

Week ending 03/26/2017 - PA-08 MoCTrack Report

MoC Twitter Action

Senator Bob Casey continues the trend of being active and outspoken on Twitter. His hot topics are:

- 1) The AHCA - he continued his opposition to the bill, with a focus on pointing out all who would be hurt by the Medicaid cuts, in particular. (42 tweets)
- 2) the Russian interference scandal - he has stressed the need for special counsel to handle this critical issue independently (5 tweets)
- 3) The SCOTUS nomination of Neil Gorsuch - Casey released a statement that he will not support the nomination as he thinks Gorsuch's positions will hurt Pennsylvanians (5 tweets)

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick cut back on his twitter presence, barely sending out one message per day. He only tweeted about two topics more than once:

- 1) He had a Homeland Security related bill pass the House on a voice vote, unanimously. This is his first bill to pass the House (3 tweets)
- 2) The AHCA/Healthcare in general - he released a statement about his decision to not support the AHCA, and further clarified it that it is all legislators' responsibility to fix healthcare (2 tweets)

Senator Pat Toomey tweeted five times across the whole week. Three were local issues (thanks to people who visited him, noting that it was National Cheesesteak Day). One was a RT of a message about the Chamber of Commerce granting him an award. The last tweet was about the newly approved/appointed Ambassador to Israel, saying that the share "a passion for a strong Israel".

Legislation of Interest

H.J. Res. 69 - Providing for congressional disapproval under Chapter 8 of Title V, United States Code, of the final rule of the Department of the Interior relating to "Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska"

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hjres69>

This is a resolution that got a lot of press in January and February - I know that Samantha Bee did a big segment on her show about this. It basically strips a lot of protections from animal in the Alaskan Wildlife refuges. I am sorry to report that this bill just passed the Senate 52-47, and now awaits the signature of the President to be enacted. Here's how our MoCs voted:

Fitzpatrick: NO

Casey: NO

Toomey: YES

H.R. 1608 - ICE and CBP Body Camera and Accountability Act

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr1608>

This bill was introduced by Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY) and is pending in the Committee on Homeland Security, where Rep. Fitzpatrick is a member. The bill text is not yet available, so I only am keeping an eye on this, but in light of the legislator's espoused positions, this seems to be an attempt to reign in some of the potential abuses that Immigration and Border Enforcement might be capable of under the new Administration. There have been reports along these lines in the past weeks, that ICE and the CPB have been newly emboldened, and making them wear body cameras would be a way to cut down on potential abuses.

S. 702 - A Bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act of 1947 to deter labor slowdowns at ports of the US

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/s702>

This bill was introduced by Sen. James Risch (r-ID) and is pending in the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions where Sen. Casey is a member. This is another one that is so new that the text is not available yet, but it seems from the title like it is going to be another part of the coordinated attack on the rights of the Labor movement and Unions in the US. I will update you all once I have confirmation.

There was a raft of legislation relating to making adjustments to the Small Business Act, and another set related to Homeland Security. That bunch included Rep. Fitzpatrick's first bill to pass the House. None of them

included text that was truly related to opposing the Trumpist agenda, so I am not tracking them closely. It looks like the AHCA debacle sucked up most of the legislative energy in DC this week.