

CIVIL RIGHTS & LIBERTIES' ISSUES LEGISLATIVE PACKET

(prepared by DC staff)

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RELEVANT CAUCUSES

CLR is a member of the following “Pro” Civil Rights and Liberties Caucuses

Congressional Progressive Caucus

Progressive Caucus members promote a strong, progressive agenda rooted in four core principles that embody national priorities. They reflect a fundamental belief in government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The four, core principles of the Progressive Promise:

1. Fighting for economic justice and security for all;
2. Protecting and preserving our civil rights and civil liberties;
3. Promoting global peace and security; and
4. Advancing environmental protection and energy independence

Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC)

CAPAC is non-partisan and bi-cameral and has been addressing the needs of the AAPI community in all areas of American life since it was founded in 1994.

Purpose:

- To ensure that legislation passed by the United States Congress, to the greatest extent possible, provides for the full participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and reflects the concerns and needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities;
- To educate other Members of Congress about the history, contributions and concerns of Asian American and Pacific Islanders;
- To work with other Members and Caucuses to protect and advance the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans;
- To establish policies on legislation and issues relating to persons of Asian and/or Pacific Islands ancestry who are citizens or nationals of, residents of, or immigrants to, the United States, its territories and possessions; and
- To provide a structure to coordinate the efforts, and enhance the ability, of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Members of Congress to accomplish those goals

Congressional Black Caucus

Leading our communities and country with passion and commitment, the Congressional Black Caucus continuously strives to be a voice for the voiceless, earning the moniker “the conscience of the Congress.”

Congressional Caucus on Women’s Issues

Bipartisanship is the key to the Caucus' strength and success. The legacy of its first 32 years is one of Democratic and Republican Congresswomen committed to improving the lives of women and families, and willing to put their partisan differences aside to do it.

Congressional Human Rights Caucus

The Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission (formerly known as the Congressional Human Rights Caucus) is a bipartisan caucus of the U.S. HOR. Its stated mission is to "to promote, defend and advocate internationally recognized human rights norms in a nonpartisan manner, both within and outside of Congress, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant human rights instruments."

Bipartisan Congressional Pro-Choice Caucus

Congressional Urban Caucus

CLR CIVIL RIGHTS & LIBERTIES' ISSUES

INTEREST GROUP RATING

YEAR	ORGANIZATION	RATING
2009-2010	AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION	94%
2007-2008		75%
2009-2010	HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN	90%
2007-2008		100%
2009-2010	LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS	100%

CONGRESSWOMAN LAURA RICHARDSON
CIVIL RIGHTS & LIBERTIES' ISSUES VOTE RECORD
112TH CONGRESS
JANUARY 2012

First Session

A. Budget

1. Ryan Budget Resolution for FY2012 (H. Con.Res. 34) – CLR voted NO

- *Roll Call Vote No. 277 (4/15/2011)*
- *The Ryan budget passed the House (235-193), but did not advance in the Senate.*
- *A vote against it was counted as a + vote by The Leadership Conference.*

The Leadership Conference opposed the Ryan budget. The budget proposed cuts that would have slashed and eliminated many services that are needed by many vulnerable and low-income communities such as young children, students, seniors, and unemployed people.

2. Budget Control Act (S. 627) – CLR voted NO

- *Roll Call Vote No 677 (7/29/2011)*
- *The House passed the Budget Control Act (218-210).*
- *A vote against it was counted as a + vote by The Leadership Conference.*

The Budget Control Act would force Congress to: 1) cut Social Security and Medicare benefits heavily for current retirees; 2) repeal the Affordable Care Act's coverage expansions while retaining its measures that cut Medicare payments and raise tax revenues; or 3) eviscerate the safety net for low-income children, parents, seniors, and people with disabilities.

3. Balanced Budget Amendment (H.J. Res. 2) – CLR voted NO

- *Roll Call Vote No. 858 (11/18/2011).*
- *The House defeated H.J. Res. 2, as it failed to obtain the two-thirds vote required to advance (261-165).*
- *A vote against it was counted as a + vote by The Leadership Conference.*

The impact of the balanced budget amendment (BBA) would be disastrous for the economy as a whole. It would require extreme spending cuts, preventing the government from resorting to countercyclical policies precisely when they are needed most. H.J. Res. 2 would make the risk of default more likely and empower a minority to hold the creditworthiness of the U.S. hostage to whatever other political demands they may have.

