

SENATE VOTES

1 Fair Taxes I

Senator Reid, D-NV, moved that the Senate limit debate and vote on a tax bill whereby taxpayers earning more than \$1 million annually would pay a minimum tax of 30%. The so-called “Buffett Rule” would restore more fairness in the tax code. The motion failed 51-45. Sixty votes are necessary to invoke cloture. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 2230, Roll Call No. 65, April 16, 2012.

2 Medicare Privatization

The Senate debated a motion on whether to debate the House passed Ryan Budget resolution that replaced the guaranteed benefits of Medicare with a privatized system. Medicare would be privatized, voucher-like payments would go to insurance companies and seniors would have significantly higher out of pocket costs. The motion failed 41-58. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H. Con. Res. 112, Roll Call No. 98, May 16, 2012.

3 Seniors Programs Cuts

The Senate debated a motion on whether to debate a budget resolution introduced by Sen. Toomey, R-PA. The Toomey Budget would severely cut programs such as food assistance, repeal parts of the Affordable Care Act, and turn Medicaid, on which million of seniors rely on for long term care, into a block grant program. The motion failed 42-57. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H. Con. Res. 112, Roll Call No. 99, May 16, 2012.

4 Generic Drug Access

Senator Bingaman, D-NM, introduced an amendment to a drug company user fee bill that would prohibit brand name and generic drug companies from entering into agreements that delay access to generic drugs by the public. Studies have shown these “pay for delay” agreements create artificially high drug prices. The amendment failed 28-67. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 3187, Roll Call No. 105, May 24, 2012.

5 Drug Reimportation

Senator McCain, R-AZ, introduced an amendment to a drug company user fee bill that would permit individual consumers to import Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved prescription drugs from Canada. The FDA would be required to publish the names and websites of approved Canadian pharmacies. The amendment failed 43-54. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 3187, Roll Call No. 108, May 24, 2012.

6 Seniors Nutrition Cuts

Senator Sessions, R-AL, introduced an amendment to a farm bill that would have reduced eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) only to beneficiaries of other federal and state cash assistance programs. Many seniors rely on SNAP funds to meet their basic nutritional needs and would lose benefits. The amendment failed 43-56. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S.3240, Roll Call No. 127, June 19, 2012.

7 Campaign Finance Disclosure

Senator Reid, D-NV, moved that the Senate debate a bill that would require corporations and groups to disclose independent political campaign expenditures and donations to independent groups in excess of \$10,000. The bill would provide more transparency of spending in elections. The motion failed 53-45. Sixty votes are necessary to invoke cloture. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 3369, Roll Call No. 180, July 17, 2012.

8 Extend Bush Tax Cuts

Senator McConnell, R-KY, offered an amendment to a tax bill that would extend the 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts, extend estate tax rates, and extend the alternative minimum tax for one year. These cuts have primarily benefited only the wealthiest Americans. The amendment failed 45-54. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 3412, Roll Call No. 183, July 25, 2012.

9 Fair Taxes II

The Senate passed a bill that extended existing tax rates on incomes below \$200,000 for single filers and \$250,000 for joint filers. Wealthier Americans would see the Bush tax cuts repealed and pay higher rates. The new rates bring more fairness and progressivity to the tax code. The bill passed 51-48. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 3412, Roll Call No. 184, July 25, 2012.

10 Seniors Programs Funding

The Senate passed a bill that funded the federal government through March 27, 2013. The bill included increased funding for most seniors programs such as low income energy assistance, food assistance and health care programs along with new funding for disaster relief. The bill passed 62-30. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.J. Res. 117, Roll Call No. 199, September 22, 2012.