

Federal NRLC Scorecard - 113th Congress, Combined Sessions

U.S. Senate

1. Defunding of the Obama health care law (03/13/2013, Roll Call No. 34)

On March 13, 2013, during consideration of a bill (H.R. 933) to fund numerous federal agencies for the second half of fiscal year 2013, Senator Ted Cruz (R-Tx.) offered an amendment to block funding for implementation of President Obama's 2010 health care law (the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" or "Obamacare"). As enacted, the PPACA contains multiple provisions that will, if fully implemented, result in government-imposed rationing of lifesaving medical care, which are documented here. In addition, the PPACA also contains multiple provisions authorizing federal subsidies for abortion, and additional provisions on which future abortion-expanding regulatory mandates may be based. The abortion-subsidizing and abortion-expanding provisions of the health care law are thoroughly documented in materials posted on the NRLC website here. NRLC strongly supported the Cruz Amendment, but it failed, 45-52, with all Republicans voting in favor and all Democrats present voting against. Roll call no. 34.

2. Protection of religious liberty (Fischer Amendment) (03/22/2013, Roll Call No. 55)

On March 22, 2013, during consideration of a budget resolution proposed by Senate Democrats (S. Con. Res. 8), Senator Deb Fischer (R-Ne.), with the support of NRLC, offered an amendment stating that federal programs dealing with "basic primary and preventive health care" should be conducted consistently with the First Amendment to the Constitution, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, "the protection of religious beliefs and moral convictions," and the Hyde Amendment (the federal law that prevents funding of abortions through Medicaid and certain other programs). In effect, a vote in favor of the Fischer Amendment was a vote to condemn the actions of the Obama Administration in implementing a "preventive health" mandate, as part of Obamacare, that requires many employers and individuals purchase health plans that cover drugs and procedures to which they have religious or moral objections. The Fischer Amendment failed, 44 to 55. The amendment was supported by 42 Republicans and two Democrats. It was opposed by three Republicans and 52 Democrats. Roll call no. 55.

3. Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act: Sense of the Senate (03/22/2013, Roll Call No. 64)

On March 22, 2013, during consideration of a budget resolution (S. Con. Res. 8), Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fl.) offered an amendment expressing the "sense of the Senate" that Congress should enact the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (CIANA), S. 369, which is a bill sponsored by Sen. Rubio and strongly supported by National Right to Life. The CIANA would require any abortionist to notify the parent of a non-resident minor, with certain exceptions, and would place restrictions on non-parents transporting minors across state lines to obtain abortions. Technically, this was a vote on a motion to make the amendment in order, but in essence, the roll call demonstrated where senators stand on the CIANA. The Rubio motion failed, 48-51. Forty-three (43) Republicans and five Democrats voted in favor of the CIANA, while two Republicans and 49 Democrats voted against it. Roll call no. 64.

4. Murray bill to empower DHHS abortion mandates (07/16/2014, Roll Call No. 228)

A provision of the 2010 Obama health care law empowered the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to require that most employers cover, in their employee health plans, anything that DHHS puts on a list of "preventive services." The Obama Administration used this authority to require coverage of certain drugs and procedures that violate the religious beliefs of some employers. In its June, 2014 ruling in the case of *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that this mandate violated statutory religious-freedom rights of some employers. In response to this ruling, Senator Patty Murray (D-Wa.) introduced S. 2578, a bill to establish that DHHS has authority to mandate any "preventive services" it chooses, "notwithstanding any other provision of Federal law." This would further empower the Administration to mandate coverage of abortion pills such as RU-486, surgical abortion (including late abortions), assisted suicide, or anything else it chooses to classify as "preventive services," overriding all existing federal laws that protect religious freedom and conscience rights. NRLC strongly opposed S. 2578. On July 16, 2014, the Senate conducted a key procedural roll call on the Murray bill, with 60 votes being required to "invoke cloture" and take up the bill. The roll call was 56 in favor of taking the bill up (pro-abortion) and 43 opposed (pro-life). All present Democrats voted in favor of taking up the bill, except Majority Leader Harry Reid (Nv.), who favored the bill but voted "no" only to preserve the right to force another vote at a later date. All Republicans voted against taking up the bill, except Senators Susan Collins (Me.), Mark Kirk (Il.), and Lisa Murkowski (Ak.). Roll call no. 228.

