

2013 Senate Votes

Creation and implementation of health insurance exchange

Due to the previous passage by Congress of the Affordable Care Act (ACA, aka Obamacare), all states were required to either create their own health insurance exchange or use an exchange created by the federal government. MCCL believes that Minnesotans are better served by creating their own exchange, and thus having some control over it, rather than having an exchange imposed on us by the federal government.

Senate Vote 1

Abortion Insurance Coverage – MNsure

Floor: Procedural, refusal to adopt conference committee report

When the bill was before the House of Representatives, the House voted to add a provision that would exclude coverage of abortion services from all policies sold through the health insurance exchange, now known as MNsure. This provision was removed from the bill in conference committee. MCCL urged the Legislature to reject the conference committee report, and restore the protective language. This motion failed in the Senate 31-34 (pro-life loss).

Senate Vote 2

Judicial Retention Elections

Committee: Judiciary

Sen. Ann Rest, DFL-New Hope, authored a bill (S.F. 1082) to implement judicial retention elections. MCCL has long opposed judicial retention elections for a number of reasons, including our belief that citizens are fully capable of making an informed vote for judicial candidates and that citizens ought to have the right to vote for specific candidates, not just against them. Because of our opposition, MCCL urged legislators to oppose S.F. 1082. The bill passed the committee 5-3 (pro-life loss).

Although the bill did not receive any additional hearings, it may continue moving through the process in 2014.

Senate Vote 3

Licensing and inspection of abortion facilities

Floor: Amendment

Sen. Michelle Fischbach, R-Paynesville, chief authored S.F. 752, a bill to require licensure of facilities that perform 10 or more abortions per month. As was also true in the House, the bill was never heard in committee. In order to continue education efforts on the legislation, Sen. Fischbach offered the language of the bill as an amendment to the Health and Human Services omnibus bill in the Senate. The amendment failed 30-35 (pro-life loss).

S.F. 661 / H.F. 863

S.F. 661, authored by Sen. Rest (and later by Sen. Katie Sieben, DFL-Newport), was a campaign finance omnibus bill that contained many provisions. Included in this complicated bill were three provisions of concern to MCCL:

1) “Express advocacy” definition change: The bill sought to expand the definition of express advocacy. Currently, express advocacy has a clear legal definition in Minnesota. The change would have created a subjective definition, allowing the Campaign Finance and Campaign Disclosure Board to decide which expenditures fit within the definition.

2) Underlying source disclosure: This provision would have changed the way that reporting entities would allocate donations subject to public disclosure. Because the new allocation method would be based on a ratio of expenditures to donations (numbers which change on a daily basis), it would make reporting extremely complex and difficult to do accurately.

3) Electioneering communications: This provision declares many non-election communications as “electioneering communications” merely because they are disseminated within a specified timeframe prior to an election. It additionally places cumbersome and chilling reporting requirements on these communications. This is the provision that MCCL most strongly objected to.

While the bill was moving through the committee process, MCCL was meeting with representatives of the campaign finance board and the bill’s House author to attempt to reach an agreement. Unfortunately, our efforts were not able to attain the sought-after compromise.

Senate Vote 4
Free Speech / Electioneering
Communications

Committee: Judiciary

MCCL testified against S.F. 661, urging members of the Judiciary Committee to oppose the legislation. S.F. 661 passed 5-3 (pro-life loss).

Senate Vote 5
Free Speech / Electioneering
Communications

Committee: State Departments and Veterans Affairs

Sen. Roger Chamberlain, R-Lino Lakes, offered an amendment to remove the problematic provisions from S.F. 661. MCCL supported the Chamberlain amendment, but it was defeated 5-5 (pro-life loss).

Senate Vote 6
Free Speech / Electioneering
Communications

Committee: State Departments and Veterans Affairs

After the defeat of the Chamberlain amendment, Sen. Chamberlain moved to amend the motion before the committee. Sen. Rest had moved to recommend the bill for passage, while Sen. Chamberlain moved to forward the bill without recommendation. The Chamberlain motion failed on a voice vote.