**4. Extension of Payroll Tax Cut and Unemployment Ins. (H.R. 3630) –
CLR voted NO**

- *Roll Call Vote No. 923 (12/13/2011).*
- *The House passed H.R. 3630 (234-193).*
- *A vote against it was counted as a + vote by The Leadership Conference.*

These extensions came with so many conditions and restrictions, to make the entire bill unacceptable. One major flaw was that the bill would have reduced the maximum duration of UI relief from the current 99 weeks to 59 weeks. The bill also would have allowed states to require UI recipients to submit to drug testing. The bill also included a number of controversial and unrelated provisions that had little to do with helping Americans make ends meet.

B. Consumer Protection

**1. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Restructuring (H.R. 1315) –
CLR voted NO**

- *Roll Call Vote No. 621 (7/21/2011)*
- *The House passed H.R. 1315 (241-173).*
- *A vote against it was counted as a + vote by The Leadership Conference.*

H.R. 1315 aims to weaken the CFPB by replacing its director with a larger and less responsive commission, and by making it easier for other regulators to overrule policies established by the CFPB in the name of protecting consumers. As a result, it would return more authority over consumer protection laws to the same regulatory bodies that steadfastly refused to use it.

C. Education

1. Gainful Employment (Kline Am. to H.R. 1, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act) - CLR voted NO

- *Roll Call Vote No. 92 (2/18/11).*
- *The Kline amendment was adopted (289-136.)*
- *A vote against it was counted as a + vote by The Leadership Conference.*

In order to be eligible to receive student financial aid grants and loans under Title IV, current federal law requires all post-secondary career education programs, to “prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation.” Kline Amendment proposed prohibiting the Sec. of Ed. from issuing or enforcing regulations regarding the “gainful employment” requirements in the Higher Education Act (HEA).

2. High-Quality Charter School Definition (King Amendment to H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act) – CLR voted NO

- *Roll Call Vote No. 703 (9/13/11).*
- *The King amendment failed (43-374).*
- *A vote against it was counted as a + vote by The Leadership Conference.*

Rep. King, R. Iowa, offered an amendment (H. Amdt. 782) to revise the definition of “high-quality charter school” under the program by eliminating the requirement to show “success in increasing student academic achievement for subgroups of students.” Thus, under this amendment charter schools may be designated as “high-quality” despite failing to address achievement gaps based on race, poverty, disability, or limited English proficiency.

D. Defense

1. National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (H.R. 1540) – CLR voted YES

- *Roll Call Vote No. 932 (12/14/11).*
- *The House passed the bill (283-136).*
- *The Leadership Conference was against it due to detainee language in Sections 1021 and 1022.*

CLR position: “Despite the ill-advised detainee provision as well as some other minor provisions in the bill that call for concern, on balance, I support the NDAA for FY 2012 because it authorizes the needed investments to keep our nation safe and enhances our defense infrastructure, along with taking care of our military personnel and authorizing continued funding for the C-17 air transport vehicle.”

2. Patriot Act Extension (S. 990) - CLR voted NO

- *The House passed the bill (250 - 153) 5/26/11*

3. Extension of Various Patriot Act Provisions – (H.R. 514) - CLR voted NO

- *The House passed the bill (279 - 143) 2/17/11*

4. Extension of Various Patriot Act Provisions – (H.R. 514) - CLR voted NO

- *The House passed the bill (275 - 144) 2/14/11*

5. Extension of Various Patriot Act Provisions – (H.R. 514) - CLR voted NO

- *The House defeated the bill (277 - 148) 2/8/11*

E. Employment

1. Legal Services Corporation (Duncan Amendment to H.R. 1, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act) - CLR voted NO

- *Roll Call Vote No. 54 (2/16/11).*
- *The Duncan amendment failed (171-259).*
- *A vote against it was counted as a + vote by The Leadership Conference.*

Amendment (H. Amdt. 30) would eliminate the Legal Services Corporation's (LSC) basic field funding, virtually eliminating LSC and its ability to help low-income individuals. Recipients of LSC funding help clients secure basic needs, such as SS pensions and health care, and receive aid with consumer, housing, family law, and employment issues. In addition, LSC has expanded its capacity to meet the legal needs of veterans, active duty service members, and their families.

F. Health Care

1. Repeal of the Affordable Care Act (H.R. 2) - CLR voted NO

- *Roll Call Vote No. 14 (1/19/11).*
- *The House passed the bill (245-189).*
- *A vote against it was counted as a + vote by The Leadership Conference.*

The bill would completely rescind the ACA which addresses huge health care access and quality disparities and takes a momentous step toward ensuring that all Americans can benefit from affordable high-quality health care. Low-income families, people of color, women, seniors, and people with disabilities would be adversely affected.

