

Week ending 06/04/2017 - PA-08 MoCTrack Report

Tracking Congress in the Age of Trump - 06/04/17

The lower the number, the more the legislator is in opposition to the Trump agenda. We have no changes from last week because the legislators are still on break in their districts.

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

Senator Bob Casey hot topics:

While the Senator was active on Twitter in comparison to his co-workers who represent PA-08, he tweeted about a quarter of his normal volume.

1) Trump's decision about US involvement in the Paris Climate Agreement - The Senator delivered a 9-part argument as to why the US leaving the agreement would hurt both the environment and job creation/the economy. (9 tweets)

2) the AHCA - He retweeted links to articles about the insurance likely to come out should the AHCA be passed will be such junk it will not qualify as insurance, and how the current actions of the administration will drastically increase premiums for Pennsylvanians. (4 tweets)

3) the Trump Budget - It will hurt disabled people and he plans on opposing it. (1 tweet)

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick hot topics:

The vast majority of the Representative's tweets were about local issues, or groups that he met while in district.

1) Bipartisan Heroin Task Force - The Representative was named the vice-chair of this new task force. He announced this via tweet, and then retweeted two articles on the topic. (3 tweets)

2) Human Trafficking - He tweeted a link to a press release from the previous week that included portions of his speech from the floor of the House, where he promoted working in a bipartisan fashion to 'bolster anti-human trafficking programs.' (1 tweet)

3) Veterans' Affairs - He tweeted a link to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs press release from the previous week that discussed seven bills passed in the house that would improve Veterans' access to healthcare and instill accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs. (1 tweet)

Senator Pat Toomey hot topics:

The Senator only had one tweet that was related to a political topic. He noted that Budget Director Mulvaney supported attaching spending reforms to any upcoming debt ceiling negotiations is "a positive step to restoring fiscal insanity."

Legislation of Interest/Legislation Updates

With the Congress on a break in their home districts, there is not a lot of legislative action to report. But there's always something happening...

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>

I first reported on this resolution last week. Since then it has gained another 4 co-sponsors, for a total of 33 (17 D, 16 R). Representative Fitzpatrick is not one of those co-sponsors, despite 15 of his fellow members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs joining on as co-sponsors. This resolution has been marked as "legislation coming up" which means that it will come to the floor for discussion and hopefully a vote in the coming week or two. If you want to pressure our Representative to speak up in favor of the First Amendment's protection of the freedom of assembly, this would be a bill worthy of a phone call.

H.R. 2762 - To require that waivers and authorizations for certain Federal employees relating to ethics requirements are made public and submitted to the Office of Government Ethics

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr2762/details>

This bill was introduced on 05/30/17 by Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) and it is pending in the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Rep. Fitzpatrick is NOT a member of that group, but he has deep interest in government reform, so he might be amenable to conversation on this topic. Earlier this week there was news in major outlets (Ny Times, Washington Post, etc.) about a showdown between the White House and the Office of Government Ethics. The White House has issued a number of waivers (at least 17) to members of their staff - to people including Chief of Staff Reince Priebus and Kellyanne Conway - that allow them to bypass certain conflict of interest rules. A heated exchange of letter about legal jurisdiction ensued, ending with the White House releasing some information. This piece of legislation would mandate that all of this waiver information be publicly available, regardless of White House preference. This issue may be a bit in the ethics weeds, but much like the MAR-A-LAGO Act (H.R. 1711) that was introduced earlier this year about making public who is meeting with the president (a policy that was in effect under President Obama, but that the Trump Administration ended), this is another bill that will mandate openness and access in government. As Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once noted "Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants." This bill is a bit of sunlight.