

FAIR's Congressional Voting Report is designed to help you understand the positions that each U.S. Senator has taken on immigration measures during the 112th Congress in furtherance of a rational immigration system. What is noteworthy about the 112th Congress is that it has passed fewer bills than any other Congress since World War II. Remarkably, the Senate has passed almost zero immigration-related bills this legislative session. What few bills the chamber did pass were agreed to by unanimous consent. Nevertheless, to help present a picture of each Senator's position, we have chosen votes on the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA), which, among other things, seeks to increase levels of legal immigration. Where a Senator voted with FAIR's position on an amendment or bill, you will see a green plus sign (+). Where a Senator voted against FAIR's position, you will see a red minus sign (-). Where a Senator did not vote, you will see (NV). During any period that a Senator was not in office, you will see (NP).

S. 1925

Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act

Senate Vote 87, Legal Immigration | April 26, 2012—Sen. Pat Leahy (D-VT) sponsored S. 1925, a bill that contained a provision that would increase the number of U visas by tens of thousands over the course of several years. The bill accomplishes this by increasing the number granted annually from 10,000 (the ceiling under current law) to 15,000, until all unused U visas since 2006 are “recaptured.”

Congress created the U nonimmigrant visa in 2000 to allow aliens who have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a victim of domestic violence, rape, or certain other crimes to obtain temporary legal status if they help law enforcement prosecute those crimes. However, the program represents poor immigration policy for several reasons: 1) the U visa program is not needed because the Department of Homeland Security already has the administrative authority to grant humanitarian parole or deferred action to enable an alien to stay in the U.S. to assist law enforcement; 2) an alien can obtain a U visa even if the alien is unlawfully present; 3) aliens who obtain a U visa, including family members receiving derivative U visa status, can remain in the country for four years at a time and receive work authorization; and 4) aliens granted a U visa

become eligible for a green card after three years, allowing them to convert their temporary lawful status to permanent. The bill passed 68-31. **FAIR opposed S. 1925.**

S.AMDT.2095 to S. 1925

Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to Violence Against Women
Reauthorization Act

Senate Vote 86, Legal Immigration | April 26, 2012—Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) offered amendment S.AMDT.2095 to S. 1925, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act that, among other things, would strike a provision increasing the number of U visas by tens of thousands. The amendment was rejected 37-62. **FAIR supported H.AMDT.2095.**

| | S. 1925 VOTE 86 S.AMDT.2095 | S. 1925 VOTE 87 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| ALABAMA | | |
| Sessions, Jeff (R) | + | + |
| Shelby, Richard (R) | + | + |
| ALASKA | | |
| Begich, Mark (D) | - | - |
| Murkowski, Lisa (R) | - | - |
| ARIZONA | | |
| Kyl, Jon (R) | + | + |
| McCain, John (R) | + | - |
| ARKANSAS | | |
| Boozman, John (R) | + | + |
| Pryor, Mark (D) | - | - |
| CALIFORNIA | | |
| Boxer, Barbara (D) | - | - |
| Feinstein, Dianne (D) | - | - |
| COLORADO | | |
| Bennet, Michael (D) | - | - |
| Udall, Mark (D) | - | - |
| CONNECTICUT | | |
| Blumenthal, Richard (D) | - | - |
| Lieberman, Joseph (I) | - | - |
| DELAWARE | | |
| Carper, Thomas (D) | - | - |
| Coons, Christopher (D) | - | - |
| FLORIDA | | |
| Nelson, Bill (D) | - | - |
| Rubio, Marco (R) | - | + |
| GEORGIA | | |
| Chambliss, Saxby (R) | + | + |
| Isakson, Johnny (R) | + | + |

S. 1925
VOTE 86
S.AMDT.2095

S. 1925
VOTE 87

HAWAII

Akaka, Daniel (D)
Inouye, Daniel (D)

-
-

-
-

IDAHO

Crapo, Michael (R)
Risch, James (R)

+
+

-
+

ILLINOIS

Durbin, Richard (D)
Kirk, Mark Stevens (R)

-
NV

-
NV

INDIANA

Coats, Dan (R)
Lugar, Richard (R)

