

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

March 1, 2010

How your lawmakers voted

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

HOUSE

ANTITRUST EXEMPTION

Voting 406-19, the House on Thursday sent the Senate a bill (HR 4626) to end the health-insurance industry's 64-year-old federal antitrust exemption under the McCarran-Ferguson Act. Health insurers are regulated on the state level and are subject to state antitrust laws. Under this bill, the Justice Department would provide another layer of enforcement against monopolistic activities such as collusion in the setting of premium rates, allocating market shares and rigging bids on contracts. The bill exempts medical-malpractice insurers.

Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., said the Justice Department's antitrust division "should not have their hands tied only in respect to the industry of insurance. Every other industry in America has learned to live with truly free markets with antitrust law."

Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., said, "This legislation would only add another layer of federal regulation and litigation to an industry that operates under a robust and well-established state regulatory regime."

A "yes" vote was to pass the bill.

| | Yes | No | NV |
|--------------------|-----|----|----|
| Brian Bilbray R | ■ | □ | □ |
| Susan Davis D | ■ | □ | □ |
| Bob Filner D | ■ | □ | □ |
| Duncan D. Hunter R | ■ | □ | □ |
| Darrell Issa R | ■ | □ | □ |

2010 SPY BUDGET

Voting 235-168, the House on Friday approved a classified 2010 U.S. intelligence budget unofficially estimated at \$50 billion or higher. The bill (HR 2701) funds operations of the CIA, National Security Agency and several other spy agencies. In part, the bill would step up the use of human assets to fight terrorists, require the videotaping of prisoner interrogations, prescribe stiff sentences for interrogators who inflict torture, upgrade government cybersecurity systems, fund the recruitment of a more diverse work force, expand training in several African languages, and authorize Government Accounting Office audits of certain intelligence operations. The bill awaits Senate action.

Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., said Republicans contend that "we are sacrificing our national security by not allowing the torture of our enemies. In fact, I think we are enhancing our national security" by outlawing torture. "If we stick to our values, we enhance our national security."

Rep. Peter Hoekstra, R-Mich., objected to the bill's allowing the transfer of detainees at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, military prison to the United States and its level of response to Iran's nuclear program.

A "yes" vote was to pass the bill.

| | Yes | No | NV |
|--------------------|-----|----|----|
| Brian Bilbray R | □ | ■ | □ |
| Susan Davis D | ■ | □ | □ |
| Bob Filner D | □ | ■ | □ |
| Duncan D. Hunter R | □ | ■ | □ |
| Darrell Issa R | □ | ■ | □ |

NATIVE HAWAIIAN SOVEREIGNTY

Voting 245-164, the House on Tuesday sent the Senate a bill (HR 2314) empowering Native Hawaiians to form a sovereign government comparable to the American Indian and Native Alaskan nations in the United States. If certified by the secretary of the interior, the government would have standing to negotiate for the control of land and other assets that once belonged to indigenous Hawaiians. The bill would set up a U.S. Office for Native Hawaiian Relations in the Interior Department and create a commission to determine which people are sufficiently indigenous to be included in the sovereign nation.

Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., said the bill "seeks to rectify a wrong that occurred" Jan. 17, 1893, when "the legitimate Kingdom of Hawaii was overthrown by American speculators with the active participation of the U.S. military. Five years after this overthrow, Hawaii was annexed to the United States."

Urging a statewide referendum on the issue, Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash., said a vote of all Hawaiians should be held to approve these changes.

A "yes" vote was to pass the bill.

| | Yes | No | NV |
|--------------------|-----|----|----|
| Brian Bilbray R | □ | ■ | □ |
| Susan Davis D | ■ | □ | □ |
| Bob Filner D | ■ | □ | □ |
| Duncan D. Hunter R | □ | ■ | □ |
| Darrell Issa R | □ | ■ | □ |