarity with technology. Moreover, he did not disavow support for privatization schemes or replacing SSA workers with AI. Bisignano was confirmed 53-47. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. PN 20, Roll Call 234, May 6, 2025.

5 Stop Medicaid Cuts

The Senate voted on a motion by Sen. Wyden, D-OR, to return the One Big Beautiful Bill Act to the Senate Finance Committee. The motion would have struck Medicaid cuts. Seniors rely heavily on Medicaid, which covers 63% of nursing home expenditures and provides Long-Term Services and Supports to 5.6 million older Americans. The motion failed 47-53. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1, Roll Call 335, June 30, 2025.

6 Nutrition Assistance

The Senate voted on a motion by Sen. Lujan, D-NM, to return the One Big Beautiful Bill Act to the Senate Finance Committee. The motion would prevent cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and protect food assistance for low-income Americans. More than 6 million older adults rely on SNAP for basic nutrition assistance. The motion failed 49-51. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1, Roll Call 337, June 30, 2025.

7 Medicare Expansion

The Senate voted on an amendment by Sen. Sanders, I-VT, to cut the price of prescription drugs under Medicare in half and expand Medicare to cover dental, vision, and hearing. The amendment directed the government to expand Medicare drug price negotiations and to use the resulting savings to expand Medicare benefits. The amendment failed 47-53. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. Amdt. 2435 to S. Amdt. 2360 to H.R. 1, Roll Call 362, July 1, 2025.

8 Medicaid Cuts

The Senate voted on the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The legislation provides nearly \$5 trillion in tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations while slashing Medicaid by \$1 trillion and SNAP by \$186 billion, threatening nursing home care and home and community-based services. It also accelerates the insolvency of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds by one year. The bill passed 51-50. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1, Roll Call 372, July 1, 2025.

9 Expand Seniors' Programs

The Senate voted on the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, introduced by Sen. Murray, D-WA. The legislation funds the federal government and requires the Trump administration to cease impounding previously approved funding. It also permanently extends the ACA Premium Tax Credits, preventing an estimated 4-5 million people from losing their health insurance, and restores \$1 trillion in Medicaid cuts. The bill failed 47-53. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 2882, Roll Call 536, October 1, 2025.

10 Lower Health Care Coverage

The Senate voted on a cloture motion to proceed to the Health Care Freedom for Patients Act, introduced by Sen. Crapo, R-ID. The legislation steers Americans towards plans with minimal coverage. Older Americans not yet on Medicare will face substantially higher coverage costs. Sixty votes were required. The motion failed 51 to 48. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. Motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 3386, Roll Call 643, December 11, 2025.

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 Repeal Health and Safety Rules

The House voted on the Midnight Rules Relief Act, introduced by Rep. Biggs, R-AZ. The legislation would allow Republicans to overturn Biden administration rules protecting clean air and water, food and drug safety, and other consumer safeguards by nullifying agency regulations in a single vote. The bill passed 212-208. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 77, Roll Call 41, February 12, 2025.

2 Anti-Senior Budget I

The House voted on the House Concurrent Budget Resolution, introduced by Rep. Arrington, R-TX. The legislation prescribes \$2 trillion in cuts to critical services, including \$880 billion to Medicaid, which funds 63% of nursing home care expenses and LTSS home and community-based services. It also cuts \$230 billion in SNAP, which millions of older Americans depend on. The Resolution passed 217-215. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H. Con. Res. 14, Roll Call 50, February 25, 2025.

3 Seniors' Programs Cuts I

The House voted on a Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, introduced by Rep. Cole, R-OK. The legislation freezes government funding for a year, enabling reductions in workers at the Social Security Administration, leading to office closures, longer wait times, and benefit backlogs. The bill also cuts \$280 million from NIH and undermines research on cancer, Alzheimer's, and heart disease. The resolution passed 217-213. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1968, Roll Call 70, March 11, 2025.

4 Voter Disenfranchisement

The House voted on the SAVE Act, introduced by Rep. Roy, R-TX. The bill would require every American citizen registering to vote to provide a passport, a birth certificate, and a current photo ID. The legislation would disenfranchise millions of citizens and directly impact nearly 70 million married women. It would particularly affect rural voters, students, and seniors. The bill passed 220-208. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 22, Roll Call 102, April 10, 2025.

5 Anti-Senior Budget II

The House voted on a motion to concur with the Senate Amendment to Establish a Congressional Budget for FY 25, introduced by Rep. Arrington, R-TX. To finance nearly \$5 trillion in tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations, the legislation slashes \$1.5 trillion from vital services, including \$880 billion from Medicaid and \$230 billion from SNAP, jeopardizing nursing home care and home and community-based services. The bill passed 216-214. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H. Con. Res. 14, Roll Call 100, April 10, 2025.

