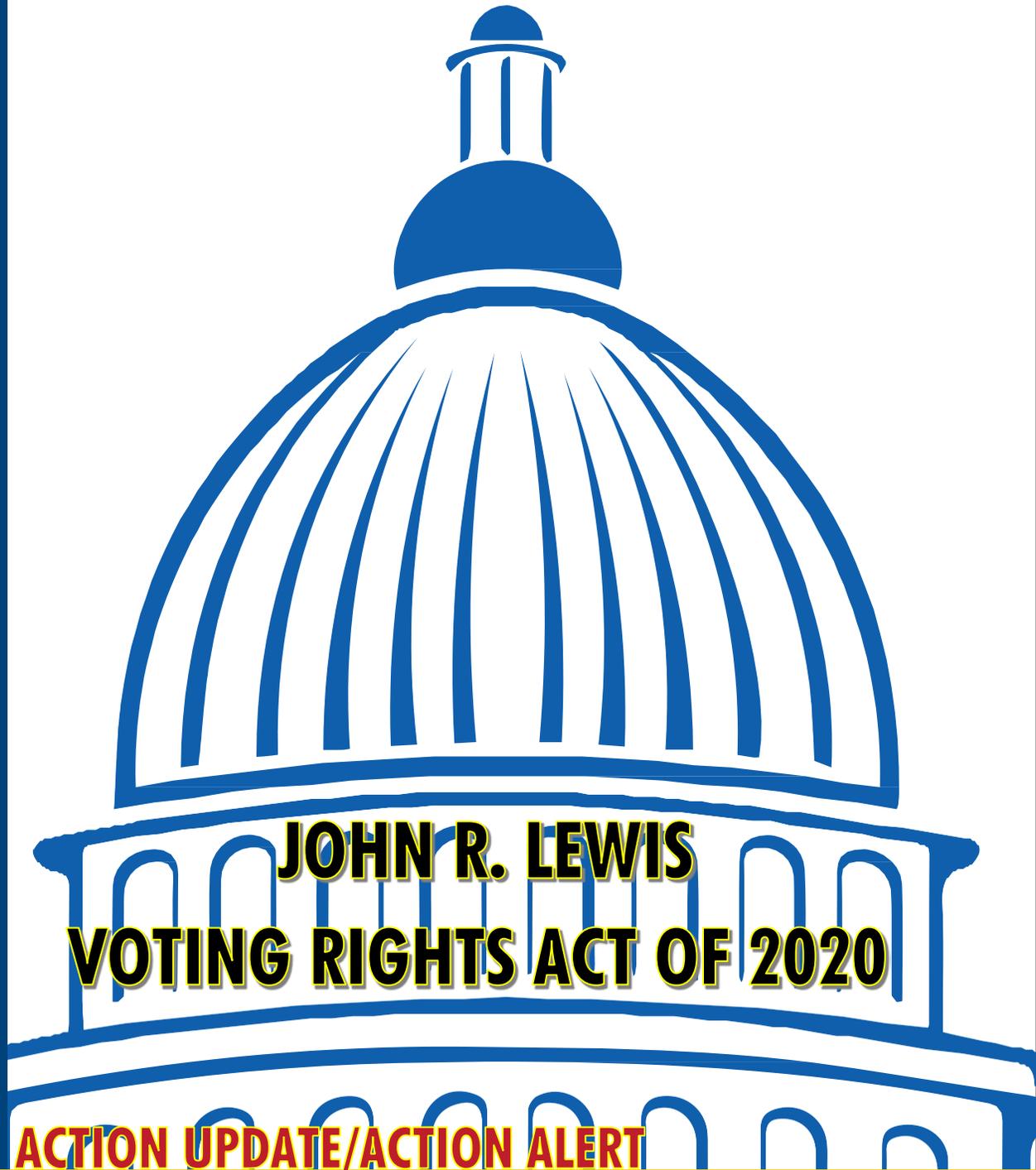


NAACP

Washington Bureau



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ACTION UPDATE/ACTION ALERT

DATE: July 30, 2020

ACTION UPDATE/ACTION ALERT TITLE:

***US HOUSE PASSES NAACP-SUPPORTED
JOHN R. LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 2020
TO RESTORE, REPAIR, AND STRENGTHEN
THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965***

