

Week ending 07/01/18 - PA-08 MoCTrack Report

Please note: Congress will be on recess next week. Instead of bringing you a normal MoCTrack Report next week, we'll have a mid-year review of the voting in the House of Representatives, much like the year-end [2017 Fitzpatrick Votes](#) interactive resource created last December. Then we'll be back to a normal MoCTrack for the week ending July 15, 2018.

Tracking Congress in the Age of Trump

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

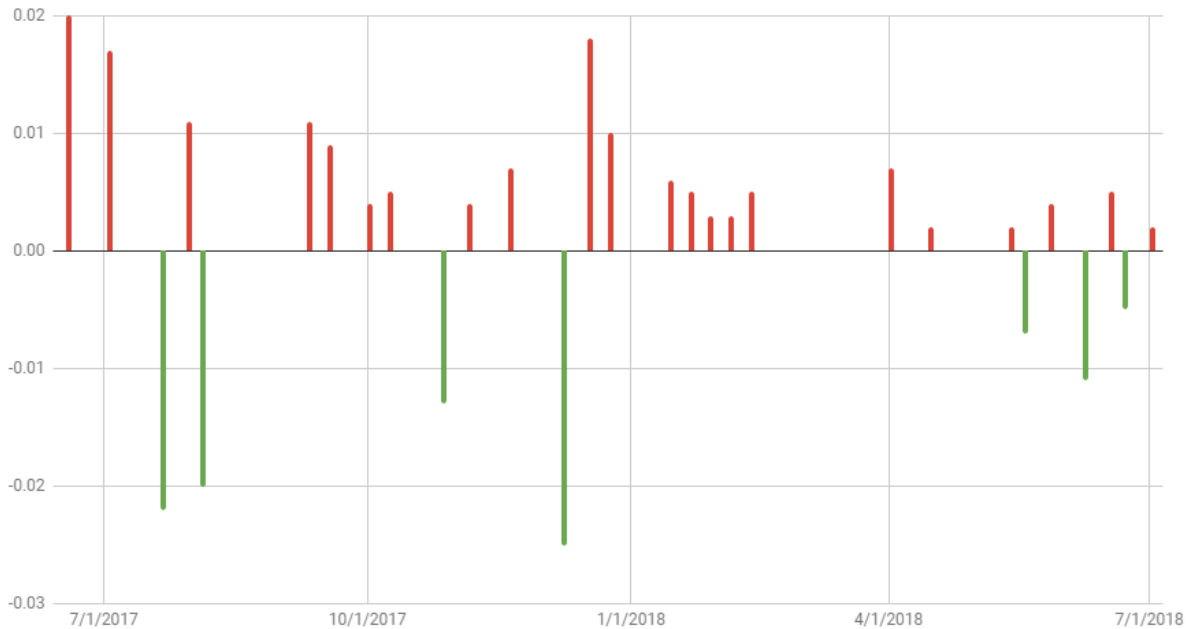
Senator Bob Casey **29.7%** (no change from last report)

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick — **83.5%** (**+0.2%** from last report)

Senator Pat Toomey — **91.5%** (no change from last report)

Nate Silver's FiveThirtyEight website assesses the voting records of our MoCs to provide this index, by comparing any bills where President Trump has stated a position, and comparing the vote of the legislator to that opinion. Only one vote was scored this week, the so-called "compromise" immigration bill in the House.

Fitzpatrick Trump-tracker changes by week, June 2017 - June 2018



Over the past calendar year, Congressman Fitzpatrick's Trump-tracker score has varied from a low (least in agreement with Trump) of 77.4% to a high of 84.7%. When those data points are plotted on any sort of chart, they show a slightly wavering line that trends upward, but the nuances in variation are lost. It is more illustrative to look at Fitzpatrick's week-to-week changes. The red lines show his moves toward Trump's position, with a taller line representing a more drastic policy shift. Green lines are votes against the Administration. What one can see from this graph is that our Congressman has a habitual tendency to vote with the President's position, regardless of his claims of being "our Independent voice." He occasionally and ostentatiously makes a big vote against the Administration, and promotes it heavily as evidence of his supposed bipartisanship. This pattern changed, however, as of May 15th, once the primary occurred. The last 6 data points on this chart are from after the primary. You can see that the frequency of Fitzpatrick's deviation from the Trump agenda increased significantly as he attempts to turn toward the middle and capture the district's more moderate voters.