Sen. Rest then renewed her motion for recommendation that the bill pass. A roll call was requested. MCCL opposed the Rest motion, which was defeated 5-5 (pro-life win).

Following the defeat of the Rest motion, Sen. Rest moved to forward the bill without recommendation, which passed.

Senate Vote 7
Free Speech / Electioneering
Communications

Floor: Passage

The full Finance committee passed S.F. 661 on a voice vote, which brought the bill to the Senate floor. MCCL opposed S.F. 661, but it passed 36-28 (pro-life loss).

All of the provisions of concern to MCCL were removed in conference committee, and MCCL had no position on the final bill as signed into law.

Senator	Dist #	% #1	% #2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Anderson, Bruce	29	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	x	x	x
Bakk, Thomas (Tom)	3	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Benson, Michelle	31	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Bonoff, Terri	44	33%	33%	x	-	o	-	-	-	o
Brown, Dave	15	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Carlson, Jim	51	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Chamberlain, Roger	38	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	x	x	x
Champion, Bobby Joe	59	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	o	o	o
Clausen, Greg	57	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Cohen, Dick	64	0%	0%	o	o	o	o	e	e	o
Dahle, Kevin	20	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Dahms, Gary	16	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	x	x	x
Dibble, Scott	61	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	n
Dziedzic, Kari	60	0%	0%	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
Eaton, Chris	40	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Eken, Kent	4	33%	33%	o	-	x	-	-	-	o
Fischbach, Michelle	13	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Franzen, Melisa	49	33%	33%	x	-	o	-	-	-	o
Gazelka, Paul	9	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	x	x	x
Goodwin, Barb	41	0%	0%	e	o	o	o	-	-	o
Hall, Dan	56	100%	100%	x	x	x	x	-	-	x

Senator	Dist #	% #1	% #2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hann, David	48	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Hawj, Foug	67	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Hayden, Jeff	62	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Hoffman, John	36	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Housley, Karin	39	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Ingebrigtsen, Bill	8	67%	100%	x	-	e	-	-	-	x
Jensen, Vicki	24	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Johnson, Alice	37	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Kent, Susan	53	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Kiffmeyer, Mary	30	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Koenen, Lyle	17	33%	100%	x	-	e	-	-	-	e
Latz, Ron	46	0%	0%	o	o	o	o	-	-	o
Limmer, Warren	34	100%	100%	x	x	x	x	-	-	x
Lourey, Tony	11	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Marty, John	66	33%	33%	o	-	o	-	-	-	x
Metzen, James	52	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	o	o	o
Miller, Jeremy	28	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Nelson, Carla	26	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Newman, Scott	18	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Nienow, Sean	32	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Ortman, Julianne	47	100%	100%	x	x	x	x	-	-	x
Osmek, David	33	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Pappas, Sandy	65	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Pederson, John	14	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Petersen, Branden	35	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Pratt, Eric	55	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Reinert, Roger	7	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Rest, Ann	45	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	o	o	o
Rosen, Julie	23	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Ruud, Carrie	10	67%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	e
Saxhaug, Tom	5	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	o	o	o
Scalze, Bev	42	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Schmit, Matt	21	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Senjem, David	25	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Sheran, Kathy	19	0%	0%	o	o	o	o	-	-	o
Sieben, Katie	54	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Skoe, Rod	2	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Sparks, Dan	27	33%	50%	e	-	x	-	-	-	o
Stumpf, LeRoy	1	60%	60%	o	-	x	-	x	x	o
Thompson, Dave	58	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Tomassoni, David	6	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Torres Ray, Patricia	63	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Weber, Bill	22	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Westrom, Torrey	12	100%	100%	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Wiger, Chuck	43	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o
Wiklund, Melissa	50	0%	0%	o	-	o	-	-	-	o

