

Why do these votes matter?

1. Moscow Treaty

This treaty would require both the United States and Russia to reduce their respective nuclear stockpiles to between 1,700 and 2,200 warheads by 2012. This treaty is a continuation of the decades-old U.S. program for "general and complete disarmament" originally proposed in the 1961 State Department document Freedom From War. Under that plan, the goal is to disarm all countries, including the U.S., to "a point where no state would have the military power to challenge the progressively strengthened U.N. Peace Force."

The Moscow Treaty is just one more step in a UN disarmament process that would culminate in the complete loss of our national sovereignty.

2. Roe v. Wade Support

This proposed amendment to the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban (S. 3) states: "It is the sense of the Senate that (1) the decision of the Supreme Court in Roe v. Wade (410 U.S. 113 (1973)) was appropriate and secures an important constitutional right; and (2) such a decision should not be overturned."

Roe v. Wade should be overturned on the basis that all forms of abortion constitute the murder of unborn children, and that the Supreme Court was overstepping its proper authority by "legalizing" abortion in the first place.

3. Data Mining

This amendment to S. 1753 (National Consumer Credit Reporting System Improvement Act of 2003) would require each federal agency or department engaged in data mining to submit a public report to Congress. Sen. Russell Feingold (D-Wis.) introduced this amendment because of his concerns about Total Information Awareness-type programs being developed at various federal agencies. His amendment would require the reports to Congress to assess "the likely impact of the implementation of the data-mining technology on privacy and civil liberties."

Federal data mining activity is clearly a threat to the Fourth Amendment, which guarantees "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures."

4. Prescription Drug Benefit

The final version (conference report) of H.R. 1 would create a prescription drug benefit for Medicare recipients. Beginning in 2006, prescription coverage would be available to seniors through private insurers for a monthly premium estimated at \$35. There would be a \$250 annual deductible, then 75 percent of drug costs up to \$2,250 would be reimbursed. Drug costs greater than \$2,250 would not be covered until out-of-pocket expenses exceeded \$3,600, after which 95 percent of drug costs would be reimbursed. Low-income recipients would receive more subsidies than other seniors by paying lower premiums, having smaller deductibles, and making lower co-payments for each prescription. The total cost of the new prescription drug benefit would be limited to the \$400 billion that Congress had budgeted earlier this year for the first 10 years of this new entitlement program.

This landmark legislation establishes a major new, unconstitutional entitlement program.

5. Assault Weapons Ban

This amendment to S. 1805 (Firearms Manufacturers Protection) would provide for a 10-year reauthorization of the so-called assault weapons ban. If Congress doesn't vote to reauthorize the ban, it will expire in September 2004.

This so-called assault weapons ban is an unconstitutional infringement on the Second Amendment.

6. Fiscal 2005 Budget Resolution

This resolution (Senate Concurrent Resolution 95) would establish broad spending and revenue targets over the next five years. It calls for \$851 billion in "discretionary" spending (including \$30 billion for supplemental funding of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan) and another \$1.5 trillion in "mandatory" spending for fiscal 2005. Based on these targets, the "mandatory" spending portion of the budget would increase by 5 percent over last year, and the total budget—a whopping \$2.4 trillion—would increase by 3 percent.

The 2005 budget perpetuates the fiscally irresponsible, largely unconstitutional federal spending with its attendant record-breaking deficits of recent years.