**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**1. Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act - Vote #90**

AFGE supported the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act (H.R. 2847), a $17.6 billion stimulus package designed to help create good-paying American jobs.

The HIRE Act would:

(a) Provide new tax incentives for businesses to hire and retain new employees. The bill provides businesses with an exemption from Social Security payroll taxes for every worker hired in 2010 who has been unemployed for at least 60 days. The maximum value of this incentive is $6,621, which is equal to 6.2 percent of wages paid in 2010 up to the FICA wage cap of $106,800. It also provides an additional $1,000 income tax credit for every new employee retained for 52 weeks.

(b) Extend Recovery Act of 2009 provisions that double the amount – from $125,000 to $250,000 – that small businesses can immediately write off their taxes for capital investments and purchases of new equipment made in 2010.

(c) Authorize states and localities to issue special purpose tax credit bonds for school construction, energy conservation, and renewable energy projects.

(d) Extend surface transportation programs through December 31, 2010, to provide states and localities with the certainty they need to make decisions on capital-intensive projects and allow for billions more to be invested in infrastructure throughout the United States.

The House passed the HIRE Act (H.R. 2847) on March 4, 2010, by a vote of 217-201 (D: 211-35; R: 6-166). ***A “Yes” vote in favor of H.R. 2847 is counted as a “Right” vote.***

**2. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act - Vote #165**

**3. Health Care Reform Reconciliation Act – Vote #167**

AFGE supported the landmark heath care reform legislation that President Obama signed into law in late March 2010. This legislation makes significant changes in three critical areas:

(1) Expanding the availability of affordable health insurance coverage. – The new health care reform legislation extends health coverage to 32 million more Americans, thereby increasing the share of insured Americans from 83% now to 95% in 2019. This robust coverage gain largely reflects provisions that (1) significantly extend Medicaid to all low-income individuals under age 65, and (2) provide premium subsidies to help low- and moderate-income individuals purchase health insurance in the new state-run health insurance exchanges.

(2) Slowing the growth of health care costs. – The new health care reform legislation contains a wide range of measures to slow the growth of health care costs, particularly Medicare costs. For example, the legislation substantially scales back the overpayments that private insurance companies receive through Medicare Advantage, saving $132 billion over ten years.

(3) Instituting essential reforms in the health insurance markets. – The new health care reform legislation includes long overdue reforms that are intended to rein in harmful insurance industry practices, such as denying coverage to people with pre-existing health conditions, rescinding health insurance coverage when beneficiaries become ill, or imposing annual or lifetime limits on health insurance coverage, thereby refusing to pay the full cost of beneficiaries’ medical care.

On November 7, 2009, the House passed its health care reform bill (H.R. 3962) while the Senate passed its bill (H.R. 3590) on December 24, 2009. Although the House and Senate health reform bills were quite similar, AFGE and other labor unions were less supportive of the Senate bill primarily because it contained an excise tax on ostensibly “high cost” health insurance plans.

The Senate-passed bill would have imposed a 40% excise tax on the portion of the value of health plans that exceeds $8,500 for individuals and $23,000 for families, starting in 2013. Its sponsors argued that the excise tax was aimed at so-called “Cadillac” health plans of the very wealthy. The $8,500/$23,000 thresholds, however, were so low that the excise tax would have affected many “Chevy” health plans, particularly collectively bargained health insurance plans.

AFGE and our labor allies also were less supportive of the Senate bill because its premium subsidies to help low- income individuals purchase insurance in the new health insurance exchanges were significantly lower than the House subsidies. This would have made it much more difficult for low-income individuals to afford health insurance. For example, an analysis of the Senate and House subsidies by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that a family of three earning about $32,000 (or 175% of the federal poverty line) would have to pay $$1,738 per year under the Senate bill. But this same family would pay about $1,360 under the House bill. (“Changes in Senate Health Bill Make Coverage More Affordable for Millions of Moderate-Income Families, Although Not For Those On Low End of Subsidy Scale,” November 19, 2009, *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.*)