Words From Our Founders

“To what purpose then require the cooperation of the Senate?...It would be an excellent check upon a spirit of favoritism in the President, and would tend greatly to preventing the appointment of unfit characters from State prejudice, from family connection, from personal attachment, or from a view to popularity.”

— [Alexander Hamilton](#), from *Federalist 76*, on the Supreme Court nomination process

Votes of Interest -

H.R. 6136: Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/votes/115-2018/h297>

After last week's defeat of the immigration bill known as 'Goodlatte One', House Speaker Paul Ryan delayed the vote on the second immigration option, the so-called "compromise bill" in order to garner more support. Despite its name, this bill was no true compromise, as its crafting only involved the moderate and xenophobe wings of the Republic Party and excluded the Democrats altogether. Amongst the provisions included in this 'compromise' were a drastic redefinition of who would constitute a Dreamer, with only 420,000 of the 1.8 million people eligible for the DACA program included in a path to legal residence in this bill. The legislation also included billions of dollars for both Trump's wall and massive increases to Customs and Border Patrol staffing and funding. Under this bill the rules for granting asylum would have been curtailed significantly. The bill came to the floor for a vote on 06/27/18 and it failed, 121-302. **Fitzpatrick voted YES**, for the Trump-endorsed position.

H.Res. 970: Insisting that the Department of Justice fully comply with the requests, including subpoenas, of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the subpoena issued by the Committee on the Judiciary relating to potential violations of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act by personnel of the Department of Justice and related matters

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/votes/115-2018/h306>

This is a somewhat complicated Republican maneuver to discredit Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein (who oversees the Mueller investigation with Attorney General Sessions recused) and potentially set him up for dismissal. This is a non-binding resolution introduced by Freedom Caucus leader Rep. Mark Meadows (R-S.C.) that demands the Justice Department produce sensitive and classified documents to Rep. Devin Nunes and the House Intelligence Committee. Just a reminder, those are the folks who [already decided](#) there was no evidence of Trump-Russia collusion in the run-up to the 2016 election. If Mr. Rosenstein doesn't provide the requested documents within seven days, it is an excuse to put him in contempt of Congress. This resolution was agreed to on 06/28/18 in a 226-183 party line vote. **Fitzpatrick votes YES**.

H.R. 6157: Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2019

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/votes/115-2018/h313>

The House voted this week on a 2019 defense appropriations bill that will cost \$675 billion. Included in this package is funding for two new aircraft carriers, 93 F-35 Joint Strike Fighters, and 12 new Navy ships. The bill also calls for increasing the staffing of the armed forces by 15,600 active-duty and Reserve troops this year and giving a pay raise of 2.6% to personnel. During the amendment process Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.) proposed an amendment that would, according to [POLITICO](#), "bar funding for the Pentagon to procure goods and services from ZTE and Huawei, which Democrats and Republicans alike have called a risk to national security." The same article further explains:

The Trump administration stirred up controversy earlier this month when it struck a deal with ZTE to lift sanctions on the company. And since then, lawmakers have sought to limit the companies, which have ties to the Chinese government. Defense policy legislation passed by the House and Senate contain varied bans on the Pentagon and other government agencies doing business with ZTE and Huawei.

That amendment passed by a voice vote. Other amendments related to over \$1 billion in additional funding for a new submarine, failed. The final bill passed on 06/28/18 with a vote of 359-49. **Fitzpatrick voted YES**.