WE MUST NOW URGE THE U.S. SENATE TO ACT AND NOT ALLOW THIS CRUCIAL BILL TO END UP IN LEADER MITCH MCCONNELL'S "LEGISLATIVE GRAVEYARD"

THE ISSUE:

The right to vote is one of the most valuable constitutional rights granted to most Americans. That is why the NAACP was pleased and proud to see **H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act pass the U.S. House of Representatives on December 6, 2019, by a decisive margin of 228 – 187, renamed the "John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of 2020" on 7/27/2020; one week after Congressman Lewis' death.**

We must now urge the U.S. Senate to take up and pass this crucial legislation, and not allow it to end up in Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's (KY) "legislative graveyard," like so many other NAACP federal legislative priorities. H.R. 4 returns the 1965 Voting Rights Act to its full strength and even improves upon the 1965 law.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) was enacted to insure that the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was enforced and that no one, including federal, state or local government may in any way impede people from registering to vote or voting because of their race or ethnicity. Most provisions in the VRA, and specifically the portions that guarantee that no one may be denied the right to vote because of his or her race or color, are permanent.

Section 5 of the VRA requires certain states or jurisdictions which have an established history of laws or policies which discriminate obtain advance approval or "preclearance" from the US Department of Justice or the US District Court for D.C. before they can make any changes to voting practices or procedures. Examples of these changes which must be "precleared" include any change in the date, time, place, or manner under which an election is held. Federal approval is to be given as soon as the state or jurisdiction proves that the proposed change would not abridge the right to vote on account of race or language minority status.

On June 25, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in the case of Shelby v. Holder in which the Court did not invalidate the principle of preclearance. The Supreme Court did decide, however, that Section 4(b) of the VRA, which establishes the formula that is used to determine which states and jurisdictions must comply with preclearance, is antiquated and thus unconstitutional and can no longer be used. Thus, although Section 5 prevailed, it is currently not being used. The U.S. Supreme Court also made it clear in its decision that a new, updated preclearance formula can and should be designed by the U.S. Congress, and signed into law.

See how every member voted at the end of this Action Update/Action Alert

STAY CONNECTED



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TAKE ACTION

Contact both your Senators and **URGE THEM TO H.R. 4, THE JOHN R. LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 2020**. To Contact your Senators, you may:

MAKE A PHONE CALL



Call both your Senators in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and ask to be transferred to your Representatives offices. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

SEND AN EMAIL



To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov and click on "Contact" on the left hand side. You can look up your Senators by name or state; go to their web sites to send an e-mail.

WRITE A LETTER



To write a letter to both your Senators, send it to:
The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

A SAMPLE LETTER IS
ATTACHED

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!

THE MESSAGE

- As a result of the 2013 Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, there are currently no states or jurisdictions which are required to comply with the "preclearance" directive under Section 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. This means that states or jurisdictions with a proven history of discrimination are able to make changes to their election laws and policies without proving in advance that the proposed changes will not disenfranchise any voters;
- The US Supreme Court made it clear that Congress can fix this problem and pass a law to replace the criteria for which states or jurisdictions must comply with Section 5 "preclearance;"
- Members of the US Senate need to hear from their constituents that JOHN R. LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 2020 to restore, repair, and strengthen the 1965 Voting Rights Act is a priority and **MUST PASS NOW!!!!**

STAY CONNECTED



@NAACP

SAMPLE LETTER

(date)

The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: THE URGENT NEED TO RESTORE, REPAIR, AND STRENGTHEN THE 1965 VOTING RIGHTS ACT.

Dear Senator _____;

As your constituent, I urge you to pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act as quickly as possible to work to restore, repair, and strengthen the 1965 Voting Rights Act (VRA). The House passed, on December 6, 2019, by a decisive margin of 228 yeas to 187 nays H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act. The bill was renamed the “John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of 2020” on 7/27/2020; one week after Congressman Lewis’ death. The United States Senate must now act as soon as possible, so I hope that you will contact your leadership and demand immediate action. It is vital that we address this crucial issue. H. R. 4 would ensure maximum coverage, ensuring the right to vote of as many Americans as possible is protected.