6 Seniors' Programs Cuts II

The House voted on The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA), introduced by Rep. Arrington, R-TX. The bill delivers nearly \$5 trillion in tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations, while cutting \$1.5 trillion from essential services, including \$880 billion from Medicaid and \$230 billion from SNAP, threatening food assistance for 6.5 million seniors and nursing home and home-based care for 5.6 million. The bill passed 215-214. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1, Roll Call 145, May 22, 2025.

7 Seniors' Programs Cuts III

The House voted on final passage of the OBBA, introduced by Rep. Arrington, R-TX. The legislation provides nearly \$5 trillion in tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations. It cuts Medicaid by \$1 trillion and SNAP by \$186 billion, threatening nursing home and other senior care. It also accelerates the insolvency of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds by one year. The bill passed 218-214. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1, Roll Call 190, July 3, 2025.

8 Health Care Cuts

The House voted on the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, introduced by Rep. Cole, R-OK. The legislation fails to address rising health care costs, ignores looming hospital and nursing home closures, leaves in place \$1 trillion in Medicaid cuts, and does not extend ACA premium tax credits. The bill passed 217-212. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 5371, Roll Call 281, September 19, 2025.

9 Workforce Security

The House voted on the Protect America's Workforce Act, introduced by Rep. Golden, D-ME. The bill restores collective bargaining rights for approximately one million federal workers by rescinding a Trump executive order. The legislation enables federal employees to improve working conditions, job security, wages, health care, and retirement benefits. The bill passed 231-195. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2550, Roll Call 332, December 11, 2025.

10 Lower Health Care Coverage

The House voted on the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act, introduced by Rep. Miller-Meeks, R-IA. The bill does not extend the ACA Premium Tax Credits, meaning 4 to 5 million Americans could lose coverage as premiums rise sharply. It also expands "junk" association health plans. The bill passed 216 to 211. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 6703, Roll Call 349, December 17, 2025.

SENATE VOTES

Item	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Item	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10				
Item	Thune (R)										Rounds (R)														
Item	Thune (R)										Rounds (R)														
1. Vought Nomination	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	%	%	1. Vought Nomination	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	%	%
2. Kennedy, Jr. Nomination	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	12	2. Kennedy, Jr. Nomination	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	20
3. Oz Nomination													3. Oz Nomination												
4. Bisignano Nomination													4. Bisignano Nomination												
5. Stop Medicaid Cuts													5. Stop Medicaid Cuts												
6. Nutrition Assistance													6. Nutrition Assistance												
7. Medicare Expansion													7. Medicare Expansion												
8. Medicaid Cuts													8. Medicaid Cuts												
9. Expand Seniors' Program													9. Expand Seniors' Program												
10. Lower Health Care Coverage Pro-Retiree Score '25													10. Lower Health Care Coverage Pro-Retiree Score '25												
Lifetime Score													Lifetime Score												

HOUSE VOTES

Item	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Item	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10						
Item	AL Johnson (R)										AL Johnson (R)																
Item	AL Johnson (R)										AL Johnson (R)																
1. Repeal Health & Safety Rules	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	%	%	1. Repeal Health & Safety Rules	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	%	%
2. Anti-Senior Budget I	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	7	2. Anti-Senior Budget I	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	7		
3. Seniors' Programs Cuts I													3. Seniors' Programs Cuts I														
4. Voter Disenfranchisement													4. Voter Disenfranchisement														
5. Anti-Senior Budget II													5. Anti-Senior Budget II														
6. Seniors' Programs Cuts II													6. Seniors' Programs Cuts II														
7. Seniors' Programs Cuts III													7. Seniors' Programs Cuts III														
8. Health Care Cuts													8. Health Care Cuts														
9. Workforce Security													9. Workforce Security														
10. Lower Health Care Coverage Pro-Retiree Score '25													10. Lower Health Care Coverage Pro-Retiree Score '25														
Lifetime Score													Lifetime Score														



HOW TO READ THIS RECORD

Democrat (D)	Republican (R)	Independent (I)	O	Not Eligible Member
✓	Voted With Alliance Policy		+	Announced For
X	Voted Against Alliance Policy		-	Announced Against
S	Speaker Did Not Vote		AL	At-Large
P	Present			<i>The number before each name indicates Congressional District.</i>
?	Did Not Vote		100%	Best Score Possible