

# Pennsylvania Member of Congress Tracking Report - 01/13/19

## Tracking Congress in the Age of Trump

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

Member of Congress	This week's score
Senator Bob Casey (D)	32.10%
Senator Pat Toomey (R)	88.90%
PA-01 Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R)	79.40%
PA-02 Rep. Brendan Boyle (D)	19.00%
PA-03 Rep. Dwight Evans (D)	17.00%
PA-04 Rep. Madeleine Dean (D)	0.00%
PA-05 Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (D)	22.20%
PA-06 Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D)	0.00%
PA-07 Rep. Susan Wild (D)	22.20%
PA-08 Rep. Matt Cartwright (D)	28.70%
PA-09 Rep. Dan Meuser (R)	100.00%
PA-10 Rep. Scott Perry (R)	86.10%
PA-11 Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R)	96.00%
PA-12 Rep. Tom Marino (R)	97.90%
PA-13 Rep. John Joyce (R)	100.00%
PA-14 Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R)	100.00%
PA-15 Rep. Glenn W. Thompson (R)	99.00%
PA-16 Rep. Mike Kelly (R)	97.00%
PA-17 Rep. Conor Lamb (D)	54.80%
PA-18 Rep. Mike Doyle (D)	22.00%

Nate Silver's [FiveThirtyEight website](#) assesses the voting records of our MoCs to provide this index, by taking any bills where President Trump has stated a position, and comparing the vote of our legislators to that opinion. You may notice some weirdness if you remember what your MoC's score was last week. FiveThirtyEight had started all House members from scratch, but apparently that was an oddity relating to our changing district numbers. That appears to have been cleared up, so the numbers shown above for this week reflect a lifetime score for our incumbents. Since that this has stabilized, we will start giving a 'change from last week's report' number starting next week to provide some context. This week four house votes to fund different departments were scored. No Senate votes were included.

## Words From Our Founders

...is on hiatus until the National Archives are reopened at the end of the #TrumpShutdown

## Votes of Interest -

## The House funds individual agencies

[House vote](#) on Treasury and IRS (H.R. 264)

[House vote](#) on Social safety net, FDA and farming programs (H.R. 265)

[House vote](#) on the Interior and Environmental Protection Agency (H.R. 266)

[House vote](#) on Dept. of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (H.R. 267)

The current strategy for the Democrats in the House Leadership is that they are passing individual bills to fund various chunks of the shut down agencies. The vote on H.R. 265 is perhaps the most useful as a pressing point for activists, as it provides funding for food stamps and the farm credit agency, both areas that are tender pressure points for GOP MoCs. *Politico* [assessed](#) these votes in succinct fashion, observing they are "... a futile effort with negotiations between Capitol Hill and the White House floundering." Ultimately, it doesn't matter how many of these funding bills are passed. Unless Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is forced to bring these to the floor for a vote and passes them with a veto-proof margin; or unless some settlement is negotiated with our intransigent president, the shutdown will continue. The results of all of these votes was nearly identical for the PA MoCs on each of these four pieces of legislation. The only difference was for the H.R. 266 vote on 01/11/19, PA-12's Rep. Tom Marino did not cast a vote, as opposed to the "No" shown below for the other three bills..

Yea		<a href="#">Fitzpatrick, Brian</a>	PA 1st
Yea		<a href="#">Boyle, Brendan</a>	PA 2nd
Yea		<a href="#">Evans, Dwight</a>	PA 3rd
Yea		<a href="#">Dean, Madeleine</a>	PA 4th
Yea		<a href="#">Scanlon, Mary</a>	PA 5th
Yea		<a href="#">Houlahan, Chrissy</a>	PA 6th
Yea		<a href="#">Wild, Susan</a>	PA 7th
Yea		<a href="#">Cartwright, Matthew</a>	PA 8th
Nay		<a href="#">Meuser, Daniel</a>	PA 9th
Nay		<a href="#">Perry, Scott</a>	PA 10th
Nay		<a href="#">Smucker, Lloyd</a>	PA 11th
Nay		<a href="#">Marino, Tom</a>	PA 12th
Nay		<a href="#">Joyce, John</a>	PA 13th
Nay		<a href="#">Reschenthaler, Guy</a>	PA 14th
Nay		<a href="#">Thompson, Glenn</a>	PA 15th
Nay		<a href="#">Kelly, Mike</a>	PA 16th
Yea		<a href="#">Lamb, Conor</a>	PA 17th

