



2011 California Legislative Report Card



CONGRESS OF CALIFORNIA SENIORS

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Dear Readers:

Each year the Congress of California Seniors (CCS) analyzes and reports the voting records of California legislators on bills affecting the lives of millions of seniors. We do this to help seniors understand how their elected officials in the California Assembly and the California Senate have responded to the issues facing our families and communities. Now that the baby boomers have arrived, this task becomes more important, and the legislation affects many more seniors...and the number will nearly double over the next generation.

California's economy continues to struggle, dragging down state revenues with near record deficits. We are falling short in our responsibility to finance essential state services. The budget has once again dominated the legislative agenda and limited the number and variety of bills being considered because nearly every proposal costs money. No money means few initiatives are considered.

Major program cuts and eliminations affecting frail elderly and disabled people are buried in budget "trailer" bills. CCS continues to express concern that doing this takes important policy issues out of the committees which are designed to allow public input in the legislative process. At the same time, the Legislature has opened the budget process allowing CCS to play a major advocacy role in formulating budgets for senior services.

A number of bills in this Report Card reflect passage of landmark health reform legislation at the national level in 2010, since many of the provisions of health reform require implementation at the state level. California is at the forefront among states, enacting bills to put the new health insurance provisions in place.

Advocacy is always at the heart of what we do at CCS. We work with others in the senior network to analyze bills, write letters of support or opposition, visit Capitol and district offices, and speak out at public hearings to provide a strong voice for California seniors. We work with state agency officials to follow up and make sure that laws are implemented.

Next year, we will have a new process for electing our Legislature and they will be running in new districts, so we may all have a chance to have a greater voice. We hope you will share this report with others so that seniors will be able to make informed decisions on Election Day 2012. To further help disseminate the Report Card findings, we will post this information on our website at www.seniors.org and distribute it at senior gatherings.

Nearly five million California seniors are counting on you to take the time to become informed and get involved. If you would like more information, or want to become part of our advocacy team, please contact us at 1-800-543-3352.

Sincerely,

Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo
State President

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State President
Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo

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The Congress of California Seniors is a broad-based coalition of senior centers and residential facilities, women's clubs, tenant and homeowner associations, faith-based organizations, community service groups, trade union retirees, retired federal/state/local government and public school employee organizations, and other advocacy groups.



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California State Assembly Voting Record

Legislator	AB 52	AB 96	AB 97	AB 151	AB 689	AB 714	AB 792	AB 922	AB 999	AB 1083	AB 1296	AB 1334	SB 33	SB 51	SB 87	SB 202	SB 222	SB 408	SB 930	Score
Portantino (D-44)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Silva (R-67)	N	N	NV	NV	Y	N	N	N	N	NV	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	10
Skinner (D-14)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Smyth (R-38)	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	21
Solorio (D-69)	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	84
Swanson (D-16)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Torres (D-61)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	89
Valadao (R-30)	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	16
Wagner (R-70)	N	N	N	N	NV	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	5
Wieckowski (D-20)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Williams (D-35)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Yamada (D-08)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100

California State Senate Voting Record

Legislator	AB 96	AB 97	AB 151	AB 689	AB 922	AB 1296	SB 33	SB 51	SB 87	SB 202	SB 222	SB 408	SB 411	SB 558	SB 930	Score
Alquist (D-13)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	100
Anderson (R-36)	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	20
Berryhill (R-14)	N	Y	N	Y	NV	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	20
Blakeslee (R-15)	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	NV	N	N	N	N	20
Calderon (D-30)	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	86
Cannella (R-12)	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	NV	N	N	N	N	20
Corbett (D-10)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Correa (D-34)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	NV	Y	67
De Leon (D-22)	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
DeSaulnier (D-07)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Dutton (R-31)	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	20
Emmerson (R-37)	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	NV	N	20
Evans (D-02)	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	93
Fuller (R-18)	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	27
Gaines (R-01)	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	20
Hancock (D-09)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Harman (R-35)	N	Y	N	NV	NV	N	E	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	7
Hernandez (D-24)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	93
Huff (R-29)	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	20
Kehoe (D-39)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
La Malfa (R-04)	N	NV	N	Y	N	N	Y	NV	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	13
Leno (D-03)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	93
Lieu (D-28)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	93
Liu (D-21)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	93
Lowenthal (D-27)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Negrete McLoud (D-32)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	NV	Y	87
Padilla (D-20)	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	93
Pavley (D-23)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Price (D-26)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Rubio (D-16)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	87
Runner (R-17)	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	E	N	N	N	N	N	E	N	N	15
Simitian (D-11)	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	93
Steinberg (D-06)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Strickland (R-19)	N	Y	N	E	N	N	Y	N	N	NV	NV	N	N	N	N	14
Vargas (D-40)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	87
Walters (R-33)	N	NV	N	Y	E	E	Y	N	N	N	N	E	N	N	N	17
Wolk (D-05)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	93
Wright (D-25)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	NV	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	80
Wyland (R-38)	N	Y	N	E	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	NV	N	N	14
Yee (D-08)	NV	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	73

LEGEND

- Y** Legislator voted in favor of the bill
- N** Legislator voted against bill
- E** Legislator had an excused absence from the vote
- NV** Legislator did not vote and did not have an excused absence
- Legislator was not a member at the time of vote

Key Bills for Seniors

Summary of the Legislation Used to Develop the CCS 2011 Legislative Report Card

AB 52 (Feuer) Requires prior approval by the California Department of Insurance or the Department of Managed Health Care before health insurance premiums can be increased.

AB 96 (Assembly Budget Committee) Creates a new program – KAFI (Keeping Adults Free from Institutions) – to replace the canceled Adult Day Health Care program for frail seniors who are at high risk of institutionalization.