2. FY 2011 Planned Parenthood Funding (Kline Amendment to H.R. 1, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act) - CLR voted NO

- *Roll Call Vote No. 93 (02/18/11).*
- *The Pence amendment was adopted (240-185).*
- *A vote against it was counted as a + vote by The Leadership Conference.*

Amendment (H. Amdt. 95) would prohibit any funds in the bill from being made available to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America Inc. (PPFA).

3. Reduction in WIC Funding (Broun Amendment to H.R. 2112, the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act) – CLR voted NO

- *Roll Call Vote No. 430 (6/15/11).*
- *The Broun amendment failed (64-360).*
- *A vote against it was counted as a + vote by The Leadership Conference.*

Amendment (H. Amdt. 438) to the Agricultural Appropriations bill for FY 2012 would reduce funding to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) by \$604 million.

G. Immigration

1. Restriction on Funds to Enable State/Local Enforcement of Immigration Laws (Polis Amendment to FY 2012 Homeland Security Appropriations)

– CLR voted NO

- *The Polis amendment failed (107-313).*
- *2011 Roll Call Vote No. 407(6/2/2011).*
- *A vote for it was counted as a + vote by The Leadership Conference.*

Amendment offered to prohibit funds from being used to implement Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, a provision that permits the federal government to enter into agreements with state and local law enforcement agencies, permitting officers to perform immigration law enforcement functions.

Why CLR voted NO

- This bill proposes to cut firefighter assistance grants by more than fifty percent.
- In addition, this bill takes away direct funding for nine key state and local security grants (including State Homeland Security Grants, Urban Area Security Initiative, Transit Security Grants, and Port Security Grants).
- This bill also significantly cuts Homeland Security Research and Development projects by 42 percent—from \$688 million in FY 2011 to \$398 million in FY 2012.
- Preserves a cap on the total number of TSA screeners at 46,000 -- which will prevent the additional hiring of personnel needed to staff new security technology.
- Transit agencies would not have funding to hire additional law enforcement officers, acquire bomb sniffing dogs, or install explosive screening devices at a time when open source media reports indicate that Al Qaeda may be attempting a major attack on the U.S. rail system.
- States and localities would receive greatly reduced funding (or be denied funding entirely) to harden tunnels and bridges or install surveillance systems at high-risk areas.
- Ports would not have funds for vessels to protect Harbor waterways from a terrorist threat or for maritime training of law enforcement personnel at the ports.

CLR Actions:

- Offered amendment to redirect \$100,000,000 for the disaster relief fund (passed by voice vote)
- Offered amendment for \$10,000,000 for Buffer Zone Protection Plan Grants, \$50,000,000 shall be for Port Security Grants, \$100,000,000 shall be for public Transportation Security Assistance and Railroad Security Assistance, \$50,000,000 shall be for interoperable emergency communications, \$42,337,000 shall be for the Metropolitan Medical Response System. (Point of Order raised and sustained on the amendment)
- Offered amendment to direct \$50 million to the Interoperable Emergency Grants Program (Point of Order raised and sustained on the amendment)

H. LGBT Rights

1. Restriction on Defense Funds to Contravene the Defense of Marriage Act CLR voted NO

- *Roll Call Vote No. 516 (7/7/2011).*
- *The Foxx amendment was adopted (248-175).*
- *A vote against it was counted as a + vote by The Leadership Conference.*

Amendment offered to prohibit the department from using funds in a manner that contravenes the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which prohibits federal recognition of lawful same-sex marriages.

I. Voter's Rights

1. EAC Termination - CLR voted NO

- *Roll Call Vote No. 466 (6/22/11).*
- *The Harper motion failed (235-187).*
- *A vote against it was counted as a + vote by The Leadership Conference.*

H.R. 672, the Election Support Consolidation and Efficiency Act, was a bill that would terminate the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and transfer certain commission functions to the Federal Election Commission (FEC), and remaining operations regarding commission contracts and agreements to the Office of Management and Budget. The bill is opposed because the integrity of Americans' fundamental right to vote should out-weighs any monetary savings.

J. Worker's Rights

1. Anti-Union Amendment to Defund the National Labor Relations Board (Price Amendment to H.R. 1, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act) - CLR voted NO

- *Roll Call Vote No. 75 (2/17/11).*
- *The Price amendment failed (176-250).*
- *A vote against it was counted as a + vote by The Leadership Conference.*

As part of an ongoing assault on workers' rights and a continued attempt to weaken the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), Rep. Tom Price, R. Ga., offered an amendment (H. Amdt. 64) to H.R. 1—the continuing resolution to fund the federal government and its agencies—which would defund the NLRB for the remainder of 2011. The NLRB is an independent agency charged with conducting elections for labor union representation and investigating and remedying unfair labor practices.

