

112th Congressional Voting Record – NYS Senate



Campus Safety

The Campus SaVE Act (S. 834) would ensure that institutions of higher education have comprehensive procedures in place to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The bill promotes prevention programs on campus that focus on teaching male and female students that they can help prevent sexual violence. It also requires the collection of information on best practices about preventing and responding to incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

- ♦ Senator Gillibrand voted for this bill.
- ♦ Senator Schumer voted against this bill.

Education Jobs

The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act of 2011 (S. 1723) would provide \$30 billion to hire approximately 400,000 teachers. These grants would help schools avoid planned layoffs, rehire teachers previously laid off, and hire additional educators to decrease class size. This Act would also help localities hire first responders.

- ♦ Senator Gillibrand voted for this bill.
- ♦ Senator Schumer voted for this bill.

Full Year Spending

The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011 (H.R.1). As a result of a deal with the House of Representatives, the Senate agreed to vote on this bill on March 9, 2011. The bill passed in the House on February 19, 2011. The Senate rejected this legislation, which would have cut \$60 billion from fiscal year 2011 federal government spending.

- ♦ Senator Gillibrand voted for this bill.
- ♦ Senator Schumer voted for this bill.

Cut Cap and Balance

The Cut, Cap, and Balance Act of 2011 (H.R. 2560) would impose stringent caps on federal

discretionary and mandatory expenditures, cutting spending beginning in fiscal year 2012. These changes would be contingent on Congress's approval of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, which would require that federal spending in any year be offset by revenues collected that same year. The bill passed in the House, but was tabled in the Senate.

- ♦ Senator Gillibrand did not cast a vote.
- ♦ Senator Schumer voted to table the bill.

Paycheck Fairness Act

The Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 797) would provide an update to the Equal Pay Act of 1963. It would clarify acceptable reasons for differences in pay by requiring employers to demonstrate that wage gaps between men and women doing the same work are truly a result of factors other than sex. The legislation also deters wage discrimination by strengthening penalties for equal pay violations and prohibiting retaliation against workers who inquire about employers' wage practices or disclose their own wages. In addition, the bill provides women with a fair option to proceed in a class-action lawsuit and allows them to receive punitive and compensatory damages for pay discrimination.

- ♦ Senator Gillibrand co-sponsored the bill.
- ♦ Senator Schumer co-sponsored the bill.

Reproductive Health

Planned Parenthood Funding (H.Con.Res. 36) would have barred federal funds from going to Planned Parenthood Federation of America for the services it provides under the Title X Family Planning Program.

- ♦ Senator Gillibrand voted against the resolution.
- ♦ Senator Schumer voted against the resolution.

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D. C. Vouchers

Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (H.R. 471) would reauthorize the District of Columbia private school voucher program. This Act would allow new students to enroll in the voucher program, raise the number of students who receive vouchers, and increase the voucher amount. Under this program an estimated 1,300 students will receive vouchers of up to \$12,000. per year to pay for private school tuition with taxpayer dollars.

- ♦ Representative Owens voted for this Act.

Campus Safety

Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (H.R. 2016) would help protect students on college campuses by requiring schools to adopt policies to prevent and respond to incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. It would require colleges and universities to disclose information about crime on and around their campuses. The Campus Save Act would also provide for the collection of best practices about prevention and response to incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and ensure that this information is disseminated to colleges and universities.

- ♦ Representative Hanna Owens co-sponsored this bill.

Full-Year Spending

Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011 (H.R. 1) would have cut \$60 billion from fiscal year 2011 federal government spending. This bill targeted several programs for elimination including those that help children remain and succeed in school, assist students pursuing higher education, encourage unemployed workers to enroll in job training, enable access to affordable health services, support older adults and their family caregivers, and protect workers against sex discrimination, pay discrimination, and pregnancy discrimination.

- ♦ Representative Owens voted for this bill.

Cut, Cap and Balance

The Cut, Cap and Balance Act of 2011 (H.R. 2560) would impose caps on federal spending, which would lead to substantial cuts beginning in fiscal

year 2012. These changes would be contingent on congressional approval of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, which would require that federal spending in any year be offset by revenues collected that same year. This requirement would limit the nation's ability to provide for seniors and veterans and weaken safety net programs. Under a balanced budget amendment Social Security and other government programs would be forced to cut benefits, regardless of balances in their trust funds. For example, even though Social Security currently has a surplus, cuts would be mandatory under a balanced budget amendment. Additionally, Medicare and Medicaid benefits and eligibility would be reduced.

- ♦ Representative Owens voted for this bill.

Paycheck Fairness

The Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 1519) bill strengthens the Equal Pay Act by taking steps to create incentives for employers to follow the law, to empower women to negotiate for equal pay, and to strengthen federal outreach and enforcement efforts. The bill would also deter wage discrimination by strengthening penalties for equal pay violations, bringing them in line with other civil rights laws. It also prohibits retaliation against workers who inquire about employers' wage practices or disclose their wages.

- ♦ Representative Owens co-sponsored this bill.

Reproductive Health

Pence Amendment (H. Amdt. 95 to H.R. 1). On February 17, 2011 during consideration of the Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act (H.R. 1) Representative Pence offered an amendment that would completely eliminate the national family planning program known as Title X, and exclude Planned Parenthood from receiving federal funds for any of its services. The House passed this amendment on February 18, 2011. A compromise was reached in later appropriations legislation, and the Title X funds were not restricted, nor was Planned Parenthood defunded.

- ♦ Representative Owens voted for the amendment.