

## Week ending 05/28/2017 - PA-08 MoCTrack Report

Sorry for the delay, and Happy Memorial Day!

### Tracking Congress in the Age of Trump - 05/28/17

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 - **76.7%** (no change from last week)

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

### MoC Twitter Action

I have excluded holiday mentions, local interest, and thank yous to groups who hosted or were hosted by the MoCs. I do think it is worthy of note, though, that all three MoCs sent out Happy Memorial Day messages, but Senator Casey was the only one to send out a message about the start of Ramadan.

Senator Bob Casey hot topics:

- 1) AHCA - The Senator is not letting the Healthcare act disappear into the DC churn. He continues to discuss how much this bill will harm the Medicaid program and its recipients. When the Congressional Budget Office came out with their scoring, the Senator went on a two day tweetstorm, pulling quotes from the nonpartisan assessment, along with page citations - like "people who are less healthy .. would ultimately be unable to purchase comprehensive nongroup health insurance.." [Page 5] (44 tweets)
- 2) Trump's Budget Proposal - Senator Casey made clear his opposition to the proposed budget, pointing out how much it would hurt, seniors, families with children and people with disabilities. He also retweeted a Vox article about the ridiculously bad math used in the budget-making process and in the final document. (12 tweets)
- 3) Gerrymandering - The Senator made statements in support of the recent decision from the Supreme Court, striking down some North Carolina partisan redistricting. (2 tweets)

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick hot topics:

- 1) Tax Reform - The Representative is a member of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus, and he retweeted a statement about the group, wherein they discussed their willingness to work together to find a solution to reform the tax code in a manner that would positively citizens and the economy. (3 tweets)
- 2) Gerrymandering - He retweeted an article about his resolution (with Rep. Alan Lowenthal, D-CA) in support of tending partisan redistricting, and he also retweeted a throwback video link to his first floor appearance where he discussed the need for government reforms, including ending gerrymandering (3 tweets)
- 3) Support for the military - with Memorial Day in the offing, the Representative had several things to say about his support, including a link to a piece about him attending a ceremony at Washington's Crossing (3 tweets)

Senator Pat Toomey hot topics:

Senator Toomey confined himself mostly to promoting media appearances for interviews, and a local interest story about a bear cub. The only political topic he discussed was the Trump budget. He released a statement about the budget in which he said "I support the broad goals, but there particulars with which I disagree." (grammar error included in original statement)

### Legislation Updates

We've seen action on two pieces of legislation that are being tracked.

#### **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 bill was introduced last week. It is a long piece of legislation, all about "improving" immigration enforcement - if by improving, you mean removing "criminal aliens" and expanding what is meant by that

term. It was introduced by a Republican, and it has 10 Republican co-sponsors. It is pending in the Foreign Affairs Committee, in which Rep. Fitzpatrick is a member. Within a week of its introduction, this bill was Ordered Reported by the committee. Only one out of every four bills is reported upon - so it appears that this bill is being fast-tracked. We know that President Trump has used his power as the Executive to change how Immigration is enforcing existing law, and increasing deportations. This bill seems to be the Legislative response in support of Trump, making laws tougher, and more in line with Trump's goals. If you oppose the manner in which President Trump is dealing with undocumented people, then you may want to oppose this bill, as it is more of the same.

### **H.R. 356 - Protecting Our Democracy Act**

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr356/text>

The short recap of this bill is that it is the House's attempt to create an Independent investigation into the Russian election meddling/possible collusion situation. To quote from the GovTrack summary:

"H.R. 356, would establish an independent commission to investigate the Trump campaign's and administration's ties to the Russian government. There would be 12 members who cannot currently serve at any level of government: six chosen by Republican leaders, six chosen by Democratic leaders, ensuring an even bipartisan mix. They would have the power to issue subpoenas, and would be required to produce a final report within 18 months.... a special counsel was created to investigate any possible ties between the Trump campaign and administration and the Russian government, headed by former FBI Director Robert Mueller. The Special Counsel is different from the existing Congressional committees and the proposed independent commission because the position was appointed by—and remains answerable to—Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, a Trump administration appointee. In fact, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA12) said that she still supports creating an independent commission even after the special counsel was established."

The update on this legislation is that as of this past week, the bill now has 199 co-sponsors, including two Republicans - Rep. Walter Jones of NC and Rep. Justin Amash of MI. If you support the creation of an \*independent\* investigation, you will want to cite this bill in your contacts to Rep. Fitzpatrick. Make sure you mention that other Republicans have joined in this effort!

### **Legislation of Interest**

In advance of the Memorial Day legislative break, the Congress was busy, and full of new legislation to thwart the Trump agenda!

### **H. Res. 368 - Disapproving of the irresponsible actions and negligence of President Trump which may have caused grave harm to United States national security**

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hres368/text>

This resolution was introduced by Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA) and it is pending in the Committee on Foreign Affairs, where Rep. Fitzpatrick is a member. The resolution specifically cites the meeting President Trump had with the Russian Ambassador and Foreign Minister, and the top secret intelligence he revealed to those men. This resolution is basically a slap back at Trump for his disgraceful behavior. It has 5 co-sponsors, all Democrats.

### **H.R. 2729 - To direct National Security Council, in consultation with the Director of National intelligence and the Attorney General, to ensure that a mitigation process and protocols are in place in the case of a disclosure of classified information by the President**

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr2729>

This bill was introduced by Rep. A. Dutch Ruppberger (D-MD) and it is pending in the Committee on Foreign Affairs, where Rep. Fitzpatrick is a member. This piece of legislation appear to be a companion to the aforementioned resolution. There are report that in the wake of President Trump's revelation about the Israeli intelligence, there was a lot of confusion in the White House, and it took some time before someone actually decided to let Israel know what the President did, so they could take actions to protect their intelligence asset. This bill would ensure that procedures are in place should the President make a similar blunder in the future.

### **H. Res. 354 - Condemning the violence against peaceful protesters outside the Turkish Ambassador's residence on May 16, 2017, and calling for the perpetrators to be brought to justice**

**and measures to be taken to prevent similar incidents in the future**

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hres354/text>

This resolution was introduced by Rep. Edward Royce (R-CA) and it is pending in the Committee on Foreign Affairs, where Rep. Fitzpatrick is a member. This resolution already has 29 co-sponsors, with 15 Republicans and 14 Democrats. It goes to show just how awash DC is with insanity right now, because in any other time, a peaceful protest being interrupted by attacks from a foreign leader's bodyguards would have been met with national protests. The right of assembly is protected by the First Amendment, just as is the right to free speech. If you believe the First Amendment is under attack in these times, you may want to call Rep. Fitzpatrick, and ask him to join 15 fellow Republicans and support this resolution, or help hasten it out of committee.

**S. R. 1201 - A bill to allow individuals living in areas without qualified health plans offered through an Exchange to have similar access to health insurance coverage as members of Congress and congressional staff**

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/s1201>

This bill was introduced by Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) and it is pending in the Senate Finance Committee, where both of our Senators are members. There is a lot of news about the ways in which the Trump Administration and Secretary Price are undermining the efficacy of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), by creating uncertainty, and driving insurers out of markets. This bill is an interesting and cheeky solution to the problem. If the Republican Administration is going to sabotage the ACA in the time while the Senate works on rewriting the abominable AHCA, this bill (if passed) would let regular citizens have access to the same insurance the the Congress gets. The bill isn't going to go anywhere, but it is a wonderful action in protest to both the Administration's actions and the pending Republican healthcare legislation.