

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

September 20, 2009

How your lawmakers voted

Here's how local members of Congress voted in the week ending Friday. (NV means "did not vote.")

House

JOE WILSON REPRIMAND

Voting 240-179, the House on Tuesday expressed "disapproval" of Rep. Joe Wilson's outburst during President Obama's Sept. 9 speech to Congress. The South Carolina Republican shouted, "You lie!" when the president said his health care proposals would not benefit illegal immigrants. Wilson apologized to the White House chief of staff, and Obama accepted the apology. Wilson has refused to apologize to the full House for his act. The disapproval measure, H Res 744, was the mildest punishment the House could give Wilson. Majority Whip James Clyburn, D-S.C., said the issue was "about the rules of this House and reprehensible conduct. This hall is the most prominent classroom in this great country, and all of us are teachers. We are bound by duty and the offices we hold to conduct ourselves as such."

A "yes" vote was to reprimand Wilson.

	Yes	No	NV
Brian Bilbray R	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Davis D	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bob Filner D	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Duncan Hunter R	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Darrell Issa R	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

STUDENT LOANS

Voting 253-171, the House on Thursday passed a bill, HR 3221, to shift federally backed student loans to direct lending by the Department of Education, excluding the private-sector lenders who now dominate the government program. The bill would save \$87 billion over 10 years by ending the private lenders' taxpayer subsidies, guarantees and bailouts. The savings would be used, in part, to expand Pell Grants for poor students and Perkins Loans for middle-income students. Pell Grants would be converted to an entitlement program and increased from today's cap of about \$5,350 annually to \$5,550 in 2010 and \$6,900 by 2019. The \$55 billion annual student-loan market is split between federally backed private lending and the government's direct lending. The rules allow banks and other private firms to keep all interest revenue while shifting their losses to taxpayers. Some private portfolios have received Treasury bailouts during the current recession.

A "yes" vote was to pass the bill.

	Yes	No	NV
Bilbray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Davis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Filner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hunter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ACORN FUNDING BAN

Voting 345-75, the House on Thursday barred the community-advocacy group ACORN, or Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, from receiving funding in HR 3221 (above).

This followed release of an undercover videotape in which a few ACORN workers are seen urging illegal activity.

ACORN then fired some of those employees. (See Senate issue below for more information on ACORN.)

Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Vista, said: "In recent days, media accounts have detailed ACORN employees' alleged complicity in illegal schemes too unseemly to discuss in this chamber. To continue funding this organization would not just be indefensible - it would be an outrage."

A "yes" vote backed the Republican motion.

	Yes	No	NV
Bilbray	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Davis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Filner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hunter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VEHICLE TECHNOLOGIES

Voting 312-114, the House on Wednesday passed a bill, HR 3246, authorizing \$2.43 billion through fiscal 2014 for Department of Energy programs to develop clean technologies for improving fuel efficiency and reducing harmful emissions in vehicles ranging from cars to tractor-trailers. The bill, which awaits Senate action, would use public funds to support private-sector research.

Rep. Gary Peters, D-Mich., said America is moving toward "a more energy-independent economy which will require the production of new vehicle technologies. Development of advanced technologies for both heavy-duty trucks and passenger vehicles requires a coordinated effort at the federal level."

A "yes" vote was to pass the bill.

	Yes	No	NV
Bilbray	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Davis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Filner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hunter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>