

Mike's Conservative Index, 2020

House

1. Remove PFAS as a Hazardous Substance

Rep. Michael Burgess (R-Tex.) amendment to the PFAS Bill, deleting the section directing the EPA to designate PFAS as a hazardous substance under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

Defeated 161-247: D 2-225; R 158-22; I 1-0, 1/10/20.

Yea = +, Nay = -

2. Disapprove 2019 Borrower Defense Rule

Passage of the Lee (D-Nev.) resolution disapproving of a rule issued by Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos on September 23, 2019, which requires each borrower to apply to the Department of Education for a defense to repayment if they took out a student loan for an educational institution that misrepresented a material fact. The DeVos rule overturned an Obama Administration rule that such application could be submitted on behalf of an entire group.

Passed 231-180: D 225-0; R 6-179; I 0-1, 1/16/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

3. Require All Unions to Hold Secret Ballot Elections

Rep. Phil Roe (R-Tenn.) amendment to the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, striking the provision permitting unions to be certified without winning secret ballot elections under certain circumstances.

Defeated 187-235: D 2-226; R 185-8; I 0-1, 2/6/20.

Yea = +, Nay = -

4. Protect State Right to Work Laws

Rep. Rick Allen (R-Ga.) amendment to the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, striking the provision overturning state right to work laws.

Rejected 187-232: D 3-222; R 183-10; I 1-0, 2/6/20.

Yea = +, Nay = -

5. Protecting the Right to Organize Act

Passage of the Scott (D-Va.) Bill, a comprehensive measure that strengthens organized labor in numerous ways, including permitting “card check” for union elections, overturning state right to work laws, and would effectively enact California’s contractor law nationwide.

Passed 224-194: D 219-7; R 5-186; I 0-1, 2/6/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

6. Remove Deadline for Ratification of Equal Rights Amendment

Adoption of the Speier (D-Calif.) resolution, removing the deadline from the Equal Rights Amendment, an effort to set the clock for ratification back to 1982, when the amendment was on the verge of being ratified. Without an amendment clarifying neutrality on abortion, the ERA can be used to overturn the Hyde Amendment, as happened with New Mexico's version when the state's Supreme Court unanimously ruled it violated the state's ERA in 1998.

Adopted 232-183: D 227-0; R 5-182; I 0-1, 2/13/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

7. Anti-Vaping Bill

Passage of the Pallone (D-N.J.) Bill, "Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019", which would primarily serve to limit vaping, including by prohibiting the sale of flavored vapes. This would wreck small vaping shops while, perversely, benefitting major tobacco producers. While people who don't smoke should not start vaping, vaping is far less harmful than smoking and thus a better alternative for people who haven't yet found it in themselves to quit smoking.

Passed 213-195: D 208-17; R 5-177; I 0-1, 2/28/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

8. Iran Resolution

Adoption of the Kaine (D-Va.) resolution, directing the removal of U.S. forces from hostilities against Iran not authorized by Congress.

Adopted 227-186: D 220-6; R 6-180; I 1-0, 3/11/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

9. Washington D.C. Admission Act

Passage of the Norton (D-D.C.) Bill, that would admit Washington D.C. as its own state, which would result in the election of two liberal Democratic senators.

Passed 232-180: D 232-1; R 0-178; L 0-1, 6/26/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

10. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act

Passage of the Craig (D-Minn.) Bill, which would expand Obamacare.

Passed 234-179: D 232-1; R 2-177; L 0-1, 6/29/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

11. Delete Davis-Bacon Rules for Federal Construction Projects

Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) amendment, deleting the requirement that all laborers and mechanics working on federal highway and public transportation projects be paid the local prevailing wage, which as defined under the Davis-Bacon Act is almost always higher than market rates.

Rejected 147-274: D 0-232; R 146-42; L 1-0, 7/1/20.

Yea = +, Nay = -

12. Require Certifications be Made to Congress Before Use of Insurrection Act

Adoption of the Escobar (D-Tex.) resolution, limiting the president's powers under the Insurrection Act of 1807 by requiring certifications be made to Congress when the president deploys troops to quell civil unrest. Passed 215-190: D 213-14; R 1-176; L 1-0, 7/20/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

13. 10% Cut in Defense Spending

Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Wis.) amendment, cut defense spending with exceptions for military personnel, DoD federal civilian workforce, and defense health programs.

Defeated 93-324: D 92-139; R 0-185; L 1-0, 7/21/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

14. Great American Outdoors Act

Passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, which would increase the scope of federal conservation efforts, primarily by making funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund permanent.

Passed 310-107: D 229-2; R 81-104; L 0-1, 7/22/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

15. 5% Cut, Foreign Aid Spending

Rep. Rick Allen (R-Ga.) amendment, cutting 5% from the foreign aid portion of the omnibus appropriations bill.

Rejected 88-329, 7/23/20.

16. 5% Cut, Interior Department Spending

Rep. Rick Allen (R-Ga.) amendment, cutting 5% from Interior Department spending under the omnibus appropriations bill.

Rejected 117-292: D 0-230; R 116-62; L 1-0, 7/24/20.

Yea = +, Nay = -

17. Cut EPA Funding to Budget Request

Rep. Jason Smith (R-Mo.) amendment, reducing Congressional appropriations for the EPA to the President's fiscal year 2021 budget request.

Rejected 155-256: D 1-230; R 153-26; L 1-0, 7/24/20.

Yea = +, Nay = -

18. Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act

Passage of the Scott (D-Va.) Bill, restoring the right to individual civil actions in Title VI cases involving disparate impact and creates the position of Special Assistant for Equity and Inclusion in the Department of Education. This overturns the Supreme Court decision *Alexander v.*

Sandoval (2001), which ruled that private citizens cannot sue under Title VI for disparate impact claims unless intent can be proven.