President Obama and Democratic leaders in Congress settled on a filibuster-avoiding, majority-vote strategy. In essence, a two-step process was to be used to get around the forty-one vote Republican filibuster bloc in the Senate:

Step One: The House Democrats would pass the 2009 Christmas Eve Senate-passed bill (H.R. 3590), along with a “sidecar” bill (H.R. 4872) that would enact substantial changes in spending and taxes to improve the Senate-passed bill (H.R. 3590). Among other things, these “sidecar” bill changes included: (a) mitigating the excise tax’s adverse effects on “Chevy” health plans by increasing the thresholds to $10,200 for individuals and $27,000 for families, deferring the start-up date to 2018, and providing a transitional provision that exempts collectively bargained health plans from the excise tax through 2017; and (b) increasing the premium subsidies to help low-income individuals purchase health insurance in the new health insurance exchanges.

Step Two: The “sidecar” bill (H.R. 4872) would then be passed by a simple majority of 51 votes in the Senate, by using the congressional reconciliation process. Reconciliation is a process set forth in the Congressional Budget Act that allows for expedited consideration of legislation affecting mandatory spending or taxes. A reconciliation bill only needs 51 votes to pass in the Senate, while other legislation effectively needs 60 votes. (Sixty votes are needed to invoke cloture and prevent a minority of Senators from blocking non-reconciliation legislation through a filibuster.)

As can be seen below, the House passed both Step One bills:

The House passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590) on March 21, 2010, by a vote of 219-212 (D: 219-34; R: 0-178). ***A “Yes” vote in favor of H.R. 3590 is counted as a “Right” vote.***

The House also passed the sidecar bill, the Health Care Reform Reconciliation Act (H.R. 4872), on March 21, 2010, by a vote of 220-211 (D: 219-33; R: 0-178). ***A “Yes” vote in favor of H.R. 4872 is counted as a “Right” vote.***

(The Step Two vote results may be found in the Senate section of this Voting Record.)

**4. FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act/Sarbanes Sourcing Reform Amendment – Vote #318**

AFGE supported an amendment offered by Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD) to the FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 5136) that would bring good government standards to procurement in non-Department of Defense agencies.

The Sarbanes amendment takes three standards that have been put in permanent law already with respect to Department of Defense procurement and puts them in permanent law for non-Department of Defense agencies. They are:

(1) Ensuring that work cannot be given by non-Department of Defense agencies to contractors without first conducting cost comparisons to determine if such transfers are in the best interest of taxpayers.

(2) Requiring non-Department of Defense agencies to inventory their service contracts to determine which ones are poorly performed or include functions too important or sensitive to outsource.

(3) Tasking non-Department of Defense agencies with developing guidance so that they can at least consider bringing back in-house work performed under contracts that are poorly performed, were contracted out without competition, or include important or sensitive functions that should not be contracted out.

The House passed the Sarbanes amendment to H.R. 5136 on May 27, 2010, by a vote of 253-172 (D: 243-11; R: 10-161). ***A “Yes” vote in favor of the Sarbanes amendment is counted as a “Right” vote.***

**5. American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act – Vote #324**

AFGE supported the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act (H.R. 4213), a bill that would provide desperately needed help to millions of American families who are experiencing an economy that is still recovering from the worst economic downturn in 70 years.

H.R. 4213 includes provisions that would create or save over a million American jobs, provide financial help to millions of unemployed American workers, and close an array of egregious tax loopholes that benefit only the wealthy.

Creating American Jobs

H.R. 4213 would provide a host of job creating provisions, including:

* A $7 billion package of loan guarantees for small business, and bonding authority for state and local infrastructure investment;
* A $2.3 billion tax credit for capital investment in the United States in 2010;
* Renewal of the $6.6 billion research and development tax credit;
* $24 billion in additional funding to help states pay for Medicaid, without which there will be significant layoffs in state government across the nation; and
* $2.6 billion for a one-year extension of the TANF emergency jobs fund.

