

# 2006 Senate Vote Descriptions

## 1. Stacking the Supreme Court with Right Wing Ideologues

### AFSCME Position: No

The Senate confirmed President Bush's nomination of Samuel Alito Jr. of New Jersey to be an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. AFSCME opposed the nomination because of the extreme conservative views of the nominee and his record of hostility to laws that protect workers' rights and civil rights.

### Senate Vote Number 2

*AFSCME opposed the nomination, which the Senate confirmed by a vote of 58-42 on January 31, 2006.*

## 2. Funding Working Families' Programs

### AFSCME Position: Yes

The Senate approved an amendment by Sens. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) to the Budget Resolution (S. Con. Res. 83) that would increase funding for labor, health and education programs by \$7 billion. The Bush administration had recommended a fiscal year 2007 budget resolution calling for major cuts in working family programs and overall domestic spending.

### Senate Vote Number 58

*AFSCME supported the amendment, which the Senate approved by a vote of 73-27 on March 16, 2006.*

## 3. Cutting Medicare and Medicaid, Health Care and Education

### AFSCME Position: No

The Senate approved the fiscal year 2007 budget plan (S. Con. Res. 83) that called for substantial

reductions to the Medicare and Medicaid programs, as well as other domestic services for lower- and middle-income workers. In addition to substantial cuts in domestic spending, the budget plan also calls for new tax cuts advocated by the Bush administration, which go principally to wealthy individuals.

### Senate Vote Number 74

*AFSCME opposed the budget plan, which the Senate approved by a vote of 51-49 on March 16, 2006.*

## 4. \$70 Billion More in Tax Cuts for the Wealthy

### AFSCME Position: No

The Senate approved a conference report to a tax bill (H.R. 4297) that would extend about \$70 billion in tax cuts over a five-year period. These tax breaks include reduced tax rates on capital gains and dividends and increased business write-offs, which mainly benefit the wealthy and businesses. Although the administration claims that the tax reductions help middle-income taxpayers, the truth is that just 5 percent of the benefits go to families with incomes below \$75,000, with 68 percent of working families receiving no tax benefits at all.

### Senate Vote Number 118

*AFSCME opposed the conference report, which the Senate approved by a vote of 54-44 on May 11, 2006.*

## 5. Eliminating Patient Protections

### AFSCME Position: No

The Senate rejected a motion to cut off debate on a bill (S. 1955) to amend Title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act that would

eliminate patient protections enacted by states and drive up the cost of comprehensive health coverage upon which working families rely.

### **Senate Vote Number 119**

*AFSCME opposed the bill and the motion to cut off debate, which the Senate rejected by a vote of 55-43 on May 11, 2006. (A 3/5 majority was necessary to stop debate.)*

## **6. Estate Tax Repeal**

### **AFSCME Position: No**

The Senate rejected a motion to cut off debate on a bill (H.R. 8) to permanently repeal the federal estate tax. That repeal would benefit just the top 5 percent of the wealthiest estates. The tax revenue loss would amount to nearly \$1 trillion between 2012 and 2021, forcing even more cuts to programs that benefit working families and that help fund the jobs of hundreds of thousands of AFSCME members.

### **Senate Vote Number 164**

*AFSCME opposed the motion, which the Senate rejected by a vote of 57-41 on June 8, 2006. (A 3/5 majority was necessary to stop debate.)*

## **7. Raise for Low-Income Wage Earners**

### **AFSCME Position: Yes**

The Senate rejected an amendment by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) to the fiscal year 2007 Defense Authorization bill (S. 2766) that would raise the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 over 26 months. Because the minimum wage has not been raised since 1997, the federal minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour has lost its buying power and is inadequate to support a family.

### **Senate Vote Number 179**

*AFSCME supported the amendment, which the Senate rejected by a vote of 52-46 on June 21, 2006. (The vote required 60 votes to succeed due to procedural objections.)*

## **8. Tax Cuts for the Wealthy on the Backs of Minimum Wage Earners**

### **AFSCME Position: No**

In a not-so-cleverly-disguised election year move, the Senate, while debating a minimum wage bill (H.R. 5970), cynically tacked on repeal of the estate tax along with a group of expiring tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy. This bill would raise the minimum wage by \$2.10 to \$7.25, but would also exempt estates of \$5 million per individual and \$10 million per couple from any taxation at all, costing the U.S. Treasury \$750 billion over the next 10 years. The Senate killed the bill by failing to cut off debate. AFSCME strongly supports raising the minimum wage but is opposed to tying the increase to a tax cut for the wealthiest estates.

