



2012 California Legislative Report Card



CONGRESS OF CALIFORNIA SENIORS

1230 "N" STREET, SUITE 201, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 • (916) 442-4474 • (800) 543-3352 • FAX (916) 442-1877 • www.seniors.org

Dear Readers:

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The 2011-2012 regular session of the California Legislature ended in a flurry of bills being sent to Governor Brown for his action. As always, a number of these bills are likely to affect the lives of California seniors and the services they count on for their well-being.

As we have for decades, the Congress of California Seniors (CCS) was actively engaged in the debate on these bills and the policies they cover. We met with bill sponsors, determined their impact on California's nearly five million seniors, wrote letters of support or opposition, appeared at hearings to testify, visited Capitol and district offices, and met with other stakeholders as language was modified to make bills better. This advocacy is at the heart of what we do, and it extends to legislative consideration of state budget bills which reflect important policy initiatives.

For more than a decade, CCS has identified a handful of key bills and issued a "Report Card" on how members of the Assembly and Senate voted. It allows us to inform seniors and their families about what legislators actually did, not just what they said.

Again this year, there were a number of bills establishing the framework for health insurance reform in California. They took considerable time and thought because California is leading the way among states in implementing health reform, and other states are likely to adopt many of the features of our program. The budget legislation included landmark changes to the way we deliver care to 1.1 million seniors and people with disabilities in Medicare and Medi-Cal, bringing some of the biggest changes in over forty years. Other bills revised the way California provides long-term care, such as homecare and nursing home services. We also worked on bills to improve the functioning of senior common interest housing communities, help senior residents in mobile home communities, and promote affordable housing. Once again, we worked on legislation to more strongly protect seniors from elder abuse.

With important elections this year, we hope you'll take the time to see what your elected representatives in Sacramento did to advance and protect the interests of seniors. Millions of seniors are counting on you to be informed and involved, and to tell others who are likely to vote. We have posted this information on our website, www.seniors.org, so that you can spread the word. And we hope you'll consider joining our team of advocates. If so, call us at 1-800-543-3352.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hank Lacayo".

Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo
State President

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

California State Assembly Voting Record cont'd

Legislator	AB 40	AB 999	AB 1453	AB 1461	AB 1489	AB 1526	AB 1580	AB 1797	AB 2206	AB 2273	SB 345	SB 411	SB 951	SB 961	SB 970	SB 1008	SB 1036	SB 1047	SB 1234	Score
Portantino (D-44)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Silva (R-67)	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	32
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)	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	37
Solorio (D-69)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Swanson (D-16)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	NV	Y	Y	84
Torres (D-61)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	95
Valadao (R-30)	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	32
Wagner (R-70)	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	37
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-8)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	89

California State Senate Voting Record

Legislator	AB 40	AB 999	AB 1453	AB 1461	AB 1489	AB 1526	AB 1580	AB 1797	AB 2206	AB 2273	SB 345	SB 411	SB 951	SB 961	SB 970	SB 1008	SB 1036	SB 1047	SB 1234	Score
Alquist (D-13)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Anderson (R-36)	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	E	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	22
Berryhill, T. (R-14)	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	37
Blakeslee (R-15)	Y	N	N	N	NV	NV	N	N	Y	Y	Y	E	N	N	N	N	N	E	N	24
Calderon, R. (D-30)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	89
Cannella (R-12)	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	NV	N	Y	N	42
Corbett (D-10)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Correa (D-34)	NV	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	84
de Leon (D-22)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	100
DeSaulnier (D-07)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Dutton (R-31)	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	32
Emmerson (R-37)	Y	N	N	NV	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	NV	N	N	N	NV	N	N	Y	N	32
Evans (D-02)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Fuller (R-18)	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	32
Gaines, T. (R-01)	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	32
Hancock (D-09)	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	NV	NV	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	78
Harman (R-35)	Y	NV	NV	N	NV	Y	NV	N	Y	Y	NV	NV	N	N	NV	N	N	NV	N	21
Hernandez, E. (D-24)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Huff (R-29)	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	37
Kehoe (D-39)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	89
La Malfa (R-04)	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	26
Leno (D-03)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Lieu (D-28)	NV	E	NV	E	Y	Y	NV	E	Y	Y	Y	E	E	E	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	77
Liu (D-21)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Lowenthal, A. (D-27)	Y	Y	Y	Y	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	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Padilla (D-20)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Pavley (D-23)	NV	E	NV	E	NV	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	E	E	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	69
Price (D-26)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Rubio (D-16)	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	95
Runner (R-17)	E	E	E	E	E	E	N	N	E	Y	E	N	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	40
Simitian (D-11)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Steinberg (D-06)	Y	NV	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	89
Strickland (R-19)	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	42
Vargas (D-40)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Walters (R-33)	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y											

