



The Real Story  
of the 110th Congress:  
The Right-Wing Block-And-Blame Game

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The 110<sup>th</sup> Congress started with high hopes. The Democrats wrested control from the reigning Republicans. Rep. Nancy Pelosi became the first female Speaker in U.S. history.

The new, Democrat-led Congress certainly had its accomplishments – the first minimum wage increase a decade, the largest single increase in college student aid since the GI bill, expanded health insurance for America's children. But it is the frustrations that stand out for most Americans as they evaluate its two-year record.

The biggest frustration was obstruction in the Senate. Senate Republicans threatened to filibuster virtually every bill, requiring a 60-vote cloture motion to move beyond the filibuster. Because the Democrats held a narrow margin and so few Republicans crossed the aisle, much legislation was blocked. Republicans then blamed Democrats for getting nothing done.

The Republican obstruction strategy had two major effects. First, it succeeded in making Congress appear dysfunctional. Over three-quarters (78 percent) of Americans “disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job,” according to a September 21 poll by CNN.<sup>1</sup> Americans wanted Congress to get something done, and it didn't. Democrats blaming Republicans for obstruction looks like partisan bickering. Gallup News Service observes, “The current level of satisfaction is the lowest it has been this decade, and is as low as at any other point at which the question was asked since September 1973.”<sup>2</sup> The low satisfaction puts Republicans in position to run against a “do-nothing” Congress.

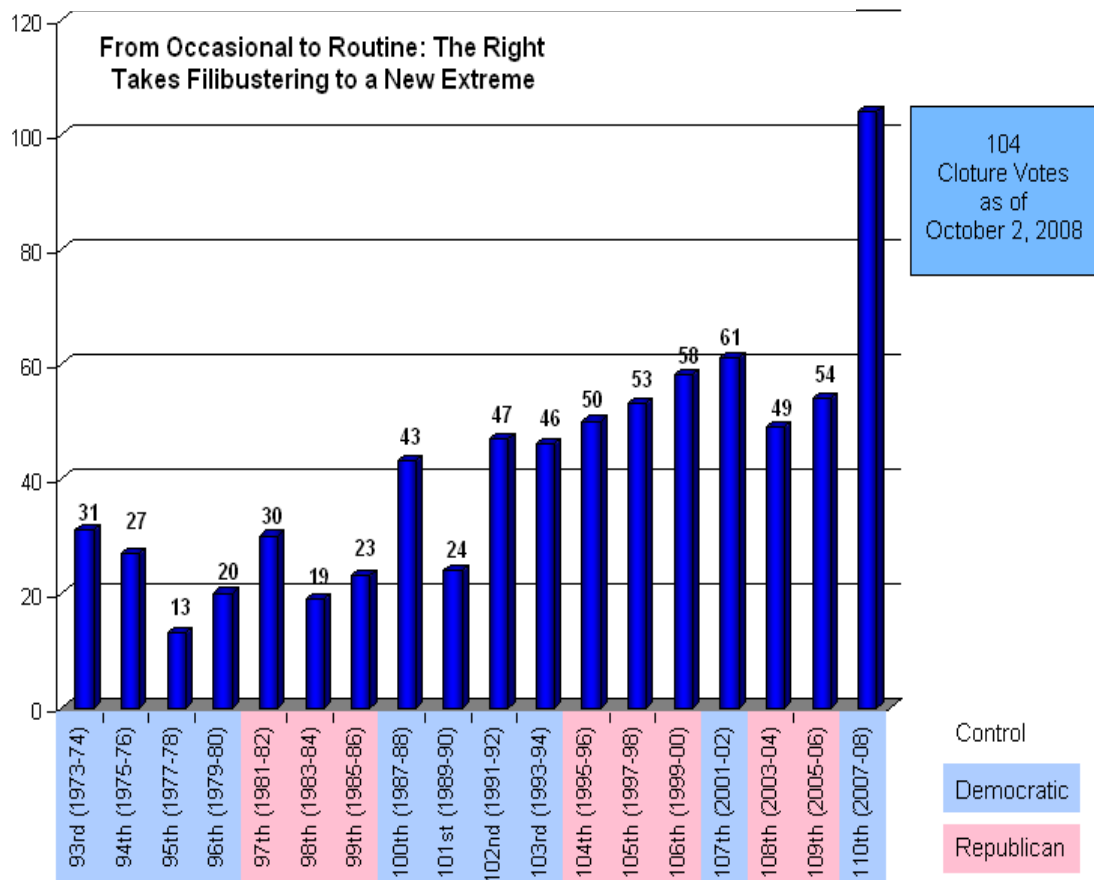
“According to the Wall Street Journal, almost 30 percent of our legislation passed this Congress has been naming Federal buildings. Today I see we will be naming two more post offices.... Maybe we should rename our Congress the Post Office Congress.”