Passed 232-188: D 229-0; R 3-187; L 0-1, 9/16/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

19. Continuing Appropriations Act

Passage of the stopgap appropriations bill, which does nothing to restrain future spending and was passed to avoid a shutdown.

Passed 359-57: D 230-0; R 129-56; L 0-1, 9/22/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

20. The Heroes Act

Passage of the Democratic coronavirus stimulus known as The Heroes Act at a cost of \$2.2 trillion. The White House proposed a \$1.6 trillion stimulus.

Passed 214-207: D 214-18; R 0-188; L 0-1, 10/1/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

Senate

1. Convict President Donald J. Trump of Abuse of Power

Acquitted 48-52: R 1-52; D 45-0; I 2-0, 2/5/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

2. End Debate on Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

Motion to end debate on the Graham (R-S.C.) Bill, making it unlawful to perform an abortion past 20 weeks unless it was to save the mother's life and in cases of rape and incest.

Defeated 53-44: R 51-2; D 2-41; I 0-1, 2/25/20.

Yea = +, Nay = -

3. End Debate on Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act

Motion to end debate on the Sasse (R-Neb.) Bill, requiring doctors to attempt to resuscitate fetuses that have survived abortions.

Defeated 56-41: R 53-0; D 3-40; I 0-1, 2/25/20.

Yea = +, Nay = -

4. Table Amendment Cutting Funds and Transferring for COVID Relief

Motion to table the Paul (R-Ky.) amendment, which would fund COVID-19 aid by cutting spending in other areas of government.

Passed 81-15: R 37-15; D 43-0; I 1-0, 3/5/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

5. Disapprove 2019 Borrower Defense Rule

See House vote #2 for description.

Passed 53-42: R 10-42; D 42-0; I 1-0, 3/11/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

6. Paid Leave Amendment

Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) amendment, provide for paid sick time and paid leave during the COVID-19 crisis.

Rejected 47-51: R 0-51; D 45-0; I 2-0, 3/18/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

7. No Federal Mandate for Sick Pay and Family Leave, State Support Instead

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) amendment, striking Federally mandated sick pay and paid family leave, instead provide financial support through State administered unemployment funds.

Rejected 50-48 (3/5's vote req.): R 48-3; D 2-43; I 0-2, 3/18/20.

Yea = +, Nay = -

8. Unemployment Compensation Not Exceeding Wages

Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.) amendment, providing that additional benefits from unemployment compensation are not more than were earned prior to becoming unemployed.

Rejected 48-48 (3/5's vote req.): R 47-2; D 1-44; I 0-2, 3/25/20.

Yea = +, Nay = -

9. Override Veto of Iran Resolution

See House vote #8.

Veto Sustained 49-44: R 7-44; D 41-0; I 1-0, 5/7/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

10. Override Budget Caps on Great American Outdoors Act

Adopted 68-30: R 22-30; D 44-0; I 2-0, 6/15/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

11. Great American Outdoors Act

See House vote #14.

Passed 73-25: R 28-25; D 43-0; I 2-0, 6/17/20.

Yea = -, Nay = +

12. End Debate on the JUSTICE Act

Motion to end debate on the Scott (R-S.C.) Bill for reforming policing policies. This bill was a moderate policing reform measure that liberal critics found insufficient, wanting stronger measures such as an end to qualified immunity.

Failed 55-45: R 52-1*; D 2-43; I 1-1, 6/24/20. * - Majority Leader McConnell voted against, but it is counted favorably on the MC-Index as it was procedural and would allow him to possibly reintroduce the measure.

Yea = +, Nay = -

- 13. Confirmation, Russell Vought, Director of Office of Management and Budget**
Confirmation of conservative Russell Vought as OMB director.
Confirmed 51-45: R 51-0; D 0-43; I 0-2, 7/20/20.
Yea = +, Nay = -
- 14. 10% Pentagon Cut, Transfer Funds to Poor Areas**
Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) amendment, cutting the Pentagon budget by 10% and transferring the funds to help areas with at least a 25% poverty rate.
Rejected 23-77: R 0-53; D 22-23; I 1-1, 7/22/20.
Yea = -, Nay = +
- 15. Marvin Kaplan Nomination, National Labor Relations Board**
Nomination of Marvin Kaplan to the National Labor Relations Board, Kaplan is known to be friendly to business.
Confirmed 52-46: R 52-0; D 0-44; I 0-2, 7/29/20.
Yea = +, Nay = -
- 16. Lauren McGarity McFerran Nomination, National Labor Relations Board**
Renomination of Lauren McGarity McFerran for a seat on the National Labor Relations Board. McFerran is known to be friendly to organized labor.
Confirmed 53-42: R 7-42; D 44-0; I 2-0, 7/29/20.
Yea = -, Nay = +
- 17. Cronan Nomination, Southern District of New York**
Confirmation of John Peter Cronan of New York to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York. Cronan is a member of the Federalist Society.
Confirmed 55-42: R 51-0; D 4-40; I 0-2, 8/6/20.
Yea = +, Nay = -
- 18. Continuing Appropriations Act**
See House vote #19.
Passed 84-10: R 40-10; D 43-0; I 1-0, 9/30/20.
Yea = -, Nay = +
- 19. End Debate on Affordable Care Act Protection Bill**
Motion to end debate on the Schumer (D-N.Y.) Bill, preventing the Department of Justice from advocating to courts to strike down the Affordable Care Act.
Defeated 51-43: R 6-43; D 43-0; I 2-0, 10/1/20.
Yea = -, Nay = +
- 20. Barrett Nomination**
Confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett of Indiana as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Confirmed 52-48: R 52-1; D 0-45; I 0-2, 10/26/20.
Yea = +, Nay = -