Yea	<b>D</b>	<u>Doyle, Mike</u>	PA 18th
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H.R. 264 - vote on 01/09/19, passed 240-188

H.R. 265 - vote on 01/10/19, passed 243-183

H.R. 266 - vote on 01/11/19, passed 240-179

H.R. 267 - vote on 01/10/19, passed 244-180

**One bill related to the Shutdown makes it through both Houses**

Senate voice vote and [House Vote](#)

[S. 24](#): The Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019, is a bill that would enable the federal government to compensate federal employees for any lost wages from the shutdown. The Library of Congress [summary](#) adds that “employees must be compensated on the earliest date possible after the lapse ends, regardless of scheduled pay dates.” This passed through the Senate via a voice vote on 01/11/19, meaning it had unanimous support. It quickly moved to the House, where it passed 411-7 that same day. The only people who voted against this effort were seven members of the Freedom Caucus.

Yea	<b>R</b>	<u>Fitzpatrick, Brian</u>	PA 1st
Yea	<b>D</b>	<u>Boyle, Brendan</u>	PA 2nd
Yea	<b>D</b>	<u>Evans, Dwight</u>	PA 3rd
Yea	<b>D</b>	<u>Dean, Madeleine</u>	PA 4th
Yea	<b>D</b>	<u>Scanlon, Mary</u>	PA 5th
Yea	<b>D</b>	<u>Houlahan, Chrissy</u>	PA 6th
Yea	<b>D</b>	<u>Wild, Susan</u>	PA 7th
Yea	<b>D</b>	<u>Cartwright, Matthew</u>	PA 8th
Yea	<b>R</b>	<u>Meuser, Daniel</u>	PA 9th
Yea	<b>R</b>	<u>Perry, Scott</u>	PA 10th
Yea	<b>R</b>	<u>Smucker, Lloyd</u>	PA 11th
No Vote	<b>R</b>	<u>Marino, Tom</u>	PA 12th
Yea	<b>R</b>	<u>Joyce, John</u>	PA 13th
Yea	<b>R</b>	<u>Reschenthaler, Guy</u>	PA 14th
Yea	<b>R</b>	<u>Thompson, Glenn</u>	PA 15th
Yea	<b>R</b>	<u>Kelly, Mike</u>	PA 16th
Yea	<b>D</b>	<u>Lamb, Conor</u>	PA 17th

Yea	<b>D</b>	<u>Doyle, Mike</u>	PA 18th
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### Shutting down the Senate until they deal with the #TrumpShutdown

[Senate vote](#) and (another [Senate vote](#))

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has attempted to start this session of the Senate with a bill that would, according to [GovTrack](#):

- Reauthorize a cooperation agreement the U.S. struck with Jordan in 2015: a three-year deal to streamline defense sales, secure the country's borders with Iraq and Syria, and fight ISIS
- Authorizing sanctions against the regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria unless several conditions are met—conditions which are unlikely to be met, such as releasing political prisoners and no longer targeting civilian populations
- Extend an existing loan guarantee program with Israel through 2023, while increasing protections for state and local governments that refuse to invest in or contract with companies which boycott Israel

No doubt under other circumstances that bill would have the support of most senators. But a government shutdown is not a normal time for the legislature. As this [analysis piece](#) from the *Washington Post* explains:

President Trump is not the only person in Washington who could end this government shutdown now. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) could bring a “clean” funding bill to the floor, free up his GOP caucus to support it and could quite possibly secure enough votes to override a presidential veto.

McConnell already did it once, when he believed he had Trump's blessing. Before the holidays he allowed a vote to keep the government running until Feb. 8, to avoid a shutdown and buy more time to negotiate Trump's demand for border wall funding. It passed easily. But then Trump bowed to pressure from his base, House Republicans dared not challenge him, and the parts of the government that had not yet been funded were shut down.