Key Bills for Seniors

Summary of the Legislation Used to Develop the CCS 2012 Legislative Report Card

AB 40 (Yamada) Requires mandated reporters of elder abuse to report instances of physical abuse, occurring in a long-term care facility, to both the state Long-Term Care Ombudsman and local law enforcement.

AB 999 (Yamada) Simplifies Long-Term Care insurance. The frequency of 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 1453 (Monning) Individual and small group health plans regulated by the state Department of Managed Health Care must cover minimum essential health benefits equivalent to the Kaiser Small Group HMO 30 plan.

AB 1461 (Monning) Prevents insurers from denying or discriminating for pre-existing conditions, and otherwise conforms the state insurance code to the ACA and phases in new market rules for individual policies.

AB 1489 (Assembly Budget Committee) Extends the sunset on the state's skilled nursing facilities quality assurance fee for two years. Also makes other changes to 2012-2013 Budget needed to achieve savings in the Department of Health Care Services and the Department of Public Health.

AB 1526 (Monning) Improves the Major Risk Medical Insurance Pool (MRMIP) by eliminating yearly and lifetime caps so that individuals with pre-existing conditions will be protected if they need extremely expensive care. AB 1526 aligns MRMIP with the federally funded PCVIP program.

AB 1580 (Bonilla) Streamlines Health Exchange eligibility and enrollment process.

AB 1797 (Torres) Authorizes the Department of Housing and Community Development to offer an interest rate below 3% on loans under the Mobilehome Park Resident Occupancy Program and authorizes HCD to provide assistance to applicants and include the reasonable costs of the assistance as part of the loan principal.

AB 2206 (Atkins) Requires dual eligibles for Medi-Cal and Medicare to be informed about Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly.

AB 2273 (Wieckowski) For common interest developments – sales documents must be processed quickly and forwarded to the Homeowner Association for tenant assessment purposes.

SB 345 (Wolk) Intends to make the State Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman truly independent of political control. Conforms relevant state codes to federal statutes.

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 951 (Hernandez) Establishes in the state Insurance Code a set of minimum essential health benefits equivalent to the Kaiser Small Group HMO 30 plan.

SB 961 (Hernandez) Purchasers of individual health policies cannot be discriminated against for pre-existing conditions. Establishes statewide annual and special open enrollment periods.

SB 970 (De Leon) Creates "No Wrong Door" application process for social services benefits so that applicants for health benefits programs can, with their consent, be enrolled in CalWorks and Cal-Fresh programs.

SB 1008 (Senate Budget Committee) Expands Duals Demonstration Project for both Medi-Cal and Medicare recipients from four to eight counties.

SB 1036 (Senate Budget Committee) Implements Duals Demonstration Project and Long-Term Services and Supports Integration.

SB 1047 (Alquist) Establishes statewide Silver Alert notification system designed to issue and coordinate alerts concerning a person who is 65 years of age or older who is reported missing.

SB 1234 (De Leon) Creates a self-supporting, state-administered pension plan for private sector workers without pension plans.

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.