Rep. Ted Poe [R-Tex] speaking on the floor of the House, July 14, 2008.<sup>3</sup>

Second, the strategy succeeded in blocking legislation that Democrats wanted and Republicans didn't. Never mind that the American people wanted much of this legislation. The strategy was to block.

Most Congresses have roughly fifty filibuster threats in a year. Republican senators in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress threatened more than 100 filibusters, twice the historical norm. They blocked not only controversial legislation, but business as usual.

## Filibuster Threats in the 110th Congress<sup>1</sup>



### What Could Have Been

Simply listing the filibustered bills shows the direction the country could have moved. Republican obstruction blocked the American people's desire and the new Democratic Congress' promise to begin an orderly withdrawal from Iraq. It blocked efforts to end oil company subsidies and invest instead in alternative energy. If Republicans had not adopted this unprecedented strategy, in the past two years:

- About \$18 billion in tax credits would have been provided to improve energy efficiency and produce renewable energy, paid for by the repeal of tax subsidies going to oil companies at a time they are earning record profits.
- A "cap-and-trade" process would be in place that would begin to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and would raise billions of dollars that could have helped defray the rising cost of gas for working people, while aiding in the development and deployment of green energy alternatives.
- Tax incentives would be in place for alternative energy sources, fuel economy standards would be increased, petroleum price gouging would be a federal crime in a "national energy emergency" and taxes would be imposed on the oil and gas industry at a time they are earning record profits.
- There would be increased oversight and more regulations on energy futures trading to reduce speculation.

- ❑ Seniors would pay lower prices for prescription drugs, as Medicare would have been empowered to negotiate bulk discounts with pharmaceutical companies.
- ❑ Soldiers would return to American in a safe and orderly manner from Iraq; saving American lives and billions spent in Iraq.
- ❑ Residents of the District of Columbia would gain the fundamental American right to vote (and the people of Utah would have gained one additional representative on the basis of population).
- ❑ Victims of pay discrimination would be able to pursue corrective action against discrimination, even if they didn't discover the bias until later.
- ❑ Workers would be free to organize with reduced procedural barriers and employer intimidation.
- ❑ Homeowners facing foreclosure and state and local governments burdened with foreclosed properties would receive relief.

In each of these cases, majorities in both the House and the Senate favored passage of the legislation meeting these objectives. A minority focused on partisan obstruction, however, would not allow these measures to become law.

In the final week before Congress adjourned for October campaigning, Senate Republicans blocked a stimulus bill that would have created public works projects, help for the unemployed and money for states that are struggling with Medicaid bills. Had this legislation passed, Americans would have also seen funding for the development of advanced batteries for fuel efficient cars and an upgrade of Amtrak rail lines.<sup>4</sup> A week before the Senate approved a \$700 billion bailout package for Wall Street, it filibustered to death a \$56 billion stimulus measure that would have helped Main Street.<sup>5</sup>

## The 'Firewall'

The “block-and-blame” obstruction strategy is no secret. Republicans block meaningful legislation and blame Democrats for getting nothing done. Back in April 2007, just after the new Democrat Congress had been sworn in, Senate Minority Whip Trent Lott, R-Miss., told *Roll Call*, “The strategy of being obstructionist can work or fail... and so far it's working for us.” More recently, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, touted the obstruction theme in a National Republican Senatorial Committee fundraising pitch: “I have been telling you that the Senate is the firewall that protects our country from irresponsible Democrat legislation,” he wrote, warning that Democrats are trying to “destroy our firewall.”