As you know, as a result of the 2013 Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, there are currently no states or jurisdictions which are required to comply with the “preclearance” directive under Section 5 of the VRA. This means that states or jurisdictions with a proven history of discrimination are able to make changes to their election laws and policies without proving to the U.S. Department of Justice or the District Court in D.C. in advance that the proposed changes will not disenfranchise racial or ethnic minority or language minority voters.

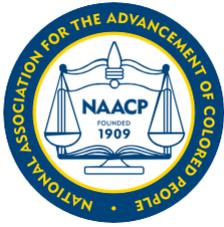
In *Shelby County v. Holder* the Supreme Court also explicitly said that Congress could and should update Section 4(b) of the VRA, which it struck, which establishes the formula to determine which states and jurisdictions must obtain preclearance before making any changes to the time, place, or manner in which its elections are conducted. Thus, it is now up to Congress to do the work which must be done to repair, restore and strengthen the 1965 VRA and allow it continue to protect all American voters, so we are ensured that we are able to cast a free and unfettered vote and we can be assured that our vote has been counted.

We cannot allow Congressional inaction to dismantle more than 50 years of progress towards a more perfect union. Thus, I urge you again to contact your leadership and demand immediate action on the repair, restoration, and strengthening of the 1965 Voting Rights Act in light of the Supreme Court’s devastating decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*.

I look forward to hearing from you soon to know what you are doing to move this issue along, and to also receiving your thoughts on what more I can do to precipitate action.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and
Remember to include your address)



NAACP

ACTION ALERT SIGN-UP

Please Print Clearly

Name _____

Title _____

Address/P.O.Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Telephone _____ CellPhone _____

Email _____

Branch Name _____

Branch Address _____

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Washington Bureau



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Voting Rights

H.R. 4 / Voting Rights Advancement Act/ Final Passage / House Vote #654

H. R. 4 passed the U.S. House of Representatives on December 6, 2019, by a margin of 228 yeas to 187 nays.

THE NAACP SUPPORTED FINAL PASSAGE OF HR 4

VOTE KEY

▲ = Voted in support of the NAACP position and in favor of H.R. 4

▽ = Voted against the NAACP position and against H.R. 4

? = Did not vote

ALABAMA

		Lofgren	▲
Byrne	?	Panetta	▲
Roby	▽	Cox	▲
Rogers	▽	Nunes	▽
Aderholt	▽	McCarthy	▽
Brooks	▽	Carbajal	▲
Palmer	▽	VACANT	
Sewell	▲	Brownley	▲

ALASKA

Young	▽	Chu	▲
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ARIZONA

O'Halleran	▲	Cardenas	▲
Kirkpatrick	▲	Sherman	▲
Grijalva	▲	Aguilar	▲
Gosar	?	Napolitano	▲
Biggs	▽	Lieu	▲
Schweikert	▽	Gomez	▲
Gallego	▲	Torres	▲
Lesko	▽	Ruiz	▲
Stanton	▲	Bass	?
		Sanchez	▲

ARKANSAS

Crawford	▽	Cisneros	▲
Hill	▽	Roybal-Allard	▲
Womack	▽	Takano	▲
Westerman	▽	Calvert	▽
		Waters	▲

CALIFORNIA

LaMalfa	▽	Barragan	▲
Huffman	▲	Porter	?
Garamendi	▲	Correa	▲
McClintock	▽	Lowenthal	▲
Thompson	▲	Rouda	▲
Matsui	▲	Levin	▲
Bera	▲	Hunter	?
Cook	▽	Vargas	▲
McNerney	▲	Peters	▲
Harder	▲	Davis	▲

COLORADO

DeSaulnier	▲	Degette	▲
Pelosi	▲	Neguse	▲
Lee	▲	Tipton	▽
Speier	▲	Buck	▽
Swalwell	▲	Lamborn	▽
Costa	▲	Crow	▲
Khanna	▲	Perlmutter	▲
Eshoo	▲		

CONNECTICUT

		Scott, Austin	▽
Larson	?	Collins	▽
Courtney	▲	Hice	▽
DeLauro	▲	Loudermilk	▽
Himes	▲	Allen	▽
Hayes	▲	Scott, David	▲

DELAWARE

Blunt Rochester	▲	Graves	▽
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FLORIDA