AB 97 (Assembly Budget Committee) Makes major changes to health and human services to comply with budget changes.

AB 151 (Monning) Insures that Medicare Advantage plan recipients who face increased costs or reduced benefits may enroll in Original Medicare and buy a Medigap policy at no increase in cost.

AB 689 (Blumenfield) Requires that sellers of annuities abide by national professional standards in determining the suitability of annuities for prospective customers.

AB 714 (Atkins) Requires that individuals who are enrolled or disenrolled in publicly-funded state health care programs be notified of the availability of the new California Health Benefit Exchange created under the new federal Affordable Care Act.

AB 792 (Bonilla) Requires courts, health care service plans, health insurers, and employers to provide a notice to members and employees of the availability of coverage in the California Health Benefit Exchange created under the new federal Affordable Care Act.

AB 922 (Monning) Transfers the Department of Managed Health Care from the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency to the California Health and Human Services Agency. Transfers the Office of the Patient Advocate (OPA) to the Human Services Agency and requires existing duties to apply to health insurers regulated by the Department of Insurance. Assigns new duties to OPA to help consumers obtain public and private health care with the new federal Affordable Care Act.

AB 999 (Yamada) Simplifies Long-Term Care (LTC) insurance. The frequency of LTC rate increases would be regulated by the state Department of Insurance. Sample policies must be put online. The amount of premium revenue actually paid out to beneficiaries must conform to national standards.

AB 1083 (Monning) Eliminates the pricing of health insurance premiums based on an individual's health status, limits premiums for older Californians to three times the premiums of Californians in their twenties and adds the self-employed to those eligible for guaranteed coverage.

AB 1296 (Bonilla) Requires existing state health care agencies to undertake a planning and development process regarding the new federal Patient Protections and Affordable Care Act, including regulations or guidance related to eligibility, enrollment, and retention in state health subsidy programs. Requires a single simple application form for health benefits under the new California Health Benefit Exchange.

AB 1334 (Feuer) Simplifies and standardizes private individual healthcare insurance policies. Requires insurers to disclose whether existing policies offer minimum essential healthcare benefits. After January 1, 2014, all policies must match one of four benefit categories established by the Affordable Care Act.

SB 33 (Simitian) Allows the Elder and Dependent Adult Financial Abuse Reporting Act to continue beyond January 1, 2013. This act has been successful since 2007 in requiring bank and other financial employees to report instances of elder financial abuse.

SB 51 (Alquist) Requires insurers to comply with the new federal Affordable Care Act, provide rebates to policyholders if administrative costs exceed set levels, and requires that annual and lifetime benefit amounts conform with federal levels.

SB 87 (Leno) Budget Act of 2011. This on-time budget sets spending levels for the state General Fund.

SB 202 (Hancock) Requires that all future state initiatives and referendums appear only on the November general election ballot. Moves the "Rainy Day Fund" ballot measure from November 2012 to November 2014.

SB 222 (Evans) Requires policies in the individual health insurance market to provide coverage for maternity services.

SB 408 (Hernandez) Requires hospitals to be formally relicensed whenever ownership changes.

SB 411 (Price) Establishes the Home Care Services Act of 2011 requiring the Department of Social Services to license private non-medical home care services and to certify home care aides.

SB 558 (Simitian) Changes the standard of proof required in an elder abuse lawsuit to the simpler standard of preponderance of evidence.

SB 930 (Evans) Repeals requirement that In-Home Supportive Services recipients provide fingerprints; repeals the prohibition against providers using a post office box address to receive their paychecks; and corrects problems with the provider appeals process.

Information About the Congress of California Seniors

Who We Are

The Congress of California Seniors (CCS), founded in 1977, is a nonprofit community-based organization which is registered as a 501(c)(4) advocacy group and a California corporation. We are directed by a diverse board made up of senior leaders and advocates representing many affiliated groups that make up the Congress of California Seniors. In addition, the CCS Education and Research Fund provides educational programs and consumer information to constituent groups and to the larger senior community throughout the state. Through the efforts of both organizations, the Congress of California Seniors has become a strong and respected voice for seniors, their families and their communities.

What We Do

As a vital public advocacy organization, the Congress of California Seniors focuses its primary attention on issues that impact older adults, such as health care, long-term care, elder abuse, equal justice, affordable housing and fair consumer protections. We conduct an active legislative advocacy program in which we monitor legislation and mobilize CCS members to contact federal, state and local elected officials. We write letters, send emails, make visits and calls. We provide testimony on key legislative or regulatory issues affecting seniors and other groups. In recent years, we have conducted education and outreach programs for seniors, minorities, and the underserved in a variety of areas, including nutrition, elder abuse, caregiver training, health reform, prescription drugs, computer literacy training, and helping low-income elderly with utility discounts. CCS also works with the news media to raise awareness of senior issues. The CCS education and advocacy program has proved to be an effective way to influence public policy decisions made by the Legislature and with executive boards and commissions. We take a progressive position on most issues and work with other advocacy groups representing the interests of patients, consumers, the disabled, workers and others.

Who We Serve

As an umbrella organization for many affiliated groups, CCS serves a combined membership of several hundred thousand Californians. Our broad coalition includes local senior centers, service clubs, women's groups, homeowner associations, senior housing and mobile home tenant groups, faith-based organizations, union retiree groups, retired federal, state and school public employee organizations, and a broad variety of other agencies and associations. Diversity and variety make the Congress of California Seniors a genuine "grassroots" organization. Over the years we have developed a solid track record of accomplishment and have earned a reputation for speaking boldly for the interests of seniors, minorities, persons with disabilities and underserved people in California.