Since Leader McConnell is being obstinate on this topic, and refusing to bring new legislation to end the shutdown to the floor of the Senate, Democrats in the upper house have enacted a plan that the Indivisible Guide refers to as “[withholding consent](#).” To bring any bill to the floor for a vote, the Senate needs to hold a [cloture vote](#), where 60 senators must vote YES for a bill to move forward for final consideration. Right now, a group of 43 Democrat and Independent senators (everyone in the Democratic caucus except for Sens. Doug Jones of Alabama, Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, Robert Menendez of New Jersey and Joe Manchin of West Virginia) are “withholding consent” to ALL legislation brought to the floor for cloture votes. They will quite literally make sure that nothing moves in the Senate until such time as McConnell caves and brings the funding bills to the floor for a vote to end the shutdown. Simply, until the government shutdown is over, 43 senators are shutting down the Senate.

Here is a glimpse at what “withholding consent” looks like in action. The two votes linked to above were both cloture votes for the same middle east bill. The first was brought to the floor on Tuesday, 01/08/19. Forty-three Democrats and Leader McConnell himself voted against cloture. [GovTrack explained](#) that “sometimes a party leader will vote on the winning side, even if it is against his or her position, to have the right to call for a new vote under a motion to reconsider.” Then McConnell brought the same bill to the floor against for a cloture vote on Thursday, 01/10/19, and the same 43 Democrats voted against cloture. That time they were not joined by McConnell. And since then, those Democrats have continued to “withhold consent” and to insist that no Senate business will achieve cloture until bills to end the shutdown are brought to the floor.

And that is where things stand in the Senate as of the end of the week.

## Defending the ACA in the House

### [House vote](#)

Last year a collection of State Attorneys General brought a lawsuit against the Affordable Care Act (ACA), arguing that after the GOP's Tax Bill [stripped the individual mandate out of the ACA](#), the entire health care package itself was unconstitutional. Normally it is the role of the Justice Department to defend cases filed against federal laws, by the Trump Administration made the decision that they were [not defending the ACA](#). Instead, they actually stepped in on the side of the states attacking the ACA in court, and supported the move to toss out coverage and protections for people with [pre-existing conditions](#).

This week, the House considered a measure that involves that convoluted situation related to the lawsuit against the ACA. One part of the rules package, (referred to officially as On Agreeing to Title III of the Resolution: H.Res. 6: Adopting the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 116th Congress), specifically authorizes the House to take legal action to support the ACA in this lawsuit. [Section 302](#) of that Title III portion reads:

The Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives, is authorized to intervene, otherwise appear, or take any other steps in the case of Texas v. United States, No. 4:18-cv-00167-O (N.D. Tex.) and in any appellate proceedings arising from such case. The Speaker, in consultation with the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group, is also authorized to intervene, otherwise appear, or take any other steps in any other cases involving the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to protect the institutional interests of the House and to defend such Act, the amendments made by such Act to other provisions of law, and any amendments to such provisions, including the provisions ensuring affordable health coverage for those with preexisting conditions.

Despite the fact that many Republican MoCs from our state campaigned on protecting people with pre-existing conditions, only one member of their caucus from our state chose to vote with the Democrats to allow the House to defend this popular provision in the ACA. The measure did pass on January 9, 2019, in a 235-191 vote.

Indivisible wrote an excellent [explainer](#) about this case, and next steps, if you want to know more!

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Yea		<u>Doyle, Mike</u>	PA 18th

## Our Senators' response to the President's Oval Office Address on Border Security

### Senator Bob Casey, 01/08/19, via his [website](#):

"President Trump shut down the government to force the construction of a wall that security experts say won't work. A concrete or steel wall is not border security. Instead of continuing his shutdown, President Trump should commit to signing the Republican bills passed by the Democratic House that would reopen the government and secure the border with over \$1 billion in funding.

Once the government is reopened, Congress should have a substantial debate on how to fix our broken system and begin work on legislation that mirrors the bipartisan 2013 comprehensive immigration reform bill. That legislation passed with 68 votes in the Senate and provided \$40 billion in funding for border security. It also provided order, rules and certainty for individuals and businesses and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants."