+
+

-
+

IOWA

Grassley, Charles (R)
Harkin, Tom (D)

+
-

+
-

KANSAS

Moran, Jerry (R)
Roberts, Pat (R)

+
+

+
+

KENTUCKY

McConnell, Mitch (R)
Paul, Rand (R)

+
-

+
+

LOUISIANA

Landrieu, Mary (D)
Vitter, David (R)

-
+

-
-

MAINE

Collins, Susan (R)
Snowe, Olympia (R)

-
-

-
-

MARYLAND

Cardin, Benjamin (D)
Mikulski, Barbara (D)

-
-

-
-

MASSACHUSETTS

Brown, Scott (R)
Kerry, John (D)

-
-

-
-

S. 1925
VOTE 86
S.AMDT.2095

S. 1925
VOTE 87

MICHIGAN

Levin, Carl (D)

-

-

Stabenow, Debbie (D)

-

-

MINNESOTA

Franken, Al (D)

-

-

Klobuchar, Amy (D)

-

-

MISSISSIPPI

Cochran, Thad (R)

+

+

Wicker, Roger (R)

+

+

MISSOURI

Blunt, Roy (R)

+

+

McCaskill, Claire (D)

-

-

MONTANA

Baucus, Max (D)

-

-

Tester, Jon (D)

-

-

NEBRASKA

Johanns, Mike (R)

+

+

Nelson, E. Benjamin (D)

-

-

NEVADA

Heller, Dean (R)

+

-

Reid, Harry (D)

-

-

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Ayotte, Kelly (R)

+

-

Shaheen, Jeanne (D)

-

-

NEW JERSEY

Lautenberg, Frank (D)

-

-

Menendez, Robert (D)

-

-

NEW MEXICO

Bingaman, Jeff (D)

-

-

Udall, Tom (D)

-

-

NEW YORK

Gillibrand, Kirsten (D)

-

-

Schumer, Charles (D)

-

-

S. 1925
VOTE 86
S.AMDT.2095

S. 1925
VOTE 87

NORTH CAROLINA

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Burr, Richard (R) | + | + |
| Hagan, Kay (D) | - | - |

NORTH DAKOTA

| | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| Conrad, Kent (D) | - | - |
| Hoeven, John (R) | + | - |

OHIO

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Brown, Sherrod (D) | - | - |
| Portman, Rob (R) | + | - |

OKLAHOMA

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Coburn, Thomas (R) | - | + |
| Inhofe, James (R) | + | + |

OREGON

| | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Merkley, Jeffrey (D) | - | - |
| Wyden, Ron (D) | - | - |

PENNSYLVANIA

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Casey, Robert (D) | - | - |
| Toomey, Pat (R) | + | + |

RHODE ISLAND

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Reed, Jack (D) | - | - |
| Whitehouse, Sheldon (D) | - | - |

SOUTH CAROLINA

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| DeMint, Jim (R) | - | + |
| Graham, Lindsey (R) | + | + |

SOUTH DAKOTA

| | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| Johnson, Tim (D) | - | - |
| Thune, John (R) | + | + |

TENNESSEE

| | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Alexander, Lamar (R) | + | - |
| Corker, Bob (R) | + | - |

TEXAS

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Cornyn, John (R) | + | + |
| Hutchison, Kay Bailey (R) | + | - |

S. 1925
VOTE 86
S.AMDT.2095

S. 1925
VOTE 87

UTAH

Hatch, Orrin (R)

+

+

Lee, Michael (R)

-

+

VERMONT

Leahy, Patrick (D)

-

-

Sanders, Bernard (I)

-

-

VIRGINIA

Warner, Mark (D)

-

-

Webb, Jim (D)

-

-

WASHINGTON

Cantwell, Maria (D)

-

-

Murray, Patty (D)

-

-

WEST VIRGINIA

Manchin, Joe (D)

-

-

Rockefeller, John (D)

-

-

WISCONSIN

Johnson, Ron (R)

+

+

Kohl, Herbert (D)

-

-

WYOMING

Barrasso, John (R)

+

+

Enzi, Michael (R)

+

+