Indeed, conservatives have openly gloated about the strategy. As conservative pundit Charles Krauthammer said on Fox News, “I think [Democrats' inability to pass legislation] will give the Republicans the one opening they are going to have in 2008. Everything is running against the Republicans, but I think they have a chance if they argue that the Democrats have been in charge and they are the do-nothing Congress.”<sup>6</sup>

Republicans had a majority in the Senate for 15 years, and during that time they complained that Democrats filibustered bills. However, when the Republicans controlled the Senate Democrats did not insist that every piece of legislation overcome a 60-vote barrier before it could be considered for a final vote. Democrats used the tool infrequently and then only for highly controversial judicial appointments.

During the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, however, every major bill Democrats tried to pass faced a group of at least 40 Senate Republicans prepared to support a filibuster. As a result, the 110th Congress already racked up 102 cloture votes (called to end filibusters) by September 22, 2008. In comparison, the 109th Congress had a total of 54 cloture votes and the 108th Congress had a total of 49. The 110th Congress is on pace to double the number of filibuster threats and cloture votes in recent years.

On 12 key votes on legislation that enjoyed broad public support as well as majority support in the House, 21 senators voted to filibuster 100 percent of the time. This obstructionist “gang of 21” is mostly a who’s who of the Senate’s conservative wing, including Senate leaders Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, Christopher S. Bond of Missouri, Saxby Chambliss of Georgia, Thad Cochran of Mississippi, Larry E. Craig of Idaho, John Cornyn of Texas, Pete V. Domenici of New Mexico, Michael B. Enzi of Wyoming, Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, James M. Inhofe of Oklahoma, Jon Kyl of Arizona and Richard C. Shelby of Alabama.

Another eight senators missed at least one of these 12 votes but still voted to filibuster each time they were present to vote. That group includes Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

## A Political Price

While this conservative minority has had some success in tainting the Democrats, the strategy has costs. The measures being filibustered point the country in a direction that the people want to go. Now as the election nears, Senate Republicans are worried and are now reversing course. They are voting in favor of Democratic bills in an effort to run for cover. Republicans passed a housing bill after President Bush vetoed it. They also agreed to end a filibuster on a Medicare bill that they eventually approved. As Politico reported on July 22, a GOP leadership aide advised vulnerable senators to “get well” with voters by siding with Democrats on anything but energy and national security.

Poll after poll has majorities of the American public rejecting conservative policy prescriptions and embracing more progressive government policies, and the 2006 election was a clear mandate for Congress to move in that direction. Block-and-blame Senate conservatives have, until very recently, stubbornly refused to yield to the public interest. Their deathbed political conversion now only confirms their culpability in keeping Congress from delivering the change America wants.

### The Gang of 21

These senators were present for all 12 key votes in this report, and voted to filibuster (against cloture) each time.

**Bond, Christopher S.**, Missouri  
**Bunning, Jim**, Kentucky  
**Burr, Richard**, North Carolina  
**Chambliss, Saxby**, Georgia  
**Cochran, Thad**, Mississippi  
**Cornyn, John**, Texas  
**Craig, Larry E.**, Idaho  
**DeMint, James W.**, South Carolina  
**Dole, Elizabeth**, North Carolina  
**Domenici, Pete V.**, New Mexico  
**Ensign, John**, Nevada  
**Enzi, Michael B.**, Wyoming  
**Gregg, Judd**, New Hampshire  
**Inhofe, James M.**, Oklahoma  
**Isakson, Johnny**, Georgia  
**Kyl, Jon**, Arizona  
**Martinez, Mel**, Florida  
**McConnell, Mitch**, Kentucky  
**Murkowski, Lisa**, Alaska  
**Shelby, Richard C.**, Alabama  
**Vitter, David**, Louisiana

These eight senators missed at least one of the 12 votes examined in this report, but voted to filibuster each time they did vote.

