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## **New Alliance Voting Record Focuses on Health Care, Medicare, and Economics**

Last Tuesday, the Alliance marked Older Americans Month by releasing its latest voting record, a new report detailing the 2009 votes of every U.S. Senator and Representative on key issues affecting current and future retirees. The document is available at <http://bit.ly/9KfGCU>. "Higher scores show a commitment to improve health care, strengthen Medicare, and put seniors ahead of drug and insurance companies," said Alliance President **Barbara J. Easterling**. "The 2009 voting record showed a continuation of support for seniors in America, despite a tough economy," she added. The voting record examines 10 key Senate votes and 10 key House votes, showing the roll calls on issues such as helping pre-Medicare retirees afford health care, as well as Medicare-covered preventive screenings for seniors. Several votes addressed national spending on health care, including historic votes on epic health insurance reform.

One hundred eighty-three U.S. House members achieved perfect scores of 100% in 2009. One hundred and eighty-five received failing grades (60% or lower), with 16 receiving scores of zero. Of the House members appointed to the President's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform in 2010, Reps. **John Spratt** (D-SC) and **Jan Schakowsky** (D-IL) scored 100% with the Alliance; Rep. **Xavier Becerra** (D-CA) scored 90%; Rep. **Dave Camp** (R-MI) scored 10%, and Reps. **Paul Ryan** (R-WI) and **Jeb Hensarling** (R-TX) scored 0%. The panel is considering major changes that would affect the financial future of Social Security and Medicare.

Fifteen members of the U.S. Senate achieved perfect scores of 100% in 2009, while 43 received failing grades of 60 percent or lower. Both Senators from Minnesota, **Amy Klobuchar** (D) and **Al Franken** (D), received perfect scores in 2009. The same was true for both of the Vermont Senators, **Patrick Leahy** (D) and **Bernie Sanders** (I). However, all of the Senators from the states of Georgia, Kansas, Utah and Wyoming scored zero. Sen. **Jon Kyl** (R-AZ) has the lowest current lifetime Senate score with the Alliance, 1%.