### **Senate Vote Number 229**

*AFSCME opposed the motion, which was rejected by a vote of 56-42 on August 3, 2006. (A 3/5 majority was necessary to stop debate.)*

Year: 2006  
 Vote No.:  
 Support  
 Position:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	SESSION PERCENT SUPPORT	CAREER CUMULATIVE		
	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N		R	W	%R
<b>Alabama</b>												
Sessions, J. (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	4	79	5%
Shelby (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	0%	48	130	27%
<b>Alaska</b>												
Murkowski (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	6	26	19%
Stevens (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	63	225	22%
<b>Arizona</b>												
Kyl (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0	92	0%
McCain (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	29	148	16%

Key: + Favorable, - Unfavorable, ? Not Voting or Not Then a Member of Congress. AL At Large

Year: 2006  
 Vote No.:  
 Support  
 Position:

	Stacking the Supreme Court with Right Wing Ideologues Funding Working Families' Programs Cutting Medicare and Medicaid, Health Care and Education \$70 Million More in Tax Cuts for the Wealthy Eliminating Patient Protections Estate Tax Repeal Raise for Low-Income Wage Earners Tax Cuts for the Wealthy on the Backs of Minimum Wage Earners								SESSION PERCENT SUPPORT	CAREER CUMULATIVE		
	1 N	2 Y	3 N	4 N	5 N	6 N	7 Y	8 N		R	W	%R
<b>Arkansas</b>												
Lincoln (D)	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	75%	53	12	82%
Pryor (D)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	88%	29	3	91%
<b>California</b>												
Boxer (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	115	2	98%
Feinstein (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	105	17	86%
<b>Colorado</b>												
Allard (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	1	81	1%
Salazar, K. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	15	1	94%

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	1 N	2 Y	3 N	4 N	5 N	6 N	7 Y	8 N		R	W	%R
<b>Connecticut</b>												
Dodd (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	212	26	89%
Lieberman (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	100%	145	29	83%
<b>Delaware</b>												
Biden (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	241	42	85%
Carper (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	46	6	88%
<b>Florida</b>												
Martinez (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0	16	0%
Nelson, Bill (D)	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	63%	45	7	87%

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	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N		R	W	%R
<b>Georgia</b>												
Chambliss (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	1	31	3%
Isakson (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0	16	0%
<b>Hawaii</b>												
Akaka (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	146	3	98%
Inouye (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	255	20	93%
<b>Idaho</b>												
Craig (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	5	142	3%
Crapo (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	1	62	2%

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	1 N	2 Y	3 N	4 N	5 N	6 N	7 Y	8 N		R	W	%R
<b>Illinois</b>												
Durbin (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	81	2	98%
Obama (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	16	0	100%
<b>Indiana</b>												
Bayh (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	60	5	92%
Lugar (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	25%	32	238	12%
<b>Iowa</b>												
Grassley (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	25	218	10%
Harkin (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	184	14	93%

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	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N		R	W	%R
<b>Kansas</b>												
Brownback (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	1	82	1%
Roberts (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	2	81	2%
<b>Kentucky</b>												
Bunning (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	4	61	6%
McConnell (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	17	195	8%
<b>Louisiana</b>												
Landrieu (D)	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	75%	66	16	80%
Vitter (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0	16	0%

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		R	W	%R
	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N				
<b>Maine</b>												
Collins (R)	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	38%	22	61	27%
Snowe (R)	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	38%	34	67	34%
<b>Maryland</b>												
Mikulski (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	182	7	96%
Sarbanes (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	271	4	99%
<b>Massachusetts</b>												
Kennedy, E. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	274	12	96%
Kerry (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	190	13	94%

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	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N		R	W	%R
<b>Michigan</b>												
Levin, C. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	240	16	94%
Stabenow (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	51	1	98%
<b>Minnesota</b>												
Coleman (R)	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	38%	9	23	28%
Dayton (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	51	1	98%
<b>Mississippi</b>												
Cochran (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	31	222	12%
Lott (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	9	162	5%

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	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N		R	W	%R
<b>Missouri</b>												
Bond (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	28	164	15%
Talent (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	4	28	13%
<b>Montana</b>												
Baucus, M. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	?	86%	198	53	79%
Burns (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	18	148	11%
<b>Nebraska</b>												
Hagel (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	5	76	6%
Nelson, Ben (D)	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	38%	31	21	60%

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		R	W	%R
	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N				
<b>Nevada</b>												
Ensign (R)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	13%	2	48	4%
Reid, H. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	174	18	91%
<b>New Hampshire</b>												
Gregg (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	5	116	4%
Sununu (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0	31	0%
<b>New Jersey</b>												
Menendez (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	8	0	100%
Lautenberg (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	32	0	100%