**Alexander, Lamar**, Tennessee  
**Allard, Wayne**, Colorado  
**Brownback, Sam**, Kansas  
**Coburn, Tom**, Oklahoma  
**Hutchison, Kay Bailey**, Texas  
**McCain, John**, Arizona  
**Sessions, Jeff**, Alabama  
**Stevens, Ted**, Alaska

## What the Obstruction Strategy Cost the American People

The following is a list of key bills that had majority support in both the House and the Senate, but were nonetheless blocked from passage by a minority group of Republicans. Dozens of other bills that had majority support in the Senate were blocked as well, and there are numerous instances of the Republican minority stripping key provisions from (or adding unpopular amendments to) bills that did eventually pass. Many additional details are in reports posted on [www.ourfuture.org/obstruction](http://www.ourfuture.org/obstruction).

### The Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act of 2008 (HR 6049)

Americans would have seen the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act expand \$18 billion in tax credits to improve energy efficiency and produce renewable energy if it were not for the Republicans' unprecedented obstruction strategy this session. The bill would have increased the tax credit for investment in solar energy and extended it for six years. It also would have provided credits for purchasing plug-in hybrid vehicles, for energy conservation in buildings and for energy-efficient appliances. A Senate Republican minority blocked the bill by filibuster twice, preventing it from being considered for final passage.

House Vote 344 On Passage, May 21, 2008	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	228	1	7
Republicans	35	159	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>12</b>

Senate Vote 147 On the Cloture Motion, June 10, 2008	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	45	0	4
Republicans	3	44	2
Independents	2	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>6</b>

Senate Vote 150 On the Cloture Motion, June 17, 2008	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	45	1	3
Republicans	5	43	1
Independents	2	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4</b>

## The Consumer-First Energy Act of 2008 (HR 6022, S 3044)

The Consumer-First Energy Act of 2008 would have addressed the root causes of high gas prices by redirecting oil company tax subsidies to renewable energy and energy efficiency technology. In 2004 and 2005, oil companies received tax breaks worth \$17 billion over 10 years. Since Bush came into office, the five biggest oil companies have made over half a trillion dollars in profit. The Consumer-First Energy Act would have created a 25 percent windfall profits tax on companies that failed to invest in renewable energy sources. This would not have applied to the profits companies reinvested in clean, affordable, domestically produced renewable fuels or renewable electricity production. The tax proceeds would have developed renewable energy development and energy efficiency technologies.

House Vote 307 (HR 6022) On Passage, May 13, 2008	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	222	0	11
Republicans	162	24	12
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>

Senate Vote 146 (S 3044) Motion to Proceed, June 10, 2008	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	43	2	4
Republicans	6	41	2
Independents	2	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>6</b>

## Baucus Amendment: Tax Incentives for Alternative Energy (S.Amdt. 1704)

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, H.R. 6 was part of the Democratic 100-Hour Plan to move the country toward greater energy independence and security, to increase the production of clean renewable fuels, and to lower consumers' energy costs. The bill would have cut subsidies to the oil industry to promote oil independence and different forms of alternative energy with tax incentives if not for opposition from the Republican Senate minority.

Senator Max Baucus sought to include tax incentives that conservatives were determined to have dropped from the bill. The Baucus amendment would establish billions of tax incentives for alternative energy sources while imposing taxes on the oil and gas industry. It would create billions worth of renewable energy bonds and establish tax incentives for renewable energy and authorize \$2.5 billion for the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act. The substitute would overhaul national energy policies including requiring the annual use of 15 billion gallons of biofuels by 2015, increasing the Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards to 35 miles per gallon by 2020 and making petroleum price gouging a federal crime in a "national energy emergency." However, in the end, there were not enough votes to invoke cloture.

