

Week ending 04/09/2017 - PA-08 MoCTrack Report

Tracking Congress in the Age of Trump - 04/09/17

The lower the number, the more the legislator is in opposition to the Trump agenda.

Senator Bob Casey - **25.7%** (-1.6% from last week)

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick - **80%** (same as last week)

Senator Pat Toomey - **100%** (same as last week)

MoC Twitter Action

Senator Bob Casey hot topics:

- 1) Russian interference scandal - this tweetstorm was an explanation of the current discussion of “unmasking” and how that is being used to divert attention from the ongoing investigations into the the possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia (14 tweets)
- 2) Syria - the Senator tweeted in response to the initial chemical weapons attack of Syrian civilians and then the US bombing of a Syrian airfield. He related a nuanced stance that included approval of the airfield bombing, but the necessity for further humanitarian aid, and how the recent Executive order relating to refugees and travel complicates this issue (14 tweets)
- 3) the Neil Gorsuch SCOTUS vote - the Senator expressed why he was not going to vote for Judge Gorsuch (13 tweets)

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick hot topics:

Many of the Representative’s tweets this week were about local issues

- 1) Government reform - he retweeted a Courier Times Guest Opinion about needed reforms, and met with a another legislator about redistricting reform (2 tweets)
- 2) the Representative joined a bipartisan group of a dozen other first term representatives for a visit to (and discussion about) the Holocaust Memorial Museum (2 tweets)
- 3) the Representative visited and retweeted pictures from the Indonesian Embassy (2 tweets)

Senator Pat Toomey hot topics:

The Senator tripled his average tweet rate.

- 1) The Democratic filibuster of SCOTUS nominee of Judge Neil Gorsuch (10 tweets)
- 2) The Senator held a tele-town hall (3 tweet)
- 3) He tweeted a link to his statement on the US bombing of the Syrian airfield (1 tweet)

Votes of Interest

The Supreme Court nomination of Neil Gorsuch - there were several votes taken in relation to this nomination, and the so-called “nuclear option” which ended the 60 vote threshold to break a filibuster on Supreme Court nominations. Senator Casey supported the filibuster, voted against the ‘nuclear option’, and voted against Judge Gorsuch. Senator Toomey voted for the ‘nuclear option’ and voted for Judge Gorsuch. Judge Gorsuch was confirmed by a 54-45 vote.

H.Res. 92 - Condemning North Korea’s development of multiple intercontinental ballistic missiles

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hres92/text>

This resolution was introduced back in early February. With the recent news of additional tests, this moved out of committee and passed. Representative Fitzpatrick voted in favor of this resolution.

Legislation of Interest

H.Con. Res. 47 - Expressing the sense of Congress that until the conclusion of the FBI’s criminal and counterintelligence investigations into the nature of the Russian connection to the Trump campaign, the Trump Administration is acting under a “gray cloud” of the appearance of a conflict of interest, and, as such, should refrain from taking any actions or making any changes to United States policy that could be seen as benefitting President Putin or his inner circle

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hconres47/text>

This resolution was introduced this week by Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) and it is pending in the Committee on Foreign Affairs, where Brian Fitzpatrick is a member. This is a perfect opportunity for a call campaign to our representative in opposition to the Trump agenda. It strikes at the most vulnerable part of the Trump

administration, and promotion of the central issue of possible collusion refocuses attention to the parts of the issue that matter, and away from the “unmasking” fracas.

S. 854 - A bill to improve compliance with mine safety and health laws, empower miners to raise safety concerns, prevent future mine tragedies, and for other purposes

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/s854>

This bill was introduced this week by Pennsylvania’s own Senator Bob Casey, and it is pending in his Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. It seems nice timing that while the President is promoting the evisceration of current environmental regulation under the guise of helping miners, our own Senator is introducing a bill that will change regulations that would truly help them.

S. 803 - A bill to amend the Internal revenue Code of 1986 to deny tax deductions for corporate regulatory violations

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/s803>

This bill was introduced this week by Sen. John Reed (D-RI) and it is pending in the Finance Committee where both our Senators are members. There are many corporations that violate government regulations and pay imposed fines, because it is more profitable to do so than to change practices to meet the required regulations. Those same corporations take advantage of tax deductions offered through the current IRS code - in 2015 alone, 27 members of the S&P 500 paid no income taxes via the use of deductions. By making regulatory violators subject to a new form of penalty, the regulations would be strengthened immeasurably.