Gaetz	▽	Case	▲
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GABRIEL

Dunn	▽	Gabbard	?
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GEORGIA

Yoho	▽	Fulcher	▽
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IDAHO

Rutherford	▽	Simpson	▽
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ILLINOIS

Lawson	▲		
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Waltz	▽	Rush	▲
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Murphy	▲	Kelly	▲
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Posey	▽	Lipinski	▲
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Soto	▲	Garcia	▲
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Demings	▲	Quigley	▲
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Webster	▽	Casten	▲
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Bilirakis	▽	Davis, Danny	▲
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Crist	▲	Krishnamoorthi	▲
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Castor	▲	Schakowsky	▲
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Spano	▽	Schneider	▲
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Buchanan	▽	Foster	▲
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Steube	▽	Bost	▽
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Mast	▽	Davis, Rodney	▽
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Rooney	▽	Underwood	▲
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Hastings	▲	Shimkus	?
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Frankel	▲	Kinzinger	?
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Deutch	▲	Bustos	▲
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Wasserman Schultz	▲	LaHood	▽
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Wilson	▲		
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Diaz-Balart	▽	INDIANA	
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Mucarsel-Powell	▲	Visclosky	▲
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Shalala	▲	Walorski	▽
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		Banks	▽
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GEORGIA		Baird	▽
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Carter	▽	Brooks	▽
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Bishop	▲	Pence	▽
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Ferguson	▽	Carson	▲
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Johnson	▲	Bucshon	▽
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Lewis	▲	Hollingsworth	▽
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McBath	▲		
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Woodall	▽		
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Voting Rights

H.R. 4 / Voting Rights Advancement Act/ Final Passage / House Vote #654

H. R. 4 passed the U.S. House of Representatives on December 6, 2019, by a margin of 228 yeas to 187 nays.

THE NAACP SUPPORTED FINAL PASSAGE OF HR 4

VOTE KEY

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IDAHO		Pressley	▲	NEBRASKA		Serrano	?
Finkenauer	▲	Lynch	▲	Fortenberry	▽	Engel	▲
Loeb sack	▲	Keating	▲	Bacon	▽	Lowey	▲
Axne	▲	MICHIGAN		Smith	▽	Maloney, S.P.	▲
King	▽	Bergman	▽	NEVADA		Delgado	▲
KANSAS		Huizenga	▽	Titus	▲	Tonko	▲
Marshall	▽	Amash	▽	Amodei	▽	Stefanik	▽
Watkins	▽	Moolenaar	▽	Lee	▲	Brindisi	▲
Davids	▲	Kildee	▲	Horsford	▲	Reed	▽
Estes	▽	Upton	▽	NEW HAMPSHIRE		Katko	▽
KENTUCKY		Walberg	▽	Pappas	▲	Morelle	▲
Comer	▽	Slotkin	▲	Kuster	▲	Higgins	▲
Guthrie	▽	Levin	▲	NEW JERSEY		VACANT	
Yarmuth	▲	Mitchell	▽	Norcross	▲	NORTH CAROLINA	
Massie	▽	Stevens	▲	Van Drew	▲	Butterfield	▲
Rogers	▽	Dingell	▲	Kim	▲	Holding	▽
Barr	?	Tlaib	▲	Smith	▽	Murphy	▽
LOUISIANA		Lawrence	▲	Gottheimer	▲	Price	▲
Scalise	▽	MINNESOTA		Pallone	▲	Foxx	▽
Richmond	▲	Hagedorn	▽	Malinowski	▲	Walker	▽
Higgins	▽	Craig	▲	Sires	▲	Rouzer	▽
Johnson	▽	Phillips	▲	Pascrell	▲	Hudson	▽
Abraham	▽	McCollum	▲	Payne	▲	Bishop	▽
Graves	▽	Omar	▲	Sherrill	▲	McHenry	?
MAINE		Emmer	?	Watson Coleman	▲	Meadows	▽
Pingree	▲	Peterson	▲	NEW MEXICO		Adams	▲
Golden	▲	Stauber	▽	Haaland	▲	Budd	▽
MARYLAND		MISSISSIPPI		Small	▲	NORTH DAKOTA	
Harris	▽	Kelly	▽	Lujan	▲	Armstrong	▽
Ruppersberger	▲	Thompson	▲	NEW YORK			
Sarbanes	▲	Guest	▽	Zeldin	▽		
Brown	▲	Palazzo	▽	King	▽		
Hoyer	▲	MISSOURI		Suoizzi	▲		
Trone	▲	Clay	▲	Rice	▲		
VACANT		Wagner	▽	Meeks	▲		
Raskin	▲	Luetkemeyer	▽	Meng	▲		
MASSACHUSETTS		Hartzler	▽	Velazquez	▲		
Neal	▲	Cleaver	▲	Jeffries	▲		
McGovern	▲	Graves	▽	Clarke	▲		
Trahan	▲	Long	▽	Nadler	▲		
Kennedy	▲	Smith	▽	Rose	▲		
Clark	▲	MONTANA		Maloney, C.	▲		
Moulton	▲	Gianforte	▽	Espailat	▲		
				Ocasio-Cortez	▲		