House Vote 40 On Passage, January 18, 2007	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	228	4	1
Republicans	36	159	7
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>8</b>

Senate Vote 223 On the Cloture Motion, June 21, 2007	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	45	2	2
Republicans	10	34	4
Independents	2	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>6</b>

## Stop Excessive Energy Speculation Act of 2008 (S 3268)

This bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act sought to extend coverage to energy commodities such as natural gas and petroleum products. It prohibited the Commodity Futures Trading Commission from allowing a foreign board of trade to provide its members with direct access to its electronic trading and order matching system unless it met specific requirements. Under this act, the CFTC would have also been granted the power to review oversight actions concerning all energy futures market participants or market activity to ensure that excessive speculation is eliminated and legitimate hedge trading is protected and promoted.

Senate Vote 184 (S 3268) On the Cloture Motion, July 25, 2008	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	46	1	2
Republicans	2	42	5
Independents	2	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>7</b>

## Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2007 (HR 4, S 3)

The federal government could have saved \$96 billion over 10 years by negotiating for drugs bought in bulk for the Medicare program. The restraint Congress had placed on government bargaining power when it created the Medicare prescription drug benefit has meant a windfall for big drug companies that have augmented their record profits. The Democratic-led House, defying a veto threat from President Bush, passed legislation requiring Medicare to negotiate drug prices with manufacturers in its first 100 hours. Senate Democrats expressed a similar desire, backed by polls that indicated that an overwhelming majority of the American public favored supported such a move. Nonetheless, a minority in the Senate blocked the legislation.

House Vote 23 (HR 6) On Passage, January 12, 2007	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	231	0	2
Republicans	24	170	8
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>10</b>

Senate Vote 132 (S 3) On the Cloture Motion, April 18, 2007	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	47	1	1
Republicans	6	41	2
Independents	2	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>3</b>

## Orderly and Responsible Iraq Redeployment Appropriations Act (HR 4156)

A safe, orderly return of American troops from Iraq would have been underway by now if majorities in both the House and Senate were allowed to prevail on this bill. This legislation would have continued to provide \$50 million in funding for the Iraq war and would have allowed a continued troop presence to continue antiterrorist operations, protect diplomatic facilities and train Iraqi police forces. It also would have prohibited the military from using interrogation techniques not included in the Army field manual. The Democratic majority's support for this legislation was buttressed by popular support in numerous opinion polls. Nonetheless, President Bush's veto threat galvanized the Senate Republican minority.

House Vote 1108 (HR 4156) On Passage, November 14, 2007	Yes	No	Not Voting	Present
Democrats	214	15	3	1
Republicans	4	188	8	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>

Senate Vote 411 (HR 4156) On the Cloture Motion, November 16, 2007	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	48	1	0
Republicans	4	43	2
Independents	1	1	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2</b>

## Levin Amendment: Iraq Pullout (S.Amdt. 2087)

S.Amdt.2087 to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, would have resulted in the withdrawal of troops 120 days after the bill became a law. Except for some specific exceptions, the measure aimed to withdrawal all troops by April of 2008. The remaining troop activity in Iraq would be primarily related to training Iraqi security forces, conducting 11 counterterrorism operations against al Qaeda, and protecting U.S. personnel. The amendment failed a motion to invoke cloture and was not included in the Senate version of H.R.1585 to be considered.

Senate Vote 252 On the Cloture Motion, July 18, 2007	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	47	1	1
Republicans	4	45	0
Independents	1	1	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1</b>

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid fought fiercely to encourage members of both parties to vote on H.R.1585. He held the Senate in session overnight, attempting to avoid a filibuster. Reid even succeeding in changing one Republican vote on the Levin Amendment. However, in the end, there were not enough votes to invoke cloture. As was usually the case with cloture motions, Reid for procedural reasons ultimately voted against the amendment so he could reintroduce it at a later time.

**District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2007 (HR 1905, S 1257)**

This legislation, if it had not been blocked, would have given the residents of the District of Columbia full voting representation in the House of Representatives. It also would have given the state of Utah an additional member, based on the reapportionment formula in the bill. Because it was expected that the new Utah representative would have been a Republican and the District representative would have been a Democrat, enactment of the bill was not likely to affect the balance of power in the House. The bill passed the House of Representatives but failed to pass the Senate four months later, obstructed on the threat of a filibuster. According to Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Republican senators deemed the bill unconstitutional because the District of Columbia is not an actual “state.” Supporters of the bill countered that the House was well within its rights to set its own voting rules so that no U.S. citizen is disenfranchised.