### Senator Pat Toomey, 01/08/19, via his [website](#):

"Tonight, we heard a clear case for boosting security and humanitarian aid funding at our southern border. I support these objectives, provided taxpayer dollars are used efficiently and effectively.

"President Trump has invited Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Schumer and others to the White House tomorrow to try and end this partial government shutdown. At that meeting, I hope an agreement is reached for the sake of hundreds of thousands of federal employees and their families, who are in jeopardy of missing their next paycheck. There is a deal to be made given that Democrats repeatedly

supported billions in funding to maintain and expand the existing 350 miles of security fencing along the southern border prior to President Trump's election."

## MoC Twitter Action

**Senator Bob Casey hot topics:** The senator spent most of the week responding to issues related to the shutdown, discussing his take on a comprehensive immigration reform package. He commended Gov. Wolf for "taking bold action to address climate change in Pennsylvania" and expressed his support for the newly implemented greenhouse gas reduction goals. Additionally, he said he wanted to see the United States rejoin the Paris Climate Accords. The senator ended the week with the tweets highlighted below, showing he is deeply opposed to the Trump Administration's latest attack on the social safety net.

**Casey tweets of the week, 01/11/19:** "Hell no. If the Administration tries to decimate Medicaid through executive action after its scheme was rejected by Congress and the American people, I will fight it with everything I have. That fight will be through legislation, in the courts, holding up Administration nominees, literally every means that a U.S. Senator has. This immoral, unconscionable action would devastate seniors, individuals with disabilities, hardworking families and children. We will mobilize like we did when Republicans tried to push their health care scheme through in 2017 and we will win."

— shared in response to reporting in a [Politico](#) article titled "[Trump wants to bypass Congress on Medicaid plan - Block grants for states would achieve conservative dream on health program for poor](#)"

**Representative Brian Fitzpatrick hot topics:** The representative shared several tweets touting legislative efforts, one item related to human trafficking and another tweet related to his "No Budget, No Pay" bill. He retweeted a clip from PBS Newshour which included video from his interview with that outlet. He made a statement about his support for the Democrat's rules package, paired with a piece from the *Ripon Advance*.

**Fitzpatrick tweet of the week, 01/11/19:** "On this Human Trafficking Awareness Day, I introduced the bipartisan End Banking for Human Traffickers Act with @USRepKeating. Cutting off traffickers' access to the banking system is critical to end to their abhorrent crimes. Learn more"

— shared with a link to his [press release](#)

**Senator Pat Toomey hot topics:** The senator announced that his Harrisburg office was moving physical locations. He shared some images from his appearance at the Farm Show. The remainder of his output, excluding his tweet of the week, concerned holidays/commemoration days.

**Toomey tweets of the week, 01/09/19:** "Congress should be reasserting its constitutional responsibility on trade, not yielding even more power to the executive branch."

— tweeted with a link to a [Bloomberg](#) article titled "[White House to Roll Out Bill to Expand Trump's Tariff Powers, Sources Say](#)"

## Honorable mention, lawmaker

From @SenWhitehouse (D-R.I.) on 01/13/19:

"The @senatemajldr has made the political calculation that there is not enough pressure on @SenateGOP to justify breaking unity, which he can now hold by bringing no measure forward that would split his caucus."

— shared with a link to a [Washington Post](#) analysis piece titled "[Mitch McConnell could end the shutdown. But he's sitting this one out.](#)"

## Honorable mention, media

From @AshaRangappa\_, CNN analyst, on 01/13/19:

“The amazing thing here is that he truly has no grasp of the gravity of the question...all he can focus on is the personal slight to him and the NYT article’s affect on his image.

THIS IS EXACTLY WHY HE IS VULNERABLE TO BEING EXPLOITED BY FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE”

— [tweeted in response to a Citizens for Ethics tweet](#) (and video clip) that read “President Trump is directly asked if he’s working for Russia. He doesn’t say no.”

