



Figure 25.1
An integrative model of legislative voting decisions.

If there is some conflict among the congressman's relevant actors, he then proceeds to consider his goals, which I conceive for the purposes of this paper as being the three discussed above—constituency, intra-Washington influence, and public policy. But a goal is not brought to bear on the decision if it seems unimportant to him on this issue. It must pass what I have labelled a critical threshold of importance in order to be evoked and relevant to the decision. For example, a congressman's constituency may have a vague and largely unarticulated opposition

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