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 Position:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	SESSION PERCENT SUPPORT	CAREER CUMULATIVE		
	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N		R	W	%R
<b>New Mexico</b>												
Bingaman (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	203	18	92%
Domenici (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	49	239	17%
<b>New York</b>												
Clinton (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	50	1	98%
Schumer (D)	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	100%	61	3	95%
<b>North Carolina</b>												
Burr (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	1	15	6%
Dole (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	4	27	13%

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		R	W	%R
	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N				
<b>North Dakota</b>												
Conrad (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	88%	166	27	86%
Dorgan (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	110	8	93%
<b>Ohio</b>												
DeWine (R)	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	38%	17	84	17%
Voinovich (R)	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	50%	13	51	20%
<b>Oklahoma</b>												
Coburn (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0	16	0%
Inhofe (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	2	99	2%

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		R	W	%R
	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N				
<b>Oregon</b>												
Smith, G. (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	14	68	17%
Wyden (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	81	9	90%
<b>Pennsylvania</b>												
Santorum (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	3	98	3%
Specter (R)	-	+	-	?	?	-	+	-	33%	121	104	54%
<b>Rhode Island</b>												
Chafee (R)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	35	24	59%
Reed, J. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	81	1	99%

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	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N		R	W	%R
<b>South Carolina</b>												
DeMint (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0	16	0%
Graham (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	1	31	3%
<b>South Dakota</b>												
Johnson, Tim (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	88%	75	5	94%
Thune (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	1	15	6%
<b>Tennessee</b>												
Alexander, L. (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	2	30	6%
Frist (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	25%	6	97	6%

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Year: 2006 Vote No.: Support Position:	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Stacking the Supreme Court with Right Wing Ideologues</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Funding Working Families' Programs</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Cutting Medicare and Medicaid, Health Care and Education</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">\$70 Million More in Tax Cuts for the Wealthy</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Eliminating Patient Protections</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Estate Tax Repeal</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Raise for Low-Income Wage Earners</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Tax Cuts for the Wealthy on the Backs of Minimum Wage Earners</div> </div>								SESSION PERCENT SUPPORT	CAREER CUMULATIVE			
	1 N	2 Y	3 N	4 N	5 N	6 N	7 Y	8 N		R	W	%R	
<b>Texas</b>													
Cornyn (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	1	31	3%	
Hutchison (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	9	108	8%	
<b>Utah</b>													
Bennett (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	8	114	7%	
Hatch (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	30	239	11%	
<b>Vermont</b>													
Jeffords (I)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	110	60	65%	
Leahy (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	261	25	91%	

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 Support  
 Position:

	1 Stacking the Supreme Court with Right Wing Ideologues 2 Funding Working Families' Programs 3 Cutting Medicare and Medicaid, Health Care and Education 4 \$70 Million More in Tax Cuts for the Wealthy 5 Eliminating Patient Protections 6 Estate Tax Repeal 7 Raise for Low-Income Wage Earners 8 Tax Cuts for the Wealthy on the Backs of Minimum Wage Earners								SESSION PERCENT SUPPORT	CAREER CUMULATIVE		
	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N		R	W	%R
<b>Virginia</b>												
Allen, G. (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	2	50	4%
Warner (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	25%	41	205	17%
<b>Washington</b>												
Cantwell (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	49	3	94%
Murray (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	111	8	93%
<b>West Virginia</b>												
Byrd (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	75%	257	44	85%
Rockefeller (D)	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	+	100%	189	15	93%

Key: + Favorable, - Unfavorable, ? Not Voting or Not Then a Member of Congress. AL At Large

Year: 2006 Vote No.: Support Position:	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Stacking the Supreme Court with Right Wing Ideologues</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Funding Working Families' Programs</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Cutting Medicare and Medicaid, Health Care and Education</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">\$70 Million More in Tax Cuts for the Wealthy</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Eliminating Patient Protections</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Estate Tax Repeal</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Raise for Low-Income Wage Earners</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Tax Cuts for the Wealthy on the Backs of Minimum Wage Earners</div> </div>								SESSION PERCENT SUPPORT	CAREER CUMULATIVE			
	1 N	2 Y	3 N	4 N	5 N	6 N	7 Y	8 N		R	W	%R	
<b>Wisconsin</b>													
Feingold (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	113	9	93%
Kohl (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	151	26	85%
<b>Wyoming</b>													
Enzi (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	2	80	2%
Thomas, C. (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	3	100	3%

Key: + Favorable, - Unfavorable, ? Not Voting or Not Then a Member of Congress. AL At Large