Providing Financial Help to Unemployed American Workers

H.R. 4213 would provide for an extension of eligibility for emergency unemployment benefits and for COBRA health benefits. The extension of these programs was obviously a huge concern for the nearly 10 million Americans who had lost their jobs and were receiving unemployment compensation and relying on COBRA health benefits. Both the unemployment benefits and COBRA health benefits were scheduled to expire if the two programs were not renewed by Congress.

Closing Tax Loopholes

H.R. 4213 also would close a host of tax loopholes that have allowed many Americans to pay a lower income tax rate that the average worker, encouraged American businesses to move their operations overseas to escape federal taxes, and allowed some professionals to forego paying their share of Social Security and Medicare taxes.

The House passed the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act (H.R. 4213) on May 28, 2010, by a vote of 215-204 (D: 214-34; 1-170). ***A “Yes” vote in favor of H.R. 4213 is counted as a “Right” vote.***

**6. FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act/Bachmann Motion to Eliminate FY 2011 Federal Pay Raise – Vote #334**

AFGE supported a procedural motion offered by Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), to reject a motion offered by Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN) to recommit H.R. 5136, the FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act, back to the HASC with instructions to report the bill back to the House with an amendment to eliminate the FY 2011 pay raise for federal employees.

The Bachmann motion to freeze federal employee pay at the FY 2010 level was ostensibly part of the effort of House Republicans to cut the burgeoning federal budget deficit. But federal employees’ modest pay increases in the past decade did not cause the massive federal budget deficit. This deficit was caused by unnecessary tax breaks for the wealthy, two lengthy and difficult wars, exploding health care costs, and a deep recession spurred by Wall Street financial misdeeds.

In addition, while putting the federal government’s fiscal house back in order is a worthy goal, the elimination of the FY 2011 federal employee pay raise is the wrong way to accomplish it. A one-year federal employee pay freeze would:

* Have little impact on the $1.3 trillion federal budget deficit, saving only $2 billion in FY 2011.
* Enlarge the degree to which federal pay lags behind private sector pay (currently a 24% gap, according to a comprehensive analysis by the Bureau of Labor Statistics), thereby making it harder for the federal government to attract and retain talented workers.
* Unfairly hurt the many different groups of federal employees, including scientists at NIH conducting groundbreaking research, CIA employees serving bravely in war zones like Iraq and Afghanistan, Border Patrol agents and Customs and Border Patrol Officers engaged in an increasingly dangerous mission, doctors and nurses at VA hospitals caring for wounded and ill veterans, and correctional officers guarding terrorists and gang leaders in federal prisons.

The House passed the Skelton procedural motion to reject the Bachmann federal employee pay freeze amendment on May 28, 2010, by a vote of 227-183 (D: 224-18; R: 3-165). ***A “Yes” vote in favor of the Skelton procedural motion is counted as a “Right” vote.***

**7. Special Rule for Considering Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act/Sessions Effort to Repeal Federal Employee Union “Official Time” – Vote #406**

AFGE supported the motion to “order the previous question” offered by Rep. James McGovern (D-MA) on a special rule (H.Res.1487) to provide same-day consideration of

the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 4173) because a defeat of that motion would have allowed Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX) to alter that special rule and require the full House to vote on H.R. 3251, his bill to repeal “official time” of federal employee union representatives.

Under the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, federal employees who serve as union representatives are permitted to use “official time” to perform representational activities while on “official time” duty status. This is in exchange for accepting the responsibility of providing such services to those who pay union dues as well as those who refuse to pay.

Legally permitted representational activities include:

* Creating fair promotion procedures that require that selections be based on merit, so as to allow employees to advance their careers;
* Establishing flexible work hours that enhance agencies’ service to the public while allowing employees some control over their schedules;
* Setting procedures that protect employees from on-the-job hazards, such as those arising from working with dangerous chemicals and munitions;
* Enforcing protections from unlawful discrimination in employment;
* Developing systems to allow workers to perform their duties from alternative sites, thus increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of government;
* Participating in improvement of work processes;
* Providing workers with a voice in determining their working conditions.

