

## PA-01 Member of Congress Tracking Report - 11/24/19

This is a 100% volunteer effort brought to you by a handful of progressive Democrats and Independents who share a vision of an informed electorate. We want to offer a big thank you to the [Pennsylvania Together](#), [Pennsylvania Statewide Indivisible](#) and [Demcast](#) organizations who host our report and help us share it out to the residents of our Commonwealth!

### 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	Change from last report
<a href="#">Senator Bob Casey (D)</a>	27.7%	0.0%
<a href="#">Senator Pat Toomey (R)</a>	88.0%	0.0%
<a href="#">PA-01 Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R)</a>	66.9%	-0.4%

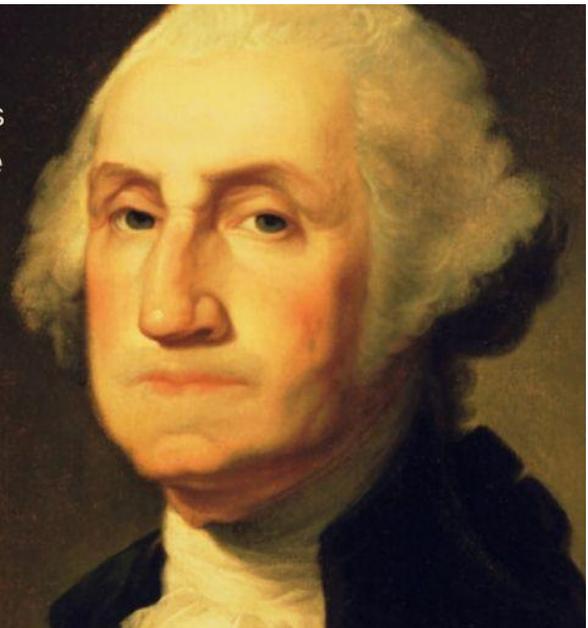
Nate Silver's [FiveThirtyEight website](#) assesses the voting records of our MoCs to provide this index, by comparing any legislation where President Trump has stated a position, and comparing the vote of each MoC to the President's opinion. The only vote scored this week was a House bill requiring health service providers to have plans for preventing workplace violence.

Want to see exactly what votes went into giving your MoC the numbers above? Click on the name of any legislator and you will be brought to their 538 webpage, where all of the positions that went into the index are listed in an easy-to-read format.

### Words From Our Founders

"The alternate domination of one faction over another... gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of public liberty."

- George Washington, 1796



— from his [Farewell Address](#)

## Votes of Interest

### **Shutdown Averted, or Yet Another Continuing Resolution, or Stealth Patriot Act Renewal** [House Vote](#) AND [Senate Vote](#) on [H.R. 3055](#): Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020

Earlier this year Congress passed several of the funding bills needed to keep the government in business for 2020, but negotiations got [stuck](#) in late September, necessitating the passage of a continuing resolution to fund the government for a few more weeks while the details were ironed out. That funding was set to run out this week. And so Congress drafted this bill, which would kick the can down the road until right before the holiday recess.

In addition to the continuing resolution itself, the Congress tucked into this measure a number of odds and ends. The [Washington Post](#) explains that “in addition to the funding extension, the spending legislation includes a grab-bag of other provisions, including a 3.1 percent military pay raise and money to conduct the Census. It also extends some expiring provisions of the USA Patriot Act.”

The House voted first, on Tuesday, November 19, 2019. The continuing resolution passed, 231-192. Most Democrats voted YES and Republicans voted NO, but this was not a pure party line exercise. Ten Democrats and twelve Republicans cross party lines. **Fitzpatrick voted YES.**

Then the bill went to the Senate for a vote on Thursday, November 21, 2019 - the very day that funding ran out. The continuing resolution passed, 74-20, with all of the NO votes coming from Republicans. **Casey voted YES** and **Toomey voted NO** (as is his habit). If you need a reminder of Sen. Toomey's general feelings about these appropriations bills and why he votes NO, here is a [statement](#) from earlier this year that lays out his contrarian position.

### **The House addresses the turmoil in Hong Kong**

[House Vote](#) on [S. 1838](#): Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019

[House Vote](#) on [S. 2710](#): A bill to prohibit the commercial export of covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Police Force

The [protests in Hong Kong](#) started in April, when a bill to allow extradition to China of people arrested in Hong Kong was introduced. Since then these pro-Democracy protests, and the violence surrounding them, have escalated. It is in that environment that this legislation, which passed the Senate unanimously, moved to the House.

The Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act would, according to [Reuters](#), “...put the special treatment the former British colony enjoys under U.S. law under tighter scrutiny linked to the extent of Hong Kong's autonomy from Beijing.” The other bill, S. 2710, has a more self-explanatory title. The covered munitions items mentioned in that title refer to “tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, foam rounds, bean bag rounds, pepper balls, water cannons, handcuffs, shackles, stun guns, and tasers,” according to Section 1(2) of the legislation.

