

Week ending 06/25/2017 - PA-08 MoCTrack Report

Tracking Congress in the Age of Trump - 06/25/17

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

Senator Bob Casey - **27.9%** (no change from last week)

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick - **79.4%** (no change from last week)

Senator Pat Toomey - **95.2%** (no change from last week)

The FiveThirtyEight website did not have any legislation/votes in the past week that counted towards the TrumpTrack score.

MoC Twitter Action

Senator Bob Casey hot topics:

- 1) the AHCA - the Senator continues his vocal opposition to the bill. He highlighted the stories and tweets of constituent who shared how their lives would be affected by the AHCA, commented on quotes from the bill while explaining what the legislative text means, and notes that the changes to Medicaid mean that PA would have to add \$14.7 billion to the budget to cover what the federal government currently covers but won't if the AHCA passes. He also shared images from a protest in Harrisburg. (116 tweets)
- 2) Town Halls - he held a town Hall at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. Several hundred people participated, and he shared a number of images from the event with quotes. (12 tweets)
- 3) LGBT issues - He met with a survivor of the Pulse Nightclub shooting, and introduced a bill that would keep people convicted of hate crimes from ever owning a gun. He also celebrated the restoration of LGBT-related questions to a HHS survey of older Americans. It had been removed earlier this year, and he and others had written letters of protest. (5 tweets)

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick hot topics:

- 1) Opioid crisis - the Representative introduced a bill this week that would change some regulations to make it easier for people to enter treatment facilities using Medicaid and CHIP funds. (2 tweets)
- 2) Small Business - five new pieces of legislation were introduced to improve the existing Small Business Act. (1 tweet)
- 3) last week's shooting - he retweeted an image and a thank you from the organizers of a Red Cross blood drive in honor of Rep. Scalise, where he had donated blood. (1 tweet)

Senator Pat Toomey hot topics:

- 1) the AHCA - the Senator made a statement about his position on the bill and shared a number of myth/fact images about the AHCA. (10 tweets)
- 2) Tax reform - he met with Apple CEO Tim Cook to discuss improvements to the economy. (1 tweet)
- 3) Veterans issues - he celebrated the enactment of the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Act. (1 tweet)

The AHCA - statements from our Senators' websites

Pat Toomey: "The draft bill unveiled in the Senate today strikes me as an important and constructive first step in repealing Obamacare and replacing it with a better, stable, consumer-driven health care system for all Pennsylvanians."

Bob Casey: "It rips health care protections from millions of Americans. Then, by eliminating vital funding, it threatens hundred of health care jobs and jeopardizes access to services that are particularly critical to seniors living in rural areas. I will not sit idly by as Republicans attempt to undermine health care protections simply to offer tax breaks to the most elite among us."

Votes of Interest

The Senate did not have any votes of interest this week, with almost all bandwidth taken by the AHCA.

H.R. 2484 - Women, Peace and Security Act of 2017

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr2484/text>

This bill was introduced by Rep. Kristi Noem (R-SD) and it has 16 co-sponsors (5D, 11R) including Pennsylvania Republicans Rep. Ryan Costello (PA-06) and Rep. Charles Dent (PA-15). This legislation mandates that various departments compile plans on how to encourage participation from more women in their workforce. It also establishes a plan for encouraging the participation of women in international negotiation venues. The bill passed the House by voice vote, unanimously. **Fitzpatrick voted YES.**

Legislation of Interest

While the House moved forward with a normal schedule, the Senate appeared to be entirely focused on the release of the edited AHCA text. In the days before it was made public, several Senators, from both sides of the spectrum, introduced resolution Senate rules changes in response to Senate leader McConnell's secret revision group.

S. Res. 197 - A resolution to provide sufficient time for legislation to be read

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/sres197/text>

This resolution was introduced by Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) and it does not yet have any co-sponsors. It is pending in the Senate Rules and Administration committee, and no PA Senators are members there. It would mandate that any bill, resolution or amendment could not be brought up for a vote until at least one day elapses for every 20 pages of writing. If passed, this would slow the process of long bills, and constrain Senator McConnell from shoving bills quickly through the Senate.

S. Res. 198 - A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that any sweeping health care legislation must be drafted in public under the watchful eye of the people of the United States

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/sres198/text>

This resolution was introduced by Sen. John Tester (D-MT) and it does not yet have any co-sponsors. It is pending in the Senate Rules and Administration committee, and no PA Senators are members there. The title of this resolution pretty much says it all - it is a public declaration of disapproval of the manner in which Senator McConnell has lead the AHCA editing process.

H.R. 2981 - To require all candidates for election for the office of Senator or Member of the House of Representatives to run in an open primary regardless of political party preference or lack thereof, to limit the ensuing general election for such office to the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes in such open primary

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr2981>

This bill was introduced by Rep. John Delaney (D-MD) and it has 4 co-sponsors (all Democrats). It is pending in the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Rep. Fitzpatrick is not a member of that committee. Many scholars believe the the current hyper-partisan atmosphere in Congress is at least partly caused by the fact that the most-motivated, far edges of the political spectrum are heavily represented in the primary electorate, and that has driven out most moderate representatives. Since those moderates are often the ones who work towards compromise, this has a negative effect on the working of the legislative branch. Open primaries would allow for people who are not affiliated with parties to vote (something they cannot do in PA). Having a final election with the two candidates who received the highest vote tally would also allow for moderates to run against more partisan candidates in states where one party is dominant.

H.R. 2958 - To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the climate

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr2958>

This bill was introduced by Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) and it has 14 co-sponsors, all Democrats. It is pending in the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where Rep. Fitzpatrick is a member. The text of this bill is not yet available, but the title was enough to show that this is a rebuke to the climate change denialists of the Trump Administration.