



Texans For Public Justice

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Partisan Skew Revealed In Key Tobacco Votes

☺ **38 House Members Vote for Human Health At Every Opportunity**

☹ **17 Members Tarred By Voting A Straight Tobacco-Industry Ticket**

● **GOP Backs Tobacco Lobby; Democrats Support Kids**

Austin—Seventeen members of the Texas House turned their backs on consumer and health interests by consistently voting with the powerful tobacco lobby on four key votes in the last days of the 75th Legislative session, according to “Smoke in the Mirror: How Texas House Members Voted on Tobacco-Control Legislation,” a new 6-page Texans for Public Justice report.

The tarred members proved their true colors by voting for four key amendments that were designed to undermine two major tobacco-control bills: the Childrens’ Access to Tobacco Bill (SB 55); and the Cigarette Ingredients Disclosure Bill (HB 119). Despite these sabotage attempts, the bills prevailed thanks to 38 House members, who consistently voted for consumer health.

“The 38 House members who stood up to the powerful tobacco lobby deserve the praise of every Texan who cares about the health of our children,” said Craig McDonald, director of Texans for Public Justice.

“Voters also should take note of those members who voted a straight tobacco-lobby ticket and consider relegating them to the ash tray of history,” McDonald said. “They would sacrifice the health of our children for the tobacco barons. But Texans draw the line when it comes to selling deadly drugs to our kids.”

The only prevailing pro-tobacco amendment, offered by **Rep. Warren Chisum** (R-Pampa), was an HB 119 loophole that prevents tobacco companies from having to disclose what toxins and other ingredients they roll into their products. Chisum also offered three failed amendments to sabotage the Childrens’ Access Bill. **Rep. John Shields** (R-S.A.) rode shotgun as the co-sponsor

of one such amendment, which would have stripped the bill of enforcement funds.

“Smoke in the Mirror” reveals that the House tobacco votes broke along strikingly partisan lines:

- Of the 38 legislators who backed the pro-health position on all four amendments, only one is a Republican: **Ron Clark of Sherman** ; and
- Of the 17 legislators who supported all four health sabotage amendments, only one is a Democrat: **Tom Uher of Bay City** .

The report calculates a “health rating” for each House member by dividing the number of pro-health votes a member cast by four—the total number of tobacco-related votes analyzed. **The average pro-health rating for House Democrats was 77%, while the health rating for House Republicans was 31%.**

38 Legislators Voted For Health All 4 Times

Clyde Alexander	Jim Dunnam	Dan Kubiak	Richard Raymond
Leo Alvarado	Al Edwards	Glenn Lewis	Arthur Reyna
Kevin Bailey	Harryette Ehrhardt	Glen Maxey	Alec Rhodes
Hugo Berlanga	Domingo Garcia	Jim McReynolds	Gerald Torres
Fred Bosse	Bob Glaze	Paul Moreno	L.Van de Putte
Lon Burnam	Patrcia Gray	Elliott Naishtat	Miguel Wise
Ron Clark	Sherri Greenberg	Dora Olivo	Steven Wolens
Debra Danburg	John Hirschi	Joe Pickett	Zeb Zbranek
Diana Davila	Terri Hodge	Albert Price	
Yvonne Davis	Jesse Jones	Irma Rangel	

17 Voted A Straight Tobacco-Industry Ticket

Warren Chisum	Suzanna Hupp	John Shields	Gary Walker
Frank Corte	Mike Jackson	Bill Siebert	Beverly Wooley
Mary Denny	Edmund Kuempel	David Swinford	
Steve Holzheuser	Anna Mowery	Robert Talton	
Jim Horn	Elvira Reyna	Tom Uher	

Copies of the report detailing the votes of each House Member are available at (512) 472-9770.

Texans for Public Justice is a non-partisan, non-profit, consumer-oriented policy and research organization that focuses on corporate responsibility.

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