House Vote 231 (HR 1905) On Passage, April 19, 2007	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	219	171	7
Republicans	22	22	7
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>10</b>

Senate Vote 339 (S 1257) On the Cloture Motion, September 18, 2007	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	47	1	1
Republicans	8	41	0
Independents	2	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1</b>

## Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (HR 2831)

This bill would have allowed pay discrimination claims to be filed within 180 days of the issuance of a discriminatory paycheck. The legislation is named after Lilly Ledbetter, whose pay discrimination claim was denied by a 5-4 Supreme Court decision on May 29, 2007. The court ruled that since she did not raise a claim within 180 days of the actual decision to discriminate, she could not receive back pay. But since most workers are unaware of what their co-workers earn, it is nearly impossible for workers to uncover pay discrimination and meet the conditions of the Supreme Court's ruling. The Bush Administration claimed that this legislation would "serve to impede justice" and that the elimination of the statute of limitations would prevent the expeditious resolution of such cases of discrimination. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell claimed that expanding the statute of limitations on pay discrimination cases would somehow create "a massive amount of new litigation in our country." Rejecting equal pay arguments, Senate Republicans blocked cloture on this bill on April 23, 2008.

House Vote 768 On Passage, July 31, 2007	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	223	6	2
Republicans	2	193	7
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>9</b>

Senate Vote 110 On the Cloture Motion, April 23, 2008	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	48	1	0
Republicans	6	41	2
Independents	2	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2</b>

## Employee Free Choice Act (HR 800)

The Employee Free Choice Act of 2007 simplifies the procedures by which members of a workplace can unionize for collective bargaining. At present, workers are typically required to hold formal elections. This Act would allow people to form unions simply upon proof of interest. Workers would be able to use formal elections if they choose, but elections would not be required. As an alternative, workers could check cards and sign their names to indicate their interest in

To reduce other obstacles to worker organizing, the Act provides civil fines of up to \$20,000 per violation against employers found to have willfully violated employees' rights during an organizing campaign. It provides victims of illegal firing with three times the amount of back pay owed to them. Lastly, the Act gives the option to call in a neutral third party to settle collective bargaining disputes between employers and newly certified unions when a contract is not reached after three months. These provisions are designed to respond to concerns that employers often stretch out or prejudice the unionization process by harassing or intimidating employees and organizers.

The bill was passed by the House of Representatives by a wide margin, but did not survive Republican opposition in the Senate. A majority vote was achieved, but not the 60-vote supermajority needed for cloture against a filibuster.

House Vote 118 (HR 800) On Passage, March 1, 2007	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	228	2	3
Republicans	13	183	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>8</b>

Senate Vote 227 On the Cloture Motion, June 26, 2007	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	48	0	1
Republicans	1	48	0
Independents	2	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1</b>

## The American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act (HR 3221)

The Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008 authorizes federal bankruptcy courts to modify mortgage payments due on homeowners' primary residences, a practice which is barred by current law. These modifications include setting interest rates and principal at commercially reasonable market rates and extending repayment periods for primary residences, tailoring payment plans for those for whom foreclosure is imminent, and waiving the current requirement for budget and credit counseling when homes are in foreclosure.

In addition, the Foreclosure Prevention Act provides \$4 billion to state and local governments for the rehabilitation and resale of abandoned and foreclosed homes. The bill also directs funds to nonprofit organizations and state housing finance agencies to create affordable housing, assist with foreclosure counseling and refinance subprime loans.

This Foreclosure Prevention Act is essential in remedying the federal government and the mortgage industry's failure to address the subprime mortgage and foreclosure crisis.

However, Senate conservatives argued for leaving homeowners to struggle on their own in the free market rather than allow for necessary government regulation and targeted assistance. They blocked the bill's passage on February 28.

