

Week ending 04/02/2017 - PA-08 MoCTrack Report

Tracking Congress in the Age of Trump - 04/02/17

This is a new feature. The FiveThirtyEight website (that's Nate Silver's polling/data nerd political site) has developed a metric where they assess each MoC's voting record, and how closely it aligns with the Trump agenda. They call it "Tracking Congress in the Age of Trump" and I think it is a useful one-stop scorecard for assessing our MoCs. The higher the number, the more closely they are doing exactly what Trump wants. This week you will get raw data, but starting next week, I'll also show if they are going up (towards Trump) or down (towards us) as well.

Senator Bob Casey - **27.3%**

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick - **80%**

Senator Pat Toomey - **100%**

MoC Twitter Action

Senator Bob Casey hot topics:

- 1) the Environment - Casey had a lot to say about the environment this week, much in response to President Trump's executive orders dismantling the Obama era regulations that would have enabled us to meet our agreements under the Paris Climate Agreement. (11 tweets)
 - 2) Town Halls - Casey had an in-person event scheduled in the Scranton area this weekend, and has another one planned for Pittsburgh next week. He was promoting them, and soliciting questions online from people unable to attend. (8 tweets)
 - 3) the AHCA - with some reports that the Republicans are trying to revive health care repeal in some form, Casey noted that he will continue to oppose any repeal of Obamacare. He also retweeted and responded to some of President Trump's fallacious tweets about the ACA marketplaces. (7 tweets)
- As an aside, if you are not following Senator Casey on Twitter, you should. He can be scathing and hilarious. My favorite tweet from this week is when he retweeted Donald Trump's tweet attacking the Freedom Caucus, but appended an earlier Trump quote "This administration is running like a fine-tuned machine." Now *that* is some serious shade-throwing. Bravo!

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick hot topics:

This week our Representative stuck mostly to local interest. He only touched upon three political issues:

- 1) Term Limits - he sent out a call for term limits and asked his followers to like or share if they agreed. Of his 1,900-ish followers, 51 people liked this tweet, and 26 retweeted it. (1 tweet)
- 2) Opioid addiction - he applauded the President's executive order setting up a Commission to combat opioid addiction. (1 tweet)
- 3) the Gorsuch SCOTUS nomination - he retweeted a link to a letter he sent to Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer, urging him to act on the SCOTUS vacancy.

Senator Pat Toomey hot topics:

He is back to a teensy Twitter presence.

- 1) Vietnam Veterans Recognition Act - he thanked President Trump for signing this into law. (2 tweets)
- 2) Gorsuch SCOTUS nomination - he linked to a speech he gave in support of Judge Gorsuch. (1 tweet)
- 3) Opioid addiction - like Fitzpatrick, he praised the President's executive order on the topic (1 tweet)

Votes of Interest

Since we are starting to see some voting on big ticket issues, I am going to break out the actual votes from the upcoming 'Legislation of Interest.'

The House passed two bills that will seriously affect the EPA and government bureaucrats' ability to work with other members of the scientific community on climate change and other environmental issues. **HR 1430** <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr1430> restricts the data that the EPA can use in health studies, and as for **HR 1431** <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr1431>, the League of Conservation Voters put it best when they said the bill "...would undermine the ability of the Science Advisory Board to provide independent, objective, and credible scientific advice to the EPA. This bill would facilitate greater industry influence of the Scientific Advisory Board by weakening conflict-of-interest protections while unnecessarily and arbitrarily limiting the participation of subject experts. Additionally, new burdens imposed on the Board and provisions that allow industry to significantly prolong the Board's scientific

review process would delay key public health and environmental protections." These bills are now heading to the Senate. As he has in the past on votes for bills with an environmental impact, Representative Fitzpatrick voted NO on both bills.

This one was all over the news - SJ Res 34, the joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5 United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to "Protecting the Privacy of Customers of Broadband and Other Telecommunications Services." <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/sjres34> This is the one that allows internet service providers to sell consumer browser history to third parties without notifying their customers first. This has passed in both the House and the Senate. Here's how our MoCs voted:

Fitzpatrick: YES

Casey: NO

Toomey: YES

Legislation of Interest

HR 1711 - Making Access Records Available to Lead American Government Openness Act

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr1711>

This bill was introduced by Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL). There is a Senate companion bill (S. 721) that has the same goals as the House version. Under President Obama, all visitors to the President were publicly disclosed, and President Trump ended this government accountability function. This bill would ensure that information about anyone who visited the President at the White House (or Mar-a-lago, after which this bill is named) would be available to the public once again. Unfortunately, it is NOT pending in any committee where our MoCs are assigned. That doesn't mean we can't let our MoCs know we support the bill, but their ability to take action is limited until this gets to the floor.

HR 1751 - Counteracting Russian Hostilities Act of 2017, To impose sanctions in response to cyber intrusions by the Government of the Russian Federation and other aggressive activities of the Russian Federation

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr1751>

This bill was introduced by Rep. Alex Mooney (R-WV) and it is pending in the Committee on Foreign Affairs, where Brian Fitzpatrick is a member. This is mostly interesting because it is a Republican who has introduced this, despite the fact that the president of his own party is doing everything possible to downplay the meddling of the Russians. The bill text cites the statements made by the Intelligence Committee and Homeland Security who affirmed that the Russians did indeed interfere in the 2016 election. This bill seems to be designed to encourage a split between the GOP members in the Executive and the Legislative branches