### **Honorable mention, constituent response**

From @KimberlyTravel on 01/12/19:

“I just can’t imagine how big a hole in the soul these people must have to so desperately try to ensure that Americans don’t have access to health care.”

— [made in response to Sen. Casey’s tweet of the week](#)

### **Casey in the News**

*Courtesy of contributor Kathy Sites*

“We all want effective border security. The real crisis here is the government shutdown. We really have a crisis of leadership when it comes to the president, who should be the leader in the room, instead the president just adds to the uncertainty and chaos that he created. The president is the one who brought the shutdown about.”

— [from a Wilkes-Barre Times Leader article titled “Casey: Shutdown, wall fight is ‘crisis of leadership’”](#)

“A concrete or steel wall is not border security. Instead of continuing his shutdown, President Trump should commit to signing the Republican bills passed by the Democratic House that would reopen the government and secure the border with over \$1 billion in funding. Once the government is reopened, Congress should have a substantial debate on how to fix our broken system and begin work on legislation that mirrors the bipartisan 2013 comprehensive immigration reform bill. That legislation passed with 68 votes in the Senate and provided \$40 billion in funding for border security. It also provided order, rules and certainty for individuals and businesses and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. The Trump shutdown continues to drag on because of the President’s unwillingness to accept a reasonable border security compromise and his obsession with a wall along our southern border.”

— [from a Wilkes-Barre Times Leader article titled “NEPA’s federal legislators respond to Trump’s shutdown talk”](#)

“If he’s really serious about that, instead of just playing political games, then we can focus the issue on border security, and focus on what experts tell us. President Trump is not an expert on border security. He knows very little about it. The experts know more. We should listen to them. I’m ready to help pass bills that would reopen federal agencies.”

— [from an article in Allentown’s WFMZ 69 titled “Casey speaks out against the wall”](#)

“I would vote yes on the appropriations bill sent over by the House last week that would reopen the government but not fund the wall. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell refuses to bring it up for a vote. It’s on President Trump to commit to signing this agreement and ending the shutdown he created.”

— [from an article in the Reading Eagle titled “Berks delegation speaks on government shutdown, border security”](#)

"This is part of who we are, it's part of our heritage and it's part of our future. One of the best parts about this event is meeting young people, the future farmers of America--the future farmers of agriculture--who are with us today."

— from York's *Fox 43* article titled ["Governor Tom Wolf and Senator Bob Casey kick off 103rd PA Farm Show"](#)

"This move unfairly takes aim at the poorest of poor. I plan to work tirelessly to stop the challenge. It is absolutely immoral."

— the senator addresses the administration's plan to change work requirements for those receiving benefits from the federal food stamp program, from a *Sunbury Daily Item* article titled ["USDA crackdown on food stamp work requirements could impact thousands in PA"](#)

"It'll be awhile before some of that is sorted out. Whether that means there will be a consensus around one or two or whether it's more diffuse or whether there's no endorsements, it's hard to tell."

— the senator responds to questions regarding endorsement of Elizabeth Warren following the announcement that she will run for president, from the *NewsMax* article titled ["Senate Dems Not Yet Lining Up Behind Elizabeth Warren"](#)

"We continue to engage even when we have disagreements, and one of the most important areas of cooperation has to be counterterrorism. There's no place in the world that has suffered more gravely from terrorism and terrorist attacks than Pakistan. Pakistanis have worked with the US government in implementing US counterterrorism strategies. Sometimes it works. Sometimes we do not share enough information. Sometimes it is a breakdown.

"And every president, I think, should have the right to question the relationship, to ask more questions about the bilateral relationship. But I think it is of critical importance that we continue to engage to defeat terrorists and to counter any terrorist activity."

— from the Pakistani english-language version of *Dawn*, in an article titled ["US, Pakistan need to be honest about differences: senator"](#)

## **Fitzpatrick in the News**

"You have leaders from both parties who are interested in getting a political win. The president has threatened to veto any bill that doesn't contain border funding, and (Pelosi) is saying she's not giving a dime in border funding, so something has to give."