H.R. 2: Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/votes/115-2018/s143>

Last week the House passed a controversial Farm Bill that included a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work requirement provision that will affect between 5 and 7 million households. This week the Senate considered their own version of the Farm Bill. According to the [Washington Post](#), there are three major changes from the House version:

1. It does not include a work requirement for SNAP
2. It preserves a conservation program that was all but defunded in the House version
3. It limits farm subsidy payments

The Senate version, built with bipartisan input, came to the floor for a vote on 06/28/18. It passed easily, 86-11. **Casey voted YES** and **Toomey voted NO**. This bill now goes into [conference](#). The wrangling between the two houses is likely to be fierce, but they have a firm deadline - September 30, 2018, right in the heart of campaign season. The current funding for the programs contained in this bill runs out on that date. Once the conference agrees on new text, this bill will return to both houses for new votes.

The retirement of Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, our Senators respond

Bob Casey, 06/27/18, via his [website](#):

"Majority Leader McConnell once said that 'the American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court justice,' so he should ensure that's the case and follow his own rule. The Senate should only consider this nomination when a new Senate is seated in January.

Thus far, the Trump Administration has nominated many far-right judges that put the interests of big corporations ahead of justice and fairness for all Americans. If an individual from the list provided to candidate Donald Trump by far-right organizations like the Heritage Foundation and the Federalist Society is nominated, then I am highly unlikely to support that nominee. Justices who sit on the most important court in the world, should not be selected by corporate interests and extreme right organizations.

Over and over again, the current Supreme Court majority has only represented the interests of extreme right-wing ideologues and big corporations. In this term, the Supreme Court has issued rulings that would decimate labor unions, deny many Americans their right to vote and allow partisan gerrymandering to continue. This nation deserves a Supreme Court Justice who will be guided by the principle of equal justice under the law for all Americans."

Pat Toomey, 06/27/18, from [website](#):

"Justice Anthony Kennedy has admirably served our nation for the past 30 years as a Supreme Court Justice. He will be remembered as a thoughtful and fair jurist. I thank Justice Kennedy for his service and wish him nothing but the best in the future.

In the coming weeks, President Trump will announce a nominee to fill this vacancy on the Supreme Court. This person should be committed to the rule of law and ensuring everyone is treated fairly under it. Moreover, whoever is nominated should understand the proper role of a judge is to apply the law, including the U.S. Constitution, as written. I look forward to meeting with the President's choice in the coming weeks."

MoC Twitter Action

Senator Bob Casey hot topics: The senator started the week at a roundtable event, discussing the SNAP (food stamp) program and the upcoming Farm Bill vote in Montgomery County. He retweeted about a dozen constituent tweets with images from that event. He then moved on to multiple tweets about the child detention crisis, including discussing the Trump Administration's decision to end a pilot program started by the Obama administration that "electronically monitored without detention asylum

seekers, with 90%+ of them appearing for immigration hearings.” He shifted to a discussion of the Trump plan to eliminate protection for those with pre-existing conditions, and his opposition to such a plan. By midweek he shared multi-tweet threads on the Supreme Court decision that weakens unions and child detention. After touching upon Russian election interference and the mass shooting at a Maryland newspaper, the senator closed out the week expressing his concern about a video clip showing a Lancaster police office using a taser on a fully-compliant detained African American person.

Casey tweets of the week, 06/26/18: “I pressed Secretary Azar on the harm that will come to PA families if the Administration gets its way and eliminates protections for those with pre-existing conditions. His answer? Support the Administration’s legislation that also undermines protections for those with pre-existing conditions. Really.”

— shared with a link to a [video clip](#) of the senator’s questioning of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick hot topics: The representative was slightly more communicative than usual this week, with 5 tweets. Two promoted his appearance on an [MSNBC program](#), and another two were retweets of press coverage related to his trip to visit a child detention center in Texas. The final tweet pressured the Environmental Protection Agency to release information related to water contamination in our area.

Fitzpatrick tweet of the week, 06/26/18: “The EPA must respond to the latest scientific health study and implement an enforceable maximum contaminant level for PFOS and PFOA.”