House Vote 832 (HR 3221) On Passage, August 4, 2007	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	215	9	7
Republicans	26	163	13
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>20</b>

Senate Vote 35 On the Cloture Motion, February 28, 2008	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democrats	45	1	3
Republicans	1	45	3
Independents	2	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>6</b>

## ENDNOTES

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- <sup>1</sup> Paul Steinhauser, *Democrats Widen Lead in Battle for Congress*, CNN. 24 September 2008. <http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/09/24/democrats-widen-lead-in-battle-for-congress-2/>.
- <sup>2</sup> E. Ralph Hostetter, *Congress is Failing Miserably*, Newsmax.com. 27 September 2008. [http://www.newsmax.com/hostetter/congress\\_failing/2007/09/27/36139.html](http://www.newsmax.com/hostetter/congress_failing/2007/09/27/36139.html).
- <sup>3</sup> *Post Office Congress*, GovTrack. 14 July 2008. <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/record.xpd?id=110-h20080714-11>.
- <sup>4</sup> Associated Press, *Senate Republicans Block Stimulus Bill*, CNN. 26 September 2008. [http://money.cnn.com/2008/09/26/news/economy/stimulus\\_blocked.ap/index.htm](http://money.cnn.com/2008/09/26/news/economy/stimulus_blocked.ap/index.htm).
- <sup>5</sup> The Library of Congress, *S. 3604*. 26 September 2008. <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:s.03604:>.
- <sup>6</sup> Charles Krauthammer. "Fox News All-Stars: Special Report with Brit Hume." *Fox News*. 24 July 2007. <http://mediamatters.org/items/200707280005>.



Clinton, Hillary R.	New York	D	NV	NV	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV
Schumer, Charles E.	New York	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Burr, Richard	North Carolina	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Dole, Elizabeth	North Carolina	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Conrad, Kent	North Dakota	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dorgan, Byron L.	North Dakota	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Brown, Sherrod	Ohio	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Voinovich, George V.	Ohio	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Coburn, Tom	Oklahoma	R	N	N	N	NV	NV	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	NV
Inhofe, James M.	Oklahoma	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Smith, Gordon H.	Oregon	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Wyden, Ron	Oregon	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Casey, Jr., Robert	Pennsylvania	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Specter, Arlen	Pennsylvania	R	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Reed, Jack	Rhode Island	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Whitehouse, Sheldon	Rhode Island	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
DeMint, James W.	South Carolina	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Graham, Lindsey	South Carolina	R	NV	N	NV	N	NV	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Johnson, Tim	South Dakota	D	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	NV	Y	NV	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y
Thune, John	South Dakota	R	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Alexander, Lamar	Tennessee	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Corker, Bob	Tennessee	R	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Cornyn, John	Texas	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Hutchison, Kay Bailey	Texas	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	NV
Bennett, Robert F.	Utah	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Hatch, Orrin G.	Utah	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Leahy, Patrick J.	Vermont	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sanders, Bernie	Vermont	I	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Warner, John	Virginia	R	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Webb, James	Virginia	D	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cantwell, Maria	Washington	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Murray, Patty	Washington	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Byrd, Robert C.	West Virginia	D	NV	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	NV	NV
Rockefeller, John D.	West Virginia	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Feingold, Russell D.	Wisconsin	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kohl, Herb	Wisconsin	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Barrasso, John	Wyoming	R	N	N	N	I	N	I	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Enzi, Michael B.	Wyoming	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

Y =Yes; N = No; NV = Not Voting; I = Ineligible to Vote/Not In Senate

John Barrasso began his Senate term June 22, 2007. Roger Wicker began his Senate term December 31, 2007.

**H.R. 6049; The Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act of 2008; Senate Vote #147**

Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the motion to proceed to the bill that would extend dozens of expired or expiring tax provisions for one year and create  
*Motion Rejected:* Vote Total: 50-44 (R 3-44; D 45-0; I 2-0)

Note: Three-fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture.

[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=2&vote=00147](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=2&vote=00147)

**H.R. 6049; The Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act of 2008; Senate Vote #150**

Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the motion to proceed to the bill that would extend dozens of expired or expiring tax provisions for one year and create  
*Motion Rejected:* Vote Total: 52-44 (R 5-43; D 45-1; I 2-0)

Note: Three-fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture.