— from a *Bucks County Courier Times* article titled ["Casey, Toomey, Fitzpatrick talk shutdown"](#)

"I think it's the most basic job of any elected official, including a member of Congress, is to fund our government. You know, I can tell you firsthand, Michel. I lived through the government shutdown of 2013 as an FBI agent. I was a supervisor. We had to make incredibly tough decisions on designating essential versus non-essential police. Support employees that are incredibly important to the ongoing investigative process were furloughed, and it was incredibly disruptive. I thought it jeopardized our national security. And I will always vote to fund the government."

— an excerpt from a longer interview carried nationally on *NPR*, titled ["House Republicans Back Legislation To End Shutdown, Breaking With Trump"](#)

"I hope that he's willing to compromise. You know, every single functioning relationship that we have in our lives, Audie, is a product of consensus building and compromise, and Congress should be no different. People need to come to the table. Nobody is going to get everything of what they want, but everybody's got to give up a little in order to get this government open."

— the representative speaks on what he hopes to see from the president, from a different *NPR* interview titled [“GOP Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick On Why He Broke Ranks And Voted To Keep The Govt. Open”](#)

“Leadership starts at home, and every single member of congress ought not to get paid. hey got to give their money back to the US Treasury, so we can feel what [the federal workers] feel. Sometimes that changes your perspective.”

— an excerpt from the representative’s speech at a Philadelphia rally of federal workers, as reported in the *Philadelphia Weekly* article titled [“Going on three weeks without pay, federal workers are fed up with partial government shutdown”](#)

“No shutdown is good, and it hasn’t accomplished anything, which is why we need to reopen the government, which is why I have and will continue to vote to keep our — to reopen our government and to keep it open.

These are very, very important debates on issues like immigration and border security and DACA, but we can’t hold our federal employees hostage, Judy. And, right now, we have a scenario where the TSA screeners at airports, the air traffic control workers are being furloughed. That makes our airways very unsafe. You have the CBP, the Border Patrol and the Coast Guard, the three entities responsible for border security, who are not being funded and are furloughing people. That doesn’t help us with border security. You have the FBI, my old — my former colleagues and my old employer, who are furloughing people, having to make decisions of essential vs. nonessential employees, which hurts their counterterrorism, counterintelligence, criminal and cyber-security investigations.”

— an excerpt from a *PBS NewsHour* interview titled [“‘People need to start acting like adults,’ Rep. Fitzpatrick says of shutdown”](#)

“[This is] common sense legislation protects the constitutional rights of law-abiding Americans while seeking to prevent felons, domestic abusers and the dangerously mentally ill from lawfully purchasing a firearm.”

— from the *Vallejo Times-Herald* article titled [“Universal background check law introduced by Thompson, others”](#)

“I continue to strongly oppose the attempt to dismantle the Affordable Care Act in federal court, which threatens patient protection provisions.”

— from a *Morning Consult* article titled [“3 GOP Lawmakers Side With House Democrats on Texas ACA Case Intervention”](#)

“Congressman Rooney is a great legislator and a great friend, and his appointment as co-chair of the Climate Solutions Caucus is welcome news. A leader in the fight against climate change, Francis’ leadership will be instrumental in expanding the ranks of the Climate Solutions Caucus. I look forward to working with him over the next two years to advance bipartisan, pragmatic solutions to this critical issue.”

— from a *Washington Examiner* article titled [“Florida Republican Francis Rooney set to co-chair bipartisan climate change caucus”](#)

## **Toomey in the News**

*Courtesy of contributor Elayne Baker*

“Democratic colleagues have supported this many, many times in the past. Now, because they think that Donald Trump is taking the heat for the shutdown, they don’t want to end the shutdown.”...[A 2,000 mile wall] wouldn’t make sense. But there are portions of the border where a physical barrier really does make sense, and that’s what we ought to be doing.”

— from a *York Dispatch* article titled [“York County government safe from shutdown — for now — but some federal services shuttered”](#)

"Tonight, we heard a clear case for boosting security and humanitarian aid funding at our southern border. I support these objectives, provided taxpayer dollars are used efficiently and effectively... I hope an agreement is reached for the sake of hundreds of thousands of federal employees and their families, who are in jeopardy of missing their next paycheck. There is a deal to be made given that Democrats repeatedly supported billions in funding to maintain and expand the existing 350 miles of security fencing along the southern border prior to President Trump's election."