— shared with a link to the representative’s [06/25/18 press release](#) titled “Fitzpatrick and Boyle Call for National PFAS Water Standard”

Senator Pat Toomey hot topics: The senator promoted his appearances on both Face the Nation and Bloomberg TV to talk about his opposition to tariffs. On that same topic, he also retweeted his fellow senator Bob Corker, who shared a link to a letter urging their colleagues to support their bill that would mandate congressional approval of national security-designated tariffs. Toomey also pushed a bill outlawing the trade of cat and dog meat for human consumption. Lastly, he devoted several tweets to the dispersal of his formal statement on the retirement of Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy.

Toomey tweets of the week, 06/26/18: “ICYMI: I joined @BloombergTV this afternoon to explain why it’s a bad idea for the administration to claim 'national security' as a reason to impose tariffs on steel from our closest allies. These taxes only harm American consumers + workers.”

— shared with a link to a [seven minute clip](#) from the Senator’s appearance on *Bloomberg TV*

Honorable mention, lawmaker

From @RepJohnLewis (D-Ga.) on 06/27/18: “Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble. #goodtrouble”

— the Congressman and civil rights legend started the hashtag “goodtrouble” after having made a speech that included the line “Get in trouble. Good trouble. Necessary trouble.” That hashtag has now become a collection point for images from protests around the country.

Honorable mention, media

From @mjs_DC, Mark Joseph Stern, legal correspondent at Slate, on 06/30/18: “PEOPLE! Kennedy stepped down because he is an octogenarian who wants to retire in California and believes Trump will replace him with a conservative justice who upholds a majority of his legacy rulings. All conspiracy-mongering to the contrary is pathetic wishcasting. His deepest concern is the First Amendment and he perceives Democrats as increasingly hostile to free speech. He thinks Obergefell is sufficiently entrenched that the democratic process can prevent backsliding. He is personally ambivalent about

abortion. This is very simple. We can debate the wisdom of all those assumptions, and gasp at the irony that the people who will select his replacement despise him, and gawk at the elitism that connects his family and Trump's. But there is nothing corrupt about his decision to step down now. Nothing."

— tweeted in response to the spreading [reports of conspiracy behind Justice Kennedy's retirement, and financial entanglements between the Trump and Kennedy families](#)

Honorable mention, constituent response

From @7ForwardGears on 07/01/18:"Tariffs are bad. But I noticed @SenToomey couldn't answer HOW tariffs hurt HIS constituents. Why? He doesn't care or know anything abt us. The Kochs tell him they're bad, he repeats. He's their empty suit employee. He took advantage of gullible PA voters to give Kochs nat'l voice"

— in response to Senator Toomey's retweet of a [Face the Nation](#) promotional item that includes the statement "Toomey is among the GOP senators who have challenged @realDonaldTrump over his tariffs, warning it would 'hurt American workers, employers and consumers' "

Casey in the News

"This policy of separating children from their parents is a policy that is straight from the pit of hell."

— from a [Philadelphia Tribune](#) article titled "Casey demands immigrant families be reunited"

"The administration has to reunify every single one of those children with their families and in the process of doing that they should also be re-examining in a critical way what the zero-tolerance policy does for our own security and what it does in a harmful way against those children — the damage it can do over time. Even if you are saying that the separation is no longer allowed, the zero-tolerance policy continues the detention, instead of doing it another way — another way that is more effective, that will create more better safety at the border and will diminish the possibility that children are traumatized for the rest of their lives."

— from the same [Philadelphia Tribune](#) article

"Zero tolerance will continue to separate children."

— from a [Healthcare Finance](#) article titled "Senators grill HHS Secretary Alex Azar on status of migrant children"

"I'm going to fight like hell against this and every other attempt to rip coverage away from Pennsylvania families. I'm going to keep fighting for better health insurance for all Pennsylvanians. I will not cooperate with any effort that would harm individuals with pre-existing conditions or disabilities and prevent them from getting the health insurance they need to cover their care. I urge you to join me in this fight."

— excerpted from an [opinion piece](#) authored by the senator himself, titled "Fighting for better health insurance" from *The Sunbury Daily Item*

"By overturning 40 years of precedent, the U.S. Supreme Court is showing its opposition to the rights of working families and commonsense."

