

## Week ending 05/21/2017 - PA-08 MoCTrack Report

### Tracking Congress in the Age of Trump - 05/21/17

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

Senator Bob Casey - **29.3%** (no change from last week)

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick - **75.9%** (+**0.8%** from last week)

Senator Pat Toomey - **97.5%** (no change from last week)

### MoC Twitter Action

Senator Bob Casey hot topics:

- 1) Trump/Russia scandal - The Senator deplored the release of classified information to the Russians, supported the appointment of a special prosecutor and made the point several times that no one is above the law. (20 tweets)
- 2) AHCA - he continues to point out the ways that the AHCA will harm Pennsylvanians, particularly the cuts that will be made to Medicaid. (9 tweets)
- 3) New York Times article - the NYT did a piece on him in which he was described as having a voice that rarely exceeded the “decibel level of a yoga instructor.” When a constituent tweeted that tidbit out, the Senator replied “Hey, sometimes I rise to the level of an impassioned librarian...” (2 tweets)

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick hot topics:

- 1) Law Enforcement - In honor of law enforcement week, he cited several statistics related to law enforcement, and gave his thanks. (5 tweets)
- 2) Water Safety - He linked to a speech he gave on the floor about the EPA setting limits of the amount of PFCs that are acceptable in water, and the problems that we still face in Bucks and Montgomery counties. (1 tweet)
- 3) Opioid Addiction - he noted that despite the “politicking” in DC lately, he won’t let this issue be swept under the rug. (1 tweet)

Senator Pat Toomey hot topics:

- 1) Russia/Trump scandal - The Senator released his statements on the appointment of a special counsel and Trump’s handling of classified materials. He also noted “Joe Lieberman would be a great choice to lead the FBI.” (3 tweets)
- 2) Law Enforcement - In honor of law enforcement week, he gave thanks to those who protect and serve, and reiterated the President’s comment about making sure our members of law enforcement have the equipment they need to do their jobs. (2 tweets)
- 3) Obamacare - He retweeted an image and statistics from Sen. McConnell about how much premiums have gone up in PA this year under Obamacare. (1 tweet)

### Legislation of Interest

It appears that it was a good decision to expand the committees that we preview - the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is seeing quite a few bills that can assist us in resisting the Trump agenda.

### **H.Res. 325 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should retain a protective pool of reporters for purposes of covering the official business of the President**

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hres325/text>

This resolution was introduced by Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) and it is pending in the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Rep. Fitzpatrick is not on that committee. This appears to be an attempt to set legislative expectations upon behavior that is custom for the executive - but not enshrined in law. The resolution specifically refers to the President’s cries of “fake news” and his tweet about eliminating press briefings.

**H.R. 2440 - To Require the President to report to the Treasury and make publicly available past business transactions with foreign countries exceeding \$10,000.**

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr2440>

This resolution was introduced by Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) and it is pending in the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Rep. Fitzpatrick is not on that committee. Since attempts to legislatively address the release of the President's tax returns has borne no fruit, this seems to take on the issue from another angle that might be more palatable to GOP representatives. There are rules about information that a president must disclose, and this is an attempt to broaden those rules.

**H.R. 2494 - To amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require the President to place any financial conflicts of interest into a blind trust**

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr2494>

This resolution was introduced by Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY) and it is pending in the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Rep. Fitzpatrick is not on that committee. The text of this bill is not yet available, but the title alone is of interest. As we have all learned, the guidance for Presidents entering office in relation to avoiding conflicts of interest is only that - guidance, not law. This bill appears to address that deficiency.

**H.R. 2431 - To Amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve immigration law enforcement within the interior of the United States**

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr2431/text>

This resolution was introduced by Rep. Raul Labrador (R-ID) and it is pending in the House Homeland Security Committee, where Rep. Fitzpatrick is a member. This is a lengthy piece of legislation. If I have read it correctly, it deputizes all local law enforcement to uphold Immigration laws. It broadens the rules under which people may be treated as "criminal aliens" - there are 24 subsections relating to "the removal of criminal aliens." This bill should be of concern to anyone who objects to President Trump's executive orders relating to refugees and immigration, as it touches upon similar matters.