5. Constitutional Amendment to curb free speech about political officeholders and issues (09/11/2014, Roll Call No. 261)

In response to a series of U.S. Supreme Court decisions that protect the right to spend money to criticize or praise those who hold or seek political office, Democrats in the U.S. Senate proposed S. J. Res. 19, a constitutional amendment sponsored by Senator Tom Udall (D-NM). This amendment, if approved by Congress and ratified by three-quarters of the states, would give Congress and state legislatures the power to ration or even criminalize virtually any form of speech that might "influence elections." The resolution specifically empowers Congress and the state legislatures to completely ban any speech by incorporated groups, such as NRLC, that legislators or regulators believe may "influence elections," which could include any speech about the votes or other official actions of members of Congress or state legislatures. Even speech that does not mention candidates, but that deals with a controversial policy issue, could be restricted under this radical proposal -- and there would be nothing to prevent Congress or a state legislature from restricting speech by only one side of a contentious issue. In a letter to senators dated September 3, 2014, NRLC expressed strong opposition to S. J. Res. 19, on grounds that it would "empower incumbent federal and state lawmakers to restrict and criminalize speech that is critical of their actions on crucial public policy issues, including abortion." On September 11, 2014, the Senate conducted a procedural vote which had the effect of ending action on S. J. Res. 19 for the year, with 54 Democrats voting to advance the measure and 42 Republicans voting to block it. Thus, a majority of senators voted to support S. J. Res. 19, but short of the 60 votes necessary to advance the measure to a final vote, and short of the two-thirds margin needed to pass a constitutional amendment. Roll call no. 261.

National Right to Life Vote Position	X	X	X	X	X	
Alabama Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Jeff Sessions (R-AL)	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Richard Shelby (R-AL)	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Alaska Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Mark Begich (D-AK)	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	X	O	X	O	NV	50%
Arizona Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
John McCain (R-AZ)	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Jeff Flake (R-AZ)	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Arkansas Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
John Boozman (R-AR)	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Mark Pryor (D-AR)	O	X	X	O	O	40%
California Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Barbara Boxer (D-CA)	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Colorado Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Michael Bennet (D-CO)	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Mark Udall (D-CO)	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Connecticut Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Christopher Murphy (D-CT)	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)	O	O	O	O	O	0%

Delaware Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Thomas Carper (D-DE)</u>	O	O	O	O	O	0%
<u>Chris Coons (D-DE)</u>	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Florida Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Marco Rubio (R-FL)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
<u>Bill Nelson (D-FL)</u>	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Georgia Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Saxby Chambliss (R-GA)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
<u>Johnny Isakson (R-GA)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Hawaii Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Mazie Hirono (D-HI)</u>	O	O	O	O	O	0%
<u>Brian Schatz (D-HI)</u>	O	O	O	NV	O	0%
Idaho Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Michael Crapo (R-ID)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
<u>Jim Risch (R-ID)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Illinois Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Richard Durbin (D-IL)</u>	O	O	O	O	O	0%
<u>Mark Kirk (R-IL)</u>	X	O	O	O	X	40%
Indiana Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Joe Donnelly (D-IN)</u>	O	O	X	O	O	20%
<u>Dan Coats (R-IN)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Iowa Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Charles Grassley (R-IA)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
<u>Tom Harkin (D-IA)</u>	O	O	O	O	O	0%

Kansas Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Pat Roberts (R-KS)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
<u>Jerry Moran (R-KS)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Kentucky Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Rand Paul (R-KY)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
<u>Mitch McConnell (R-KY)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Louisiana Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>David Vitter (R-LA)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
<u>Mary Landrieu (D-LA)</u>	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Maine Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Angus King (I-ME)</u>	O	O	O	O	O	0%
<u>Susan Collins (R-ME)</u>	X	O	O	O	X	40%
Maryland Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)</u>	O	O	O	O	O	0%
<u>Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)</u>	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Massachusetts Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Edward Markey (D-MA)</u>	I	I	I	O	O	0%
<u>Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)</u>	O	O	O	O	O	0%
<u>John Kerry (D-MA)</u>	I	I	I	I	I	
<u>William Cowan (D-MA)</u>	O	O	O	I	I	0%
Michigan Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Carl Levin (D-MI)</u>	O	O	O	O	O	0%
<u>Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)</u>	O	O	O	O	O	0%