— from a [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#) article titled "[NEPA's federal legislators respond to Trump's shutdown talk](#)"

"I support the increased use of physical barriers, surveillance technology, and border patrol agents to secure the border. There is a deal to be made here given that Senate Democrats repeatedly supported billions for this objective prior to President Trump's election."

— from a [Reading Eagle](#) article titled "[Berks delegation speaks on government shutdown, border security](#)"

"It's not what the emergency authority is intended for and I think it's a dangerous precedent."

— the senator opines on the floated plan for President Trump to declare a national emergency so that he could have alternate sources of funding for his wall, from the [Doylestown Intelligencer](#) article titled "[Casey, Toomey, Fitzpatrick talk shutdown](#)"

"Pennsylvania's [Earned Income Tax Credit] program provides scholarships to thousands of disadvantaged children so they can escape failing schools. Treasury's new guidance is welcome news for those students and their families – explicitly stating that business contributions to programs, like the EITC, will remain deductible. In the coming months, I will continue to work with Treasury to ensure donors have the guidance they need to support school choice programs."

— from a [MyChesCo.com](#) article titled "[Toomey Statement on Treasury Guidance for School Choice Scholarship Programs](#)"

## Learning About Legislation - Committee Assignments in the Senate

While we wait for the far more [dramatic](#) revelation of which House members have been assigned to which committee, let's see what happened with Senate Committees. Generally, they have a much easier time reorganizing their committees at the start of each session, with far fewer members shifting in each two-year period. There was some [speculation](#) last year that with the retirement of Utah's Orrin Hatch, a reshuffling of committee chair assignments *might* catapult our own junior senator, Pat Toomey, into the top seat on the Senate Banking Committee. That did not come to pass. Both of our senators stayed put, retaining the positions they held in the last Congress.

### Sen. Bob Casey - Committee Assignments

- Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- Committee on Finance
- Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
- Special Committee on Aging (Ranking Member)

### Sen. Pat Toomey - Committee Assignments

- Committee on Finance
- Committee on the Budget
- Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs - last term he had the additional assignment as the leader of this group's Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection, but the [official Senate site on committee assignments](#) does not have information on those subcommittee leadership positions yet

A note on terms - the party in power has the ability to hold the majority of members on all committees, thus the leader of that group is referred to as the Chairperson. The person from the minority party who has been designated as the leader of that group is given the title of Ranking Member. So in the Senate, the Republicans have Chairpeople, and the Democrats have Ranking Members. The reverse will be true in the House.

Hopefully the House will have announced their committee assignments by next week, and we will have information on all of the PA Representatives' positions in next week's report.

### **Legislation of Interest - *Day One* Priorities (continued from last week)**

Last week we looked at the *day one priorities* of our PA MoCs, and discussed how the first bills they introduce signal the topics that they will return to time and again as their founding principles (or their public relations highlights) during their time in office. Less than half of our Representatives had their bills processed, though, because there is such a glut of bills introduced in these first weeks of Congress. Here are the first offerings from the some legislators that didn't get into last week's report:

#### **PA-02 Rep. Brendan Boyle (D)**

Rep. Boyle has only introduced one piece of legislation thus far, a House Resolution ([H. Res. 27](#)) to indicate that the House would like local school districts to put more of an emphasis on Holocaust education into their curricula.

#### **PA-07 Rep. Susan Wild (D)**

Rep. Wild has introduced one bill ([H.R. 421](#)) to fund the Coast Guard, not just armed service members, but also civilian employees and contractors, since they are all affected by the shutdown and their services are of critical import.

We still have no legislation from the MoCs listed below. The shutdown may be causing a slow-up in introduced legislation. But it may also be that MoCs are waiting for their committee assignments before they put their hand to legislation-drafting. This is a topic that we will revisit in coming weeks (or months), as the shutdown is addressed and normal business resumes in the House.

