

# Budget 'vote-o-rama' forces senators to take a stance on retirement security

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Members of the U.S. Senate on March 25 voted on dozens of amendments to the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget. The marathon session dubbed "vote-o-rama" forced many senators, including 2016 GOP presidential hopefuls, to take definitive positions on issues such as raising the minimum

wage, preserving Medicare and Social Security earned benefits, and protecting against Medicaid cuts.

Democratic Senators Patty Murray (WA), Elizabeth Warren (MA), Joe Manchin (WV), Sherrod Brown (OH), and Brian Schatz (HI) offered an amendment to expand Social Security.

The amendment lost on almost a completely straight party-line vote: every Democrat but Heidi Heitkamp (ND) and Tom Carper (DE) voted for it, with Dianne Feinstein (D) and Barbara Mikulski (D) not voting. Every Republican voted against it.

Another amendment, this one by Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.),

bans federal consideration of construction contracts with project labor agreements. It passed 51-49, with all Democrats and independents voting against it, along with three Republicans.

Project labor agreements are used to set standards on government-funded projects to establish workforce standards that all

contractors and subcontractors must meet. President Barack Obama issued an executive order six years ago "to encourage agencies to consider requiring the use of project labor agreements in connection with large-scale construction projects" over \$25 million.

Flake's amendment bans that. The Senate passed the full budget, 52-46. It would slash \$5.1 trillion in spending over 10 years. The proposal slashes \$431 billion from Medicare over a decade but does not provide many specifics on how those savings would be achieved. Instead, the plan tasks individual Senate committees with jurisdiction over Medicare to find such savings. A tally of the full budget vote is at <http://tinyurl.com/q3blcjq>.

"This budget works for the best off, but it sure doesn't work for working Americans," Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley said in a press release.

"You would think that with such tremendous sacrifice being asked of ordinary Americans, this budget would also ask for some sacrifices from the wealthy and well-connected — but you would be wrong. This budget preserves every egregious special-interest tax loophole on the books, down to the one that actually subsidizes the cost of shipping American jobs overseas. And it fails to do anything about a tax code in which the very wealthiest Americans pay a lower tax rate than many middle-class families," he said.

The House budget would pare \$148 billion from Medicare and convert it into a voucher-like program for future beneficiaries, a step the Senate shunned. Passed by a vote of 228-199, the House budget cuts \$5.5 trillion overall, drastically reducing funding for Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) while increasing defense spending. The chambers will start hammering out a final budget deal in the coming weeks.

"Make no mistake, these budgets are radically anti-retiree," said Richard Fiesta, executive director of the Alliance. "The Alliance fiercely opposes both budgets and will work vigorously to prevent them from becoming law."

*(Editor's Note: the Alliance for Retired Americans contributed to this report.)*

## 2015 Union Made VEHICLES

### UAW CARS

BUICK LACROSSE	CHEVROLET VOLT
BUICK VERANO	CHRYSLER 200
CADILLAC ATS	DODGE DART
CADILLAC CTS	DODGE VIPER
CADILLAC ELR (ELECTRIC)	FORD C-MAX (FULL HYBRID/ELECTRIC)
CHEVROLET CORVETTE	FORD FOCUS
CHEVROLET CRUZE	FORD FOCUS (ELECTRIC)
CHEVROLET CRUZE (DIESEL)	FORD FUSION* (GAS-POWERED ONLY)
CHEVROLET IMPALA	FORD MUSTANG
CHEVROLET IMPALA (POLICE)	FORD TAURUS
CHEVROLET MALIBU	LINCOLN MKS
CHEVROLET SONIC	

### UAW TRUCKS

CHEVROLET CANYON	JEEP WRANGLER
CHEVROLET COLORADO	LINCOLN MKC
CHEVROLET SILVERADO**	LINCOLN NAVIGATOR
FORD F SERIES	MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER SPORT
GMC SIERRA**	UAW VANS
RAM 1500*	CHEVROLET EXPRESS
UAW SUVs/CUVs	FORD TRANSIT
BUICK ENCLAVE	GMC SAVANA
CADILLAC ESCALADE ESV	UNIFOR CARS
CADILLAC ESCALADE/HYBRID	BUICK REGAL
CHEVROLET EQUINOX	CADILLAC XTS
CHEVROLET SUBURBAN	CHEVROLET CAMARO
CHEVROLET TAHOE	CHEVROLET IMPALA
CHEVROLET TAHOE (POLICE)	CHRYSLER 300
CHEVROLET TAHOE (SPECIAL SERVICE)	DODGE CHALLENGER
CHEVROLET TRAVERSE	DODGE CHARGER
DODGE DURANGO	UNIFOR SUVs/CUVs
FORD ESCAPE	CHEVROLET EQUINOX
FORD EXPEDITION	FORD EDGE
FORD EXPLORER	FORD FLEX
GMC ACADIA	GMC TERRAIN
GMC YUKON/HYBRID	LINCOLN MKT
GMC YUKON XL	LINCOLN MKX
JEEP CHEROKEE	UNIFOR VANS
JEEP COMPASS	CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY
JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE	DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
JEEP PATRIOT	RAM C/V

These vehicles are made in the United States or Canada by members of the UAW and Canada's Unifor union, formerly the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW). Because of the integration of United States and Canadian vehicle production, all the vehicles listed made in Canada include significant UAW-made content and support the jobs of UAW members.

However, those marked with an asterisk (\*) are produced in the United States and another country. The light-duty, 1500 model crew-cab versions of the vehicles marked with a double asterisk (\*\*) are manufactured in the United States and Mexico. When purchasing one of these models, check the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). A VIN beginning with "1" or "4" or "5" identifies a U.S.-made vehicle; "2" identifies a Canadian-made vehicle.

Not all vehicles made in the United States or Canada are built by union-represented workers. Vehicles not listed here, even if produced in the United States or Canada, are not union made.

