

HOW THEY VOTED

Here's how area members of the House voted on major issues in the week ending May 27. NV means "did not vote." **See Senate votes in Wednesday's Local section.**

HOUSE

2012 military budget

Voting 322-96, the House on May 26 authorized a \$690 billion military budget for fiscal 2012, up \$10 billion or nearly 2 percent from the comparable 2011 figure. HR 1540 sets a 1.6 percent military pay raise while authorizing \$119 billion for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and \$52.5 billion for the military's TRICARE health program.

The bill grants broader authority for presidents to conduct military actions against suspected terrorists. This expanded authority would replace the "use of force" resolution that has been the legal basis for U.S. combat operations since its enactment a week after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The bill seeks to derail the 2010 law that allows gays to serve openly in the U.S. military. It does so by requiring all four service chiefs, not just the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to certify that the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" will not weaken combat readiness. Additionally, the bill seeks to slow the newly ratified New START arms-reduction treaty with Russia; requires the administration to calculate the national-security risks posed by U.S. indebtedness to China; prevents the transfer of detainees from the Guantanamo Bay military prison to the United States for trials and preserves the option of building a backup engine for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter despite objections by Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

A yes vote was to pass the bill.

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

Afghanistan withdrawal

Voting 204-215, the House on May 26 defeated an amendment to HR 1540 (above) setting a quicker pace for President Barack Obama to draw down the 100,000 U.S. troops now in Afghanistan. The amendment gave Obama 60 days to improve upon his existing plan, under which he is to start removing troops in July with no projected completion date. The amendment would require the president to set a date for ending the withdrawal and report to Congress every 90 days on his progress toward that goal.

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

Combat-pay increase

Voting 185-233, the House on May 26 defeated a bid by Democrats to increase the existing pay bonus for U.S. troops "under hostile fire" or "in imminent danger" from \$225.00 to \$325.00 per month.

A yes vote backed higher combat pay.

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

Contractors' donations

Voting 261-163, the House on May 25 blocked a draft executive order by Obama requiring federal contractors to disclose their contributions to political candidates. Not yet officially issued, the order is a response to the Supreme Court's 2010 "Citizens

United" ruling, which allows corporations, unions and other entities to anonymously donate unlimited sums to groups advocating the election or defeat of federal candidates. The ruling also upheld Congress' authority to require the disclosure of campaign contributions.

A yes vote backed the amendment.

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

USA Patriot Act

Voting 250-153, the House on May 26 sent Obama a bill (S 990) to extend until June 2015 the three sections of the USA Patriot Act that are not permanent law. One section authorizes roving wiretaps on the communications gear used by terrorist suspects. Another permits surveillance of noncitizen "lone wolf" suspects not linked to terrorist organizations. Under the third, investigators can obtain warrants for searching businesses and other entities without having to show probable cause.

The searches can be for "any tangible item" such as hotel, airline, bookstore, tax, medical and other records of persons broadly defined as terrorist suspects, including U.S. citizens. Businesses and others receiving these warrants are barred from discussing them. The USA Patriot Act was enacted Oct. 26, 2001.

Lamar Smith, R-Texas, said, "The terrorist threat will not sunset at midnight; neither should our national-security laws. The Patriot Act is an integral part of our offensive ... and has proved effective at keeping Americans safe from

terrorist attacks."

Jared Polis, D-Colo., said, "I urge anyone who's worried about the unchecked growth of the state to think twice about this bill, perhaps look at a short-term extension and have a real discussion of restoring the balance between individual rights and security."

A yes vote was to pass the bill.

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

Primary-care physicians and dentists

Voting 234-185, the House on May 25 passed a Republican bill (HR 1216) to scale back a program in the 2010 health law designed to train thousands of primary-care physicians and dentists for work in underserved communities. The Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program is now being funded by \$230 million over five years in mandatory spending. This bill would convert it to a discretionary-spending program, thus inflicting sharp budget cuts. Because primary care emphasizes wellness and preventive medicine, the program is designed to reduce U.S. health costs over the long run. But critics said new entitlement programs are unwarranted at a time of runaway federal deficits.

A yes vote was to pass the bill.

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