[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=2&vote=00150](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=2&vote=00150)

**S. 3044; The Consumer-First Energy Act of 2008; Senate Vote #146**

Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the motion to proceed to the bill that would repe

*Motion Rejected:* Vote Total: 51-43 (R 6-41; D 43-2; I 2-0)

Note: Three-fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture. A "nay" was a vote in support of the president's position.

[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=2&vote=00146](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=2&vote=00146)

**H.R. 6; The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007; Senate Vote #223**

Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Baucus, D-Mont., amendment no. 1704 to the Reid substitute amendment no. 1502. The Baucus amendment would  
*Motion Rejected:* Vote Total: 57-36 (R 10-34; D 45-2; I 2-0)

Note: Three-fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture.

[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00223](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00223)

**S. 3268; Stop Excessive Energy Speculation Act of 2008; Senate Vote #184**

Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the bill that would increase staffing at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and place more regulation  
*Motion Rejected:* Vote Total: 50-43 (R 2-42; D 46-1; I 2-0)

Note: Three-fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture.

[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=2&vote=00184](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=2&vote=00184)

**S. 3; Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2007; Senate Vote #132**

Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the motion to proceed to the bill that would allow the Health and Human Services Department to negotiate with drug companies  
*Motion Rejected:* Vote Total: 55-42 (R 6-41; D 47-1; I 2-0)

Note: Three-fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture. A "nay" was a vote in support of the president's position.  
[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00132](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00132)

**H.R. 4156; Orderly and Responsible Iraq Redeployment Appropriations Act; Senate Vote #411**

Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Reid, D-Nev., motion to proceed to the bill that would appropriate \$50 billion in emergency supplemental funds for  
*Motion Rejected:* Vote Total: 53-45 (R 4-43; D 48-1; I 1-1)

Note: Three-fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture. A "nay" was a vote in support of the president's position.  
[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00411](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00411)

**H.R. 1585-S.Amdt.2087; Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008-The Levin Amendment; Senate Vote #252**

Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Levin, D-Mich., amendment no. 2087 to the Levin substitute amendment no. 2011. The Levin amendment would r  
*Motion Rejected:* Vote Total: 52-47 (R 4-45; D 47-1; I 1-1)

Note: Three-fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture. A "nay" was a vote in support of the president's position. July 18, 2007 (in the session that began  
[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00252](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00252)

**S. 1257; District of Columbia Voting Rights Act of 2007; Senate Vote #339**

Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Reid, D-Nev., motion to proceed to the bill that would increase the membership of the House of Representatives t  
*Motion Rejected:* Vote Total: 57-42 (R 8-41; D 47-1; I 2-0)

Note: Three-fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture. A "nay" was a vote in support of the president's position.  
[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00339](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00339)

**H.R. 2831; Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act; Senate Vote #110**

Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the motion to proceed to the bill that would amend the 1964 Civil Rights Act to allow employees to file charges of pay  
*Motion Rejected:* Vote Total: 56-42: R 6-41; D 48-1; I 2-0)

Note: Three-fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture. A "nay" was a vote in support of the president's position.  
[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=2&vote=00110](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=2&vote=00110)

**H.R. 800; Employee Free Choice Act; Senate Vote #227**

Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Reid, D-Nev., motion to proceed to the bill that would allow union organizers to bypass secret-ballot elections if the  
*Motion Rejected:* Vote Total: 51-48: R 1-48; D 48-0; I 2-0)

Note: Three-fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture. A "nay" was a vote in support of the president's position.  
[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00227](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00227)

**H.R. 3221; The American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act; Senate Vote #35**

Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the motion to proceed to the bill that would set new energy efficiency standards and create alternative fuel programs. <sup>7</sup>  
*Motion Rejected:* 48-46 (R 1-45; D 45-1; I 2-0)

Note: Three-fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture. A "nay" was a vote in support of the president's position.  
[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=2&vote=00035](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=2&vote=00035)