Voting Rights

H.R. 4 / Voting Rights Advancement Act / Final Passage / House Vote #654

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OHIO		Resenthaler	▽	Escobar	▲		
Chabot	▽	Thompson	▽	Flores	▽	WASHINGTON	
Wenstrup	▽	Kelly	▽	Jackson Lee	▲	Delbene	▲
Beatty	▲	Lamb	▲	Arrington	▽	Larsen	▲
Jordan	▽	Doyle	▲	Castro	▲	Herrera Beutler	▽
Latta	▽	RHODE ISLAND		Roy	▽	Newhouse	▽
Johnson	▽	Cicilline	▲	Olson	▽	McMorris Rodgers	▽
Gibbs	▽	Langevin	▲	Hurd	▽	Kilmer	▲
Davidson	▽	SOUTH CAROLINA		Marchant	?	Jayapal	▲
Kaptur	▲	Cunningham	▲	Williams	▽	Schrier	▲
Turner	▽	Wilson	▽	Burgess	▽	Smith	▲
Fudge	▲	Duncan	▽	Cloud	▽	Heck	▲
Balderson	▽	Timmons	▽	Cuellar	▲	WEST VIRGINIA	
Ryan	▲	Norman	?	Garcia	▲	McKinley	▽
Joyce	▽	Clyburn	▲	Johnson	▲	Mooney	▽
Stivers	▽	Rice	▽	Carter	▽	Miller	▽
Gonzalez	▽	SOUTH DAKOTA		Allred	▲	WISCONSIN	
OKLAHOMA		Johnson	▽	Veasey	▲	Steil	▽
Hern	▽	TENNESSEE		Vela	▲	Pocan	▲
Mullin	▽	Roe	▽	Doggett	▲	Kind	▲
Lucas	▽	Burchett	▽	Babin	▽	Moore	▲
Cole	▽	Fleischmann	▽	UTAH		Sensenbrenner	▽
Horn	▲	DesJarlais	▽	Bishop	▽	Grothman	▽
OREGON		Cooper	▲	Stewart	▽	VACANT	
Bonamici	▲	Rose	▽	Curtis	▽	Gallagher	▽
Walden	▽	Green	▽	McAdams	▲	WYOMING	
Blumenauer	▲	Kustoff	▽	VERMONT		Cheney	▽
DeFazio	▲	Cohen	▲	Welch	▲		
Schrader	▲	TEXAS		VIRGINIA			
PENNSYLVANIA		Gohmert	▽	Wittman	▽		
Fitzpatrick	▲	Crenshaw	▽	Luria	▲		
Boyle	▲	Taylor	▽	Scott	▲		
Evans	▲	Ratcliffe	▽	McEachin	▲		
Dean	▲	Gooden	▽	Riggleman	▽		
Scanlon	▲	Wright	▽	Cline	▽		
Houlahan	▲	Fletcher	▲	Spanberger	▲		
Wild	▲	Brady	▽	Beyer	▲		
Cartwright	?	Green	▲	Griffith	▽		
Meuser	▽	McCaul	▽	Wexton	▲		
Perry	▽	Conaway	▽	Connolly	▲		
Smucker	▽	Granger	▽				
Keller	▽	Thornberry	▽				
Joyce	▽	Weber	▽				
		Gonzalez	▲				