The House approved on June 30, 2010, the McGovern motion to “order the previous question” - thereby rejecting the Sessions effort to repeal federal employee union “official time” - by a vote of 243-182 (D: 242-9; R: 1-173). ***A “Yes” vote in favor of the McGovern motion to “order the previous question” is counted as a “Right” vote.***

**8. Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 -– Vote #413**

AFGE supported the House-Senate conference agreement on the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 4173).

Years without accountability for Wall Street and big banks brought America the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. Americans have paid for this financial crisis with their jobs, incomes, savings, investments and home equity, and with their faith in the federal government to protect them from harm. The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection of 2010 is a step toward redressing those losses and restoring that faith.

Highlights of this legislation include:

* Consumer Protections with Authority and Independence. – H.R. 4173 creates a new independent watchdog, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, housed at the Federal Reserve, with the authority to make sure American consumers get the clear, accurate information they need shop for mortgages, credit cards, and other financial products, and protect them from hidden fees, abusive terms, and deceptive practices.
* Advance Warning System. – H.R. 4173 creates a Financial Stability Oversight Council to identify and address systematic risks posed by large, complex companies, products and activities before they threaten the stability of the economy.
* No More “Too Big to Fail” Bailouts. – H.R. 4173 ends the possibility that taxpayers will be asked to write a check to bail out financial firms that threaten the economy by: creating a safe way to liquidate failed financial firms; imposing tough new capital and leverage requirements that make it undesirable to get too big; updating the Federal Reserve’s authority to allow system-wide support but no longer prop up individual firms; and establishing standards and supervision to protect the economy and American consumers, investors and businesses.
* Transparency and Accountability for Exotic Instruments. – H.R. 4173 eliminates loopholes that allow risky and abusive practices to go on unnoticed and unregulated – including loopholes for over-the-counter derivatives, asset-backed securities, hedge funds, mortgage brokers and payday lenders.
* Enforcement of Regulations on the Books. – H.R. 4173 strengthens oversight and empowers regulators to aggressively pursue financial fraud, conflicts of interest and manipulation of the system that benefits special interests at the expense of American families and businesses.

The House passed the House-Senate conference agreement on the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 4173) on June 30, 2010, by a vote of 237-192 (D: 234-19; R: 3-173). ***A “Yes” vote in favor of the conference agreement is counted as a “Right” vote.***

**9. Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act – Vote #423**

AFGE supported the Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act (H.R. 5618), a bill to extend critical unemployment insurance benefits to those Americans who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

At the end of June 2010, more than seven million long-term unemployed workers had been jobless for six months. When the House began considering H.R. 5618 on July 1, 2010, the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program had expired on May 31, 2010, leaving millions of Americans without a financial lifeline upon which they could rely. It was estimated that 1.7 million individuals would lose their unemployment benefits by July 3, 2010 while 2.1 million would lose their benefits by July 10, 2010.

H.R. 5618 was designed to retroactively restore those EUC program benefits and then continue providing them through November 30, 2010.

Extending unemployment benefits not only helps unemployed American workers pay for their families’ basic needs, it also helps stimulate the economy and create jobs. As the Congressional Budget Office reports: “Households receiving unemployment benefits tend to spend the additional benefits quickly, making this option both timely and cost-effective in spurring economic activity and employment.” (*Policies for Increasing Economic Growth and* *Employment in 2010 and 2011*, page 19, Congressional Budget Office, January 2010)

The House passed H.R. 5618, the Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act, on July 1, 2010, by a vote of 270-153 (D: 241-11; R: 29-142). ***A “Yes” vote in favor of H.R. 5618 is counted as a “Right” vote.***

**10. Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act – Vote #430**

AFGE supported the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act (H.R. 4899), a bill that would grant public safety officers (law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical services personnel) the right to organize and collectively bargain in states that do not currently recognize that right.

The legislation would give states wide flexibility to write and administer their own labor-management laws, consistent with the following minimum rights:

* Providing for the right to bargain over wages, hours and working conditions;
* Making available a dispute resolution mechanism, such as fact-finding, mediation, or arbitration; and
* Requiring enforcement of any written contract between a labor organization and a public safety officer.