— from a [Chicago Sun-Times](#) article titled "Nation reacts to Supreme Court ruling in favor of Janus"

Fitzpatrick in the News

"We have a major problem here. Everyone knows it. We have to attack it from all sides and simultaneously to solve the problem."

— from a [Bucks County Courier Times](#) article titled "Round table focuses on efforts to resolve opiate epidemic"

“Our trip out here generated more questions than answers. ... If we’re going to be serious about immigration policy, it’s got to be bipartisan, No. 1, and it’s got to be about facts and data on the ground.”

— from a [Fox News article](#) titled “As lawmakers visit Texas tent city, first group of migrant girls arrives”

“I am confident that our bipartisan delegation’s presence in Tornillo, Texas, will reinforce our constituents’ values that family separation will not be tolerated, while ensuring that Customs and Border Protection have the resources needed to ensure lawful entry of migrants into our country.”

— from an [article in *The Intelligencer*](#) titled “Challenger slams Fitzpatrick ‘inaction’ on immigration”

“I’m opposed to these knee-jerk reactions to calling for people’s resignation. What I always believe in is a full inspector-general investigation and report, have those findings of fact and conclusions of law presented to Congress, and then we make a recommendation. That’s the most orderly way to do it but I will say with this man, there’s way too much smoke surrounding him.”

— from a [State Impact Pennsylvania article](#) titled “Republican congressman: Pruitt should quit after trying to block PFAS study”

Toomey in the News

“[[It is] another wasted opportunity to rein in excessive spending and end corporate welfare. It fails to reform, even modestly, any of the numerous taxpayer subsidies for agriculture products.”

— the senator explains his NO vote, from a [Farm and Dairy article](#) titled “Senate passes its farm bill 86-11”

“It’s going to do and is already doing real damage, so I think we’ve got a responsibility to stand up and push back...The Constitution is completely unambiguous. It is the authority of Congress to establish tariffs. We’ve given him a lot of authority, and I think that is authority that should reside with Congress.”

— from a [POLITICO article](#) titled “‘We’ve crossed the Rubicon’: Toomey takes on Trump”

“The president describes a deficit with another country as theft. I believe the president couldn’t be more mistaken about that. You want to shrink a trade deficit, there’s an easy way to do it: Have a recession... I am skeptical about the tactics that he’s using. It’s also not clear to me what the goal is of the administration. What’s the goal? There is an underlying problem. It’s not clear whether these tariffs are even meant to deal with that.”

— from the same [POLITICO article](#) cited above

“I’m in favor of a mutual and reciprocal winding down of tariffs but unfortunately, with respect to Canada and Mexico, that doesn’t seem to be the administration’s goal. It seems to be they want to sort of intimidate these countries into making concessions.”

— from a [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article](#) titled “Toomey bucking White House over trade policy, supporting bipartisan effort”

“I appreciate that the EPA is honoring my request to visit southeastern Pennsylvania and meet with community members who have been impacted by this water contamination. I hope the visit provides the EPA and the CDC with critical information about the possible health effects of PFOA and PFOS exposure.”

— from a [Water Online article](#) titled “EPA Announces Next Set Of PFAS Community Engagement Events”

Learning about Legislation - The Supreme Court nomination process

With the retirement announcement from Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, the summer in front of us will be full of Supreme Court nomination/confirmation process chatter. When this last occurred, in April

2017 for Justice Neil Gorsuch, so much of the coverage was dedicated to talk of the so-called “[nuclear option](#)” (changing the rules so that a simple majority was needed for confirmation instead of a [super-majority](#)), that very little attention was paid to the normal confirmation process. Here is a basic primer, courtesy of the [Georgetown Law Library](#):

