

Week ending 03/06/2017 - PA-08 MoCTrack Report

MoC Twitter Action

Senator Bob Casey hot topics:

- 1) possible ties between Trump's election team and Russia - he supports the appointment of a special counsel to investigate this (10 tweets)
- 2) Trump's joint address - he rebutted several points that Trump discussed and released a statement after the fact about his positions on the topics addressed in the speech (10 tweets)
- 3) The Affordable and Safe prescription Drug importation Act, which he supports (7 tweets)

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick hot topics:

- 1) Opioid addiction, and how to address it (3 tweets)
- 2) Trump's joint address - he arranged to have a several other reps sit mingled together of both parties, and he wore his "No Labels" pin (3 tweets)
- 3) the Problem Solvers Caucus (2 tweets)

Toomey hot topics:

As usual, he rarely tweets. Most of it was local (groups he met with) or informational (office moves). He did tweet twice about Trump's Joint Address, saying "I thought [@POTUS](#) gave a hopeful, optimistic, forward-looking message. [#JointAddress](#)"

Legislation of Interest

S. 448 - Medicare Mental Health Access Act

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/s448/text>

This was introduced by Sherrod Brown (D-OH) on 02/27/17. Having psychologists treated under SSA laws the same as doctors brings the nation on step closer to creating parity between mental and physical health. The text of this was not available for review yet, so I am working off of the title and the introducing party at this point. It is in the Senate Committee on Finance, of which Senator Toomey is a member.

S. 443 - Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/s443/text>

This was introduced by our own Senator Casey of 02/27/17 and will be assigned to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. This is a case of government working as it should, and trying to fix an issue with earlier legislation. After this law was rolled out, there were some cases based on it that made their way through the court system. One court finding was made that showed a weakness in the act, so now (under the purpose section of the act - Sec. 2 (B)(1)) they want "to clarify congressional intent..."

H.R. 1230 - To repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr1230/text>

This was introduced by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) and it is assigned to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, of which Brian Fitzpatrick is a member. This is an interesting one. It seems to be an attempt by congress to reassert its place in the framework of war powers (taking back power from the executive).

H.R. 1248 - Make Our Government Safe Act

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr1248/text>

The full title of this bill is "To amend the National Security Act of 1947 to prohibit individuals who threaten to destroy the Government from participating in or attending meetings of the National Security Council, and for other purposes". This was introduced by Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY) on 02/28/17 and is in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, of which Brian Fitzpatrick is a member. I can only imagine this is in reference to Steve Bannon and his flavor of philosophy. This bill isn't going anywhere, but it certainly is a call out, and if we want to continue our protest of Trump's more dangerous advisors, this bill may make for a good calling point.

Lastly, there were a flurry of bills introduced in the House last week (from Republicans) seeking to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002. They are somewhat long and convoluted, so I haven't discerned the real purpose behind the language, but it looks like something is afoot. I'll update you on this once I know more.