The House passed the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act on July 1, 2010, by a vote of 239-182 (D: 236-15; R: 3-167). ***A “Yes” vote in favor of the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act is counted as a “Right” vote.***

**11. Rule for Considering Small Business Jobs Act/Lummis Effort to Reduce Federal Workforce – Vote #535**

AFGE supported the motion to “order the previous question” offered by Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) regarding a rule (H.Res.1640) that would provide for the consideration of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (H.R. 5297) because a defeat of that motion would have allowed Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) to require the full House to vote on H.R. 5348, her bill to arbitrarily reduce the federal civil service by 200,000 employees.\*\*

Rep. Lummis’ bill may leave many with a feeling of déjà vu, given the Clinton administration efforts, pursuant to its Federal Workforce Restructuring Act, to reduce the federal civil service by 272,000 employees. Many may fear a repeat of the 1990s within the federal government agencies:

* Unable to fulfill their legal mandates with significantly fewer federal employees, federal agencies during the 1990s often simply privatized the work that had formerly been performed by reliable and experienced civil servants – usually at significantly higher costs.
* Federal agencies in the 1990s lost critical in-house capacities, eventually causing concern that the arbitrary in-house downsizing had left the federal government with a human capital crisis at the dawn of the 21st century.
* Outside audits in the 1990s reported that, on a widespread basis, contractors had been given functions that by law and regulation should always be performed by federal employees because of their sensitivity and importance.

The House approved on September 23, 2010, the Pingrie motion to “order the previous question” – thereby rejecting the Lummis effort to arbitrarily reduce the federal civil service by 200,000 employees – by a vote of 230-181 (D: 230-11; R: 0-170). ***A “Yes” vote in favor of the Pingrie motion to “order the previous question” is counted as a “Right” vote.***

**12. James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act – Vote #550**

AFGE supported the James Zagroda 9/11 Health and Compensation Act (H.R. 847), a $7.4 billion bill that would provide mandatory funding for medical monitoring, treatment and compensation to emergency responders, recovery and cleanup workers suffering from serious diseases as a result of hazardous exposures resulting from the September 11th terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, DC.

H.R. 847 also would reopen the federal September 11th Victim Compensation Fund to provide economic relief to those harmed by the attacks as an alternative to the current litigation system.

The House passed the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act (H.R. 847) on September 29, 2010, by a vote of 268-160 (D: 251-3; R: 17-157). ***A “Yes” vote in favor of H.R. 847 is counted as a “Right” vote.***

**13. Telework Enhancement Act of 2010 – Vote #578**

AFGE supported the Telework Enhancement Act of 2010 (H.R. 1722), a bill that would expand telework opportunities for most federal employees, allowing them to perform their work duties and responsibilities from home or another off-site location.

The Telework Enhancement Act of 2010 would:

* Instruct the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to issue government-wide telework guidelines and require each agency to develop a telework policy for their employees;
* Designate a Telework Managing Officer within every department and agency to oversee telework within that department or agency;
* Provide greater access to and opportunities for telework training and education to both employees and supervisors, while providing employees who elect to telework with greater protection against punitive treatment by supervisors and managers;
* Require each agency to integrate telework into its Continuity of Operations Planning, to insure agencies are able to function in the event of a natural disaster or a terrorist attack;
* Require OPM to compile government-wide data on telework; and
* Require the Government Accountability Office to evaluate agency compliance, produce an annual report to Congress, and make that report publicly available on the internet.

The House passed the Telework Enhancement Act of 2010 on November 18, 2010, by a 254-152 vote (D: 240-3; R:14-149). ***A “Yes” vote in favor of H.R. 1722 is counted as a “Right” vote.***

**14. Middle Class Tax Relief Act of 2010 – Vote #604**

AFGE supported the Middle Class Tax Relief Act of 2010 (H.R. 4853), a bill providing tax cuts for middle-income individuals and small businesses struggling to recover from the worst economic downturn in 70 years.

