

SENATE VOTES

1 Fiscal Commission Creation

Senator Conrad, D-ND, introduced an amendment to legislation raising the debt ceiling that would create a fiscal commission with the authority to recommend changes to programs such as Social Security and Medicare. Congress would then vote on the recommendations as a package without the opportunity to amend it. The amendment failed 53-46. Sixty votes are necessary for passage under a debate agreement for this bill. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.J. Res 45, Roll Call No. 5, January 26, 2010.

2 \$250 Stimulus Payment I

Senator Sanders, I-VT, offered an amendment to a stimulus bill that would provide a \$250 payment to Social Security recipients and other retirees in 2011 since there was no cost of living increase in 2010. The amendment failed 50-47. Sixty votes are necessary for passage under the Budget Act. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 4213, Roll Call No. 36, March 3, 2010.

3 Eliminate CLASS Act

Senator Thune, R-SD, introduced an amendment to the health care reform reconciliation bill that would repeal the CLASS Act, a voluntary, affordable, and self-funded program for long term care. The amendment failed 43-55. Sixty votes are necessary for passage under the Budget Act. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 4872, Roll Call No. 77, March 24, 2010.

4 Stop Health Care Repeal

Senator Vitter, R-LA, introduced an amendment to the health care reform reconciliation bill that would repeal the underlying health care reform law. Included in the repeal was the loss of new benefits for Medicare recipients such as an annual wellness checkup. The amendment was tabled (set aside) 58-39. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 4872, Roll Call No. 84, March 24, 2010.

5 Keep Medicare Intact

Senator Bunning, R-KY, introduced an amendment to the health care reconciliation bill that would allow individuals to opt out of Medicare Part A hospital insurance. The effect would be the dismantling of Medicare as a social insurance program. The amendment was tabled (set aside) 61-36. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 4872, Roll Call No. 87, March 24, 2010.

6 Health Care Reform

The Senate passed health care reform legislation, which contained several pro-retiree measures. Included among them were the elimination of co-pays and deductibles for preventive care screenings and an annual wellness checkup starting in 2011. The bill also included the closing of the Part D doughnut hole coverage gap, the phasing out of

overpayments to Medicare Advantage insurance companies, and incentives for employers to keep early retiree health care coverage. The bill passed 56-43. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 4872, Roll Call No. 105, March 25, 2010.

7 Medicare Physician Payments I

The Senate passed a short term bill preventing pending cuts to physician reimbursement rates under Medicare. The cuts could cause physicians from caring for Medicare patients. The bill passed 59-38. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 4851, Roll Call No. 117, April 15, 2010.

8 Medicare Physician Payments II

The Senate attempted to invoke cloture on a bill to prevent pending cuts to physician reimbursement rates under Medicare. Also included in the bill was additional funding for the Medicaid program, which provides funding for many seniors in nursing homes. The motion to invoke cloture on the amendment failed 56-40. Sixty votes are necessary to invoke cloture. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 4213, Roll Call No. 194, June 17, 2010.

9 Financial Reform

The Senate passed the conference report for financial regulatory reform. Included are provisions to protect consumers from hidden fees as well as investment scams, which target many seniors. The conference reported passed 60-39. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 4173, Roll Call No. 208, December July 15, 2010.

10 \$250 Stimulus Payment II

Senator Sanders, I-VT, introduced a bill that would provide a \$250 payment to Social Security recipients and other retirees since there was no cost of living increase in 2010. The bill failed to invoke cloture 53-45. Sixty votes are necessary to invoke. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 3985, Roll Call No. 267, December 8, 2010.