



HOUSE VOTES

1 Eliminate Medicare Trigger

The House changed its rules regarding the so-called 45% Medicare trigger in a resolution introduced by Rep. Hoyer, D-MD. The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 arbitrarily mandated that if the President determined that 45% of Medicare funding came from general revenues for two consecutive years, then the President would propose Medicare cuts. The trigger is a misleading indicator of the financial stability of Medicare. The resolution passed 242-181. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H. Res. 5, Roll Call No. 4, January 6, 2009.

2 \$250 Stimulus Payment

The House passed the stimulus bill conference report, introduced by Rep. Obey, D-WI, which included several pro-retiree measures. Chief among them was a \$250 payment to Social Security recipients. The bill also included relief for COBRA payments for health care coverage for workers who lost their jobs as well as help for Medicaid programs, on which much nursing home care depends. The conference report passed 246-183. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1, Roll Call No. 70, February 13, 2009.

3 Anti-Retiree Budget

The House debated a substitute, introduced by Rep. Ryan, R-WI, to the annual budget resolution. The substitute would extend tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans, cut vital programs for older Americans, and begin the privatization of Social Security and Medicare. The bill substitute failed 137-293. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H. Con. Res. 85, Roll Call No. 191, April 2, 2009.

4 Pro-Retiree Budget

The House passed the annual budget resolution, introduced by Rep. Spratt, D-SC. The resolution included reductions in the federal deficits, expansion of programs for seniors, and laid the foundation for health care reform. The resolution passed 233-196. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H. Con. Res. 85, Roll Call No. 192, April 2, 2009.

5 Retiree Programs Funding

The House passed an appropriations bill, introduced by Rep. Olver, D-MA, that contains several key retiree program provisions. Included were \$5.1 billion for the Low Income



Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), on which many seniors rely. The bill passed 256-168. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3288, Roll Call No. 637, July 23, 2009.

6 Fair Medicare Premiums

The House passed a bill, introduced by Rep. Titus, D-NV, that would prevent steep increases in Medicare Part B physicians services premiums because of no Social Security cost of living adjustment for 2010. Without relief, 11 million Medicare recipients would have higher premiums. The bill passed 406-18. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. Roll Call No. 737, September 24, 2009.

7 Health Care Reform

The House passed comprehensive health care reform introduced by Rep. Dingell, D-MI. The bill included immediate assistance for older Americans such as closing the Medicare Part D doughnut hole coverage gap, eliminating co-payments for Medicare preventive care screenings, and providing premium assistance for pre-Medicare eligible retirees. The bill passed 220-215. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3962, Roll Call No. 887, November 7, 2009.

8 Protect Victims' Rights

Rep. Gingrey, R-GA, attempted to offer a substitute to the Medicare physicians bill. The substitute included non-germane provisions such as limiting liability and damages in medical malpractice cases, which was ruled out of order. Rep. Gingrey moved to appeal the ruling. The House tabled (set aside) the motion 251-177. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3961, Roll Call No. 907, November 19, 2009.

9 Medicare Physician Payments

The House passed a bill, introduced by Rep. Dingell, D-MI, to stop scheduled Medicare payments cuts to physicians. The cuts, scheduled to have been 21% in 2010, could cause physicians to stop caring for Medicare recipients. The bill passed 243-183. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3961, Roll Call No. 909, November 19, 2009.

10 Fair Estate Taxes

The House passed a bill introduced by Rep. Pomeroy, D-ND, that keeps the top estate tax rate at 45% for estates larger than \$3.5 million. Estate tax relief for the wealthiest Americans has contributed to the national deficit and threatens the financial security of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds. The bill passed 225-200. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 4154, Roll Call No. 929, December 3, 2009.