1. The President usually will consult with Senators before announcing a nomination.
2. When the President nominates a candidate, the nomination is sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee for consideration.
3. The Senate Judiciary Committee holds a hearing on the nominee. The Committee usually takes a month to collect and receive all necessary records, from the FBI and other sources, about the nominee and for the nominee to be prepared for the hearings.
4. During the hearings, witnesses, both supporting and opposing the nomination, present their views. Senators question the nominee on his or her qualifications, judgment, and philosophy.
5. The Judiciary Committee then votes on the nomination and sends its recommendation (that it be confirmed, that it be rejected, or with no recommendation) to the full Senate.
6. The full Senate debates the nomination.
7. The Senate rules used to allow unlimited debate (a practice known as filibustering) and to end the debate, it required the votes of 3/5 of the Senate or 60 senators (known as the cloture vote). In April 2017, the Senate changed this rule and lowered the required votes to 51 to end debate on Supreme Court nominations (this is commonly known as “the nuclear option”).
8. When the debate ends, the Senate votes on the nomination. A simple majority of the Senators present and voting is required for the judicial nominee to be confirmed. If there is a tie, the Vice President who also presides over the Senate casts the deciding vote.

In 2015 the Congressional Research Service produced a [white paper](#) on the Supreme Court Nomination and Confirmation process. They show that the average number of days that elapse between a nomination and a confirmation vote in the modern era (since the Ford presidency) is 67. The bulk of that time is spent in the Judiciary Committee vetting process, as the average number of days that pass between their approval and bringing the nomination to the floor of the Senate is 13.

For those of you that like charts and graphs, I highly recommend a visit to the white paper linked above. They have a collection of five figures that do a wonderful job of illuminating the confirmation process.

Legislation of Interest

S. 3154: A bill to ensure Members of Congress have access to Federal facilities in order to exercise their Constitutional oversight responsibilities

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/s3154>

This bill was introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) on 06/28/18. It is pending in the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and it has 2 co-sponsors (1D, 1I). This bill would allow Members of Congress to obtain immediate access to any federal facility to enable them to perform their mandated oversight role. Though it does include some exceptions for national security, it provides for a process where Congress-members can access ‘sensitive and secure’ facilities. [Sen. Wyden](#) explained his reasons for composing this legislation:

“Under the Trump administration’s zero-humanity immigration policy migrant children have been taken from their parents and locked away in federal facilities under spartan conditions. These facilities house vulnerable people, including minors, and it’s critical that Congress ensures the conditions are humane and appropriate, even if the policy is not.”

In addition to this effort in the Senate, there are two other bills in the House ([H.R. 6245](#) and [H.R. 6260](#)) share the same aim, if not the same text. Of the House versions, H.R. 6260, introduced by Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-Texas) already has 29 co-sponsors, all Democrats. If it seems ridiculous to you that an elected Member of Congress can be turned away from federal facilities for which they are supposed to have oversight responsibilities, please consider calling both Senators Casey and Toomey in support of S. 3154, and Representative Fitzpatrick to ask him to co-sponsor H.R. 6260.

S. 3178/H.R. 6086: A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/s3178>

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr6086/text>

This bill was introduced by Senators Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and Cory Booker (D-N.J.), the only three African-Americans in the Senate, on 06/28/18. The bill is pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and it has 22 co-sponsors (19D, 2I, 1R). An identical bill was introduced by Rep. Bobby Rush (D-Ill.) in the House, and that bill has 36 co-sponsors (all D). If passed, this bill would make lynching a crime in and of itself, and allow charges to be filed under federal hate crime laws. In her [statement](#) made when this bill was introduced, Sen. Harris said “lynching is a dark, despicable part of our history, and we must acknowledge that, lest we repeat it. From 1882 to 1986 there have been 200 attempts that have failed to get Congress to pass federal anti-lynching legislation, it’s time for that to change.” Unlike so many other progressive initiatives, there is a possibility that this bill will move forward. According to the [New York Times](#), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has expressed support for the bill. In an interview last month, when asked about anti-lynching legislation, his response was “I thought we did that many years ago. I hadn’t thought about it, I thought that was done back during L.B.J. or some period like that. If we need one at the federal level, I certainly will support it.” The [Southern Poverty Law Center](#) has announced that the number of hate crimes is on the rise, so this legislation could not be more timely. Please consider calling both Senators Casey and Toomey to ask them to co-sponsor this bill.