H.R. 4853 would make permanent the Bush 2001 and 2003 tax cuts for the middle class but eliminate the Bush tax cuts for individuals earning more than $200,000 and couples earning more than $250,000. Among other things, the bill would provide a permanent:

* Extension of marginal individual income tax rate reductions for middle-class taxpayers.
* Reduction of capital gains and dividend tax relief for middle-class taxpayers.
* Extension of various improvements to the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit.
* Extension of education tax incentives.
* Extension of tax benefits for families and children.
* Extension of enhanced small business expensing.

H.R. 4853 also would provide a two-year extension of alternative minimum tax (AMT) relief. The AMT has the effect of taking back many of the benefits of the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts. In order to ensure that middle-class taxpayers are able to enjoy the benefits of permanently extending these tax cuts, the bill would extend AMT relief for nonrefundable personal credits and increase the AMT exemption amount to $47,450 for individuals and $72,450 for couples in 2010 and 2011.

The House passed the Middle Class Tax Relief Act of 2010 (H.R. 4853) on December 2010 by a 234-188 vote (D: 231-20; R: 3-168). ***A “Yes” vote in favor of H.R. 4853 is counted as a “Right” vote.***

**15. Robert Byrd Mine Safety Protection Act of 2010 – Vote #616**

AFGE supported the Robert Byrd Mine Safety Protection Act of 2010 (H.R. 6495), a bill that would update our nation’s mine safety laws, increase the Mine Safety and Health Administration’s (MSHA’s) ability to effectively protect miners’ lives, and hold mine operators accountable for putting their workers in unnecessary danger.

H.R. 6495 was a direct response to the April 5, 2010, explosion at Massey Energy’s Upper Big Branch Mine in West Virginia in which 29 miners were killed. Tools that MSHA could have used to hold bad mine operators like Massey Energy accountable were rendered ineffective because of weak federal laws and indiscriminate mine operator appeals.

The bill would:

(a) Make Underground Mines with Serious and Repeated Violations Safe. - Criteria for ‘pattern of violations’ sanctions would be revamped to ensure that the nation’s most dangerous underground mine operations improve safety dramatically. For repeat violators, the bill would increase sanctions against those who refuse to improve their safety performance. It would eliminate procedural hurdles that delay MSHA’s ability to take action against mines that repeatedly violate safety standards.

(b) Hold Irresponsible Underground Mine Operators Accountable. - Maximum criminal penalties would be increased for those who disable or tamper with safety devices or recklessly endanger miners, and would require operators to pay penalties in a timely manner.  The bill would increase penalties against those who provide advance notice of an unannounced MSHA inspection.

(c) Ensure Miners’ Right to Blow the Whistle on Unsafe Conditions. - Protections for workers who speak out about unsafe conditions would be strengthened and would guarantee that miners wouldn’t lose pay for safety-related closures that were ordered by MSHA. The bill would provide underground coal miners with protections from dismissal unless the employer has just cause. In addition, miners would receive protections allowing them to speak freely during investigations.

(d) Give MSHA Better Enforcement Tools and Modernizing Safety Standards. - MSHA would be given the authority to subpoena documents and solicit testimony. The agency could seek a court order to close a mine when there is a continuing threat to the health and safety of miners. MSHA could require more training of miners in unsafe mines. Increased rock dusting would be required to prevent coal dust explosions.

(e) Improve Communications Between Miners. - The bill would require pre-shift reviews of mine conditions and communication to ensure that appropriate safety information and the presence of safety violations is transmitted to miners before they begin their shift work.

The House failed to pass the Robert Byrd Mine Safety Protection Act of 2010 (H.R. 6495) on December 8, 2010, by a vote of 214-193 (D: 213-27; R: 1-166). The bill was considered under the “suspension of the rules” with passage requiring a two-thirds vote of those present (272 “Yes” votes in this case). ***A “Yes” vote in favor of H.R. 6495 is considered a “Right” vote.***