PA-04 Rep. Madeleine Dean (D)

PA-09 Rep. Dan Meuser (R)

PA-05 Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (D)

PA-10 Scott Perry (R)

PA-06 Rep. Chrissy Houlihan (D)

PA-14 Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R)

PA-08 Rep. Matt Cartwright (D)

PA-16 Rep. Mike Kelly (R)

PA-17 Rep. Conor Lamb (D)

PA-18 Rep. Mike Doyle (D)

### **Call to Action - Support this bill!**

*Obligatory shutdown preface... If you are going to make calls to MoCs during the shutdown, please consider making them to either Sen. Bob Casey to thank him for holding firm on the Indivisible "withholding consent" plan or to Sen. Pat Toomey to pressure him to join with fellow GOP Senators Collins, Gardner, Moore-Capito, and Murkowski who want this shutdown over. The circumstances of the shutdown, already harming federal workers and their families, are due to start hurting millions of Pennsylvanians soon, as money for Food Stamps runs out, mortgages aren't being granted through federal programs, and farming credits aren't being disbursed. Ending this senseless pain should be the priority of us all.*

*But once the shutdown ends, consider calling on your House member to support this bill...*

**[H.R. 247](#): Federal CIO Authorization Act of 2019**

Our nation has a huge Information Technology and Cyber-security problem. As Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats has [observed](#), "The warning signs are there. The system is blinking. It is why I believe we are at a critical point... the digital infrastructure that serves this country is literally under attack. It was in the months prior to September 2001 when, according to then-CIA Director George Tenet, the system is blinking red. And here we are nearly two decades later, and I'm here to say, the warning lights are blinking red again."

One of the reasons we have such a problem is that there is little to no coordination of IT infrastructure for the entirety of the federal system. And as our lawmakers made clear at an [embarrassing hearing](#) with Google's CEO last month, many of them are ill-equipped to find a solution, let alone even recognize the problem. Thankfully, some of the more technologically savvy MoCs have banded together in a bipartisan fashion to take on this huge problem. Led by Rep. Will Hurd (R-Texas) a cybersecurity major and former undercover officer in the CIA, this new bill proposes to create the position of Federal Chief Information Officer (CIO), who would then oversee the security of our digital infrastructure across the entirety of the federal government.

In a [statement](#) issued upon the introduction of the bill, Rep. Hurd explained:

Every single minute of every single day, hackers are trying to steal Americans' information. From credit card numbers, to social security numbers, our personal information is targeted by bad actors around the globe. Americans should be able to trust their government to keep their information safe. This bill helps keep the vast information stored by the federal government secure from hackers by making clear that the Federal CIO is in charge of the security of our data across the government. I am proud to introduce this bill with my friend Rep. Robin Kelly (D-Ill.) so we can continue to work toward finally catching our federal government up with the 21st century.

The *Federal Times* [noted](#) that this group of co-sponsors got this bill through the House in 2018, but it was never taken up by the Senate.

While the shutdown is ongoing, please keep this bill on your radar. And once our government has re-opened, please call your MoC and ask them to co-sponsor this bill. And consider calling either or both of our Senators to ask them to encourage this bill along once it reached the Senate - or even introduce a companion bill in their chamber.

Thanks for reading up on what our Pennsylvania Members of Congress have been doing this past week. We're delighted to have you as a reader. If you liked what you read here and think others need to keep up with our MoCs, please share our website - <http://www.patogether.org/congress.html> Or you can head over to Twitter and search for #MoCTrack and retweet what you see there.

This report brought to you by the PA-01 MoCTrack team...

Elayne Baker

Gary Garb

Kathy Sikes

Kierstyn Piotrowski Zolfo

Are you an introvert activist looking for ways to help a progressive effort that don't involve phone calls, door knocking, or leaving your house? We are always seeking additional assistance. Our Congresspeople are always busy and there is always more for us to cover — tasks big (example - what traditional media is saying about your MoC) and small (example - what's your MoC tweeting about) to fit any level of time commitment or experience. Can you help us out? Please email [KierstynPZ@gmail.com](mailto:KierstynPZ@gmail.com) and put "MoCTrack Help" in the subject. Thanks!