2. Fair Elections (LaTourette Amendment to H.R. 658, the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act) – CLR voted YES

- *Roll Call Vote No. 217 (4/1/11).*
- *The LaTourette amendment failed (206-220).*
- *A vote for it was counted as a + vote by The Leadership Conference.*

In 2010, the National Mediation Board (NMB) issued a new rule for union representation elections providing that a simple majority of votes cast would determine the outcome of the elections. Prior to the 2010 change, non-voting workers were counted as “no” votes. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill would have returned election rules to the previous system, repealing the NMB decision. The LaTourette amendment provided that representation would be determined by a majority of the votes actually cast and the unfair election language would be removed from the bill, thus preserving the fair NMB rule.

3. Pigford II Settlement Payments (King Am. to H.R. 2112, the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act) – CLR voted NO

- *Roll Call Vote No. 444 (6/16/11).*
- *The King amendment failed (155-262).*
- *A vote against it was counted as a + vote by The Leadership Conference.*

In February 2010, the U.S.D.A. and the U.S.D.O.J announced a \$1.25 billion settlement agreement with African-American farmers to settle litigation in *In re Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation* (commonly referred to as *Pigford II*). In November 2010 Congress passed the Claims Resolution Act (H.R. 4783), which funded the settlement and included strong protections against waste, fraud, and abuse to ensure integrity of the claims process. President Obama signed the Act in December 2010. King’s Amendment (H. Amdt. 461) to H.R. 2112 would have barred the use of any funds appropriated under the Act from being used to settle claims associated with the *Pigford II* program.

4. Protecting Jobs from Government Interference Act – Bill Limiting the National Labor Relations Board (H.R. 2587) – CLR voted NO

- *Roll Call Vote No. 711(9/15/11).*
- *The House passed the bill (238-186).*
- *A vote against it was counted as a + vote by The Leadership Conference.*

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has a mandate to enforce the The National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), ensuring that employees of private companies have the right to organize a union. The bill would severely diminish the NLRB’s power to address employers that illegally retaliate against unionization efforts or protests over working conditions by moving their operations elsewhere.

**CONGRESSWOMAN LAURA RICHARDSON OF CALIFORNIA
CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES GROUPS**

RELEVANT CAUCUSES

Prepared by D.C. Staff: January 2012

- 1. CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS**
- 2. CONGRESSIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN CAUCUS**
- 3. CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS**
- 4. CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS**
- 5. CONGRESSIONAL PRO-CHOICE CAUCUS**
- 6. CONGRESSIONAL URBAN CAUCUS**
- 7. CONGRESSIONAL LGBT CAUCUS**
- 8. CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING CAUCUS**
- 9. CONGRESSIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS**

CONGRESSWOMAN LAURA RICHARDSON OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES ISSUES GROUP RATINGS

Prepared by D.C. Staff: January 2012

- **2009-2010** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the American Civil Liberties Union **94** percent in 2009-2010.
- **2009-2010** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the Arab American Institute **30** percent in 2009-2010.
- **2009-2010** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the Human Rights Campaign **90** percent in 2009-2010.
- **2009-2010** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights **100** percent in 2009-2010.
- **2009-2010** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People **95** percent in 2009-2010.
- **2009** On the votes used to calculate its ratings, the American Library Association attaches more value to those votes it considers more important. For 2009, the American Library Association gave Representative Richardson a rating of **13** percent.
- **2009** In 2009 the Irregular Times/Progressive Patriots - Net Congressional Score - May 14, 2010 gave Representative Richardson a rating of **40**.
- **2009** Based on a point system, with points assigned for actions in support of or in opposition to the Irregular Times/Progressive Patriots - Progressive Action Score - May 14, 2010's position, Representative Richardson received a rating of **45** percent.
- **2009** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People **92** percent in 2009.
- **2007-2008** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the American Civil Liberties Union **75** percent in 2007-2008.
- **2007-2008** Based on a point system, with points assigned for actions in support of or in opposition to Arab American Institute's position, Representative Richardson received a rating of **50**.
- **2007-2008** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the Human Rights Campaign **100** percent in 2007-2008.

- **2007-2008** Based on a point system, with points assigned for actions in support of or in opposition to Leadership Conference on Civil Rights's position, Representative Richardson received a rating of **48**.
- **2007** Based on a point system, with points assigned for actions in support of or in opposition to Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality's position, Representative Richardson received a rating of **100**.
- **2007** Based on a point system, with points assigned for actions in support of or in opposition to Equality California's position, Representative Richardson received a rating of **100**.
- **2007** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the League of Women Voters **100** percent in 2007.