H.J.Res. 136: Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States waiving the application of the first article of amendment to the political speech of corporations and other business organizations with respect to the disbursement of funds in connection with public elections and granting Congress and the States the power to establish limits on contributions and expenditures in elections for public office

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hjres136>

That’s the long technical way of saying “a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United.” This joint resolution was introduced by Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) on 06/27/18. It is pending in the House Judiciary Committee and it has 2 co-sponsors (both D). The proposed constitutional amendment is fairly brief, and the full text is included below:

Section 1. The first article of amendment does not apply to the political speech of any corporation, partnership, business trust, association, or other business organization with respect to the making of contributions, expenditures, or other disbursements of funds in connection with public elections.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to set limits on the amount of contributions that may be accepted by, and the amount of expenditures that may be made by, in support of, or in opposition to, a candidate for nomination for election to, or for election to, Federal office.

Section 3. A State shall have power to set limits on the amount of contributions that may be accepted by, and the amount of expenditures that may be made by, in support of, or in opposition to, a candidate for nomination for election to, or for election to, State or local office.

Section 4. Congress shall have power to implement and enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Representative Fitzpatrick has worked with Rep. Kaptur, the bill’s sponsor, frequently in the past year. They work together on the Congressional Ukraine Caucus and issued a [joint statement](#) against the Trump Administration when the Treasury Department refused to impose duly enacted sanctions against Russia. I have been unable to locate any statements that Representative Fitzpatrick has made regarding the Citizens United decision, which is not surprising considering the amount of corporate donations he accepts. It would be interesting to pressure his office to attempt to get him on the record in regards to this resolution from his frequent ally.

H.Res. 975: By the People Resolution - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Americans have a right to fair representation and that America's democratic institutions are in urgent need of repair to provide greater responsiveness and accountability to the people through

critical reforms that empower the American voter, strengthen our Nation's ethics laws, and fix our broken campaign finance system

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hres975/text>

This resolution was introduced by Rep. John Sarbanes (D-Md.) on 06/28/18. It is pending in several committees, includes the House Administration, the House Oversight and Government Reform and the House Judiciary. It already has 160 co-sponsors (all D)! This resolution reads like a manifesto for what we all want to see in our government and our elected representatives, and I highly endorse reading it in full. Some key excerpts:

- It is the purpose of this resolution to express the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should advance a comprehensive set of political reforms to restore trust in, and integrity to, our institutions of democracy. Such reforms will— (1) empower the American voter; (2) strengthen our Nation's ethics laws; and (3) fix our broken campaign finance system.
- in recent years, we have witnessed unprecedented efforts to turn back the clock and erect barriers to voting for disabled, minority, young, elderly, and low-income Americans
- Congress must advance comprehensive reforms to protect and harden our election system, providing the resources and tools to our State and local partners to ensure attempts to undermine our election system remain unsuccessful
- the line between public service and private interests is too often blurred, because government positions are regularly filled with industry insiders who work to secure undue access and influence for their former employers, and that this preferential treatment is later used to secure for those same individuals future employment and profit, fueling a cycle of exploitative government service
- government officials at every level, including the Office of the President and Vice President, should be held to the highest ethical standards [and] government service should not be a means to personal profit, nor should conflicts of interest cloud the judgment of our Nation's leaders
- candidates for President and Vice-President should be required to disclose their tax returns as a condition of their candidacy, as the electorate deserves to be provided with the necessary information to determine if an individual can pursue the public interest unencumbered by private conflicts of interest
- to reduce corruption or the appearance of corruption from the undue influence of the wealthy and well-connected donors in our politics, Congress should enact bold reforms to our campaign finance system that increase and multiply the power of small dollar donors in our democracy

It is hard to imagine any GOP Representative signing on to this, so you may not want to waste the phone call. But it might be interesting to see if Senator Casey would be willing to introduce a similar resolution in the Senate.

This report brought to you by the PA-08 MoCTrack team...

Gary Garb

Kierstyn Piotrowski Zolfo

We are seeking additional assistance. Our Congresspeople are always busy and there is always more for us to cover — tasks big and small to fit any level of time commitment or experience. Can you help us out? Please email KierstynPZ@gmail.com and put "MoCTrack Help" in the subject. Thanks!