Minnesota Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Al Franken (D-MN)	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Mississippi Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Thad Cochran (R-MS)	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Roger Wicker (R-MS)	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Missouri Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Claire McCaskill (D-MO)	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Roy Blunt (R-MO)	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Montana Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
John Walsh (D-MT)	I	I	I	O	O	0%
Max Baucus (D-MT)	O	O	O	I	I	0%
Jon Tester (D-MT)	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Nebraska Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Deb Fischer (R-NE)	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Mike Johanns (R-NE)	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Nevada Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Harry Reid (D-NV)	O	O	X	X	O	40%
Dean Heller (R-NV)	X	X	X	X	X	100%
New Hampshire Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Kelly Ayotte (R-NH)	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)	O	O	O	O	O	0%

New Jersey Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Robert Menendez (D-NJ)	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Jeff Chiesa (R-NJ)	I	I	I	I	I	
Cory Booker (D-NJ)	I	I	I	O	O	0%
Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)	NV	NV	NV	I	I	
New Mexico Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Tom Udall (D-NM)	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Martin Heinrich (D-NM)	O	O	O	O	O	0%
New York Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Charles Schumer (D-NY)	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)	O	O	O	O	NV	0%
North Carolina Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Kay Hagan (D-NC)	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Richard Burr (R-NC)	X	X	X	X	X	100%
North Dakota Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
John Hoeven (R-ND)	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND)	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Ohio Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Sherrod Brown (D-OH)	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Rob Portman (R-OH)	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Oklahoma Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Tom Coburn (R-OK)	X	X	X	X	NV	100%
James Inhofe (R-OK)	X	X	X	X	X	100%

Oregon Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Jeff Merkley (D-OR)</u>	O	O	O	O	O	0%
<u>Ron Wyden (D-OR)</u>	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Pennsylvania Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Bob Casey (D-PA)</u>	O	O	X	O	O	20%
<u>Patrick Toomey (R-PA)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Rhode Island Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Jack Reed (D-RI)</u>	O	O	O	O	O	0%
<u>Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)</u>	NV	O	O	O	O	0%
South Carolina Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Tim Scott (R-SC)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
<u>Jim DeMint (R-SC)</u>	I	I	I	I	I	
<u>Lindsey Graham (R-SC)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
South Dakota Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>John Thune (R-SD)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
<u>Tim Johnson (D-SD)</u>	O	O	O	O	O	0%
Tennessee Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Lamar Alexander (R-TN)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
<u>Bob Corker (R-TN)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Texas Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Ted Cruz (R-TX)</u>	X	X	X	X	NV	100%
<u>John Cornyn (R-TX)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Utah Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
<u>Orrin Hatch (R-UT)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%
<u>Mike Lee (R-UT)</u>	X	X	X	X	X	100%

Vermont Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Patrick Leahy (D-VT)	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Bernard Sanders (I-VT)	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Virginia Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Tim Kaine (D-VA)	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Mark Warner (D-VA)	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Washington Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Maria Cantwell (D-WA)	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Patty Murray (D-WA)	0	0	0	0	0	0%
West Virginia Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Jay Rockefeller (D-WV)	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Joe Manchin (D-WV)	NV	X	X	0	0	50%
Wisconsin Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Ron Johnson (R-WI)	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Wyoming Senators	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Score
John Barrasso (R-WY)	X	X	X	X	X	100%
Michael Enzi (R-WY)	X	X	X	X	X	100%

Senate Changes During This Congress

William Cowan (D-MA):	Term expired July 16, 2013
Tim Scott (R-SC):	
John Walsh (D-MT):	Sworn in February 11, 2014
Cory Booker (D-NJ):	Elected October 16, 2013; sworn in October 31, 2013
Jeff Chiesa (R-NJ):	Served from June 6, 2013 to October 30, 2013
John Kerry (D-MA):	Resigned February 1, 2013
Edward Markey (D-MA):	Elected to Senate June 25, 2013; sworn in July 16, 2013
Jim DeMint (R-SC):	
Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ):	Died June 3, 2013
Max Baucus (D-MT):	Resigned February 6, 2014
Tom Coburn (R-OK):	

Legend

Y

Voted Yes (No position by organization)

N

Voted No (No position by organization)

X

Voted With Us

O

Voted Against Us

P

Voted Present

NV

Did Not Vote

I

Not in Office

S

Speaker (Typically the speaker does not participate in roll call votes.)