Both votes were taken on Wednesday, November 20, 2019, under suspension of the rules, which means that a 2/3 super majority was needed to pass. The ban on exporting munitions passed unanimously (417-0). The Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act passed 417-1, with the single NO vote coming from Freedom Caucus member Rep. Thomas Massie. **Fitzpatrick voted YES on both bills.**

On Thursday, [Sen. Marco Rubio said](#) that he believed President Trump would sign the pair of bills. However, President Trump made motions on Friday that he might veto the measures because of the impact they might have on a trade deal with China. The [Washington Post](#) quoted the President, who made this statement on *Fox and Friends*:

We have to stand with Hong Kong, but I'm also standing with President Xi [Jinping]. He's a friend of mine. He's an incredible guy. ... But I'd like to see them work it out. Okay? We have to see and work it out. But I stand with Hong Kong. I stand with freedom. I stand

with all of the things that we want to do, but we also are in the process of making the largest trade deal in history. And if we could do that, that would be great."

But after the President threatened a veto, Sen. Ted Cruz issued a [statement](#) that, while addressing the leader of China, was clearly intended as a message to President Trump. It said, in part, "President Xi and the Chinese Communist Party cannot silence the United States Congress. In case they aren't familiar with how our Constitution works, the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act passed the House and Senate by overwhelming veto-proof majorities and it will become law."

We will have more on this standoff in our next MoCTrack Report.

### **The House takes on Workplace Violence in Healthcare settings**

[House Vote](#) on [H.R. 1309](#): Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care & Social Service Workers Act

Social workers, nurses and other health care service workers are facing increasing levels of violence in the workplace. [National Public Radio](#) reported that "according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there's been a 70% increase in intentional injuries to nurses by their patients between 2012 and 2018." This bill serves to address this situation by directing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to mandate new standards.

[Newsweek](#) provided a recap of the legislation's contents:

If signed into the law, the bill would provide employers one year to develop a provisional plan for protecting health care workers, and 42 months to develop and implement a final plan for investigating incidents of violence, educating staff on risk management, meeting specific recording requirements, and creating a safe space for health care workers to report acts of violence or threats.

This measure is backed by National Nurses United, the American Federation of Teachers, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the AFL-CIO, the Steelworkers, the Machinists and other unions, according to [People's World](#). They have attempted to pass this legislation in the previous three Congresses.

The vote on H.R. 1309 was taken on Thursday, November 21, 2019. It passed, 251-158. All Democrats voted YES, and they were joined by 32 Republicans. **Fitzpatrick voted YES.**

### **Reporting on Corporate Diversity**

[House Vote](#) on [H.R. 5084](#): Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act of 2019

The House considered a pair of bills that would enable the Securities and Exchange Commission to take new steps to improve corporate governance. This first bill would mandate that corporations make public information about diversity in their leadership ranks. [Compliance Week](#) explains further:

The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday approved H.R. 5084, which would amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require publicly traded corporations to disclose diversity information about their boards of directors, nominees for the boards, and executive officers of the corporation... [It] would also require the Securities and Exchange Commission to report annually to Congress an analysis of diversity trends. The SEC would also have to establish a Diversity Advisory Group to work on initiatives to increase gender, racial, and ethnic diversity on corporate boards. If the bill does become law, the SEC Office of Minority and Women Inclusion would also be tasked with publishing best practices for compliance with disclosure requirements on diversity.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. [Gregory Meeks](#) (D-N.Y.), who said that this bill "...is the culmination of years of work dedicated to increasing transparency so that the highest levels of corporate America can begin to reflect the diversity of America."

H.R. 5084 came to the floor of the House for a vote on Tuesday, November 19, 2019. It passed, 281-135, with 55 Republicans joining all of the Democrats in voting YES. **Fitzpatrick voted YES.**

## **Financial Accountability for Corporate Fraud**

[House Vote](#) on [H.R. 4344](#): Investor Protection and Capital Markets Fairness Act

The second of the corporate regulatory bills creates accountability for corporate fraud, and gives teeth to the Securities and Exchange Commissions when it comes to pursuing corporate wrongdoing. According to *Investment News*, the new bill:

...would give the Securities and Exchange Commission more power to claw back investor money lost in securities fraud. A recent Supreme Court decision, *Kokesh v. SEC*, capped the SEC's look back at five years. The bipartisan bill, the Investor Protection and Capital Markets Fairness Act, would apply a 14-year statute of limitations for the SEC to seek so-called disgorgement, or the return of ill-gotten gains.

This measure was sponsored by Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-Mich.), who told the [Ripon Advance](#) that “the latest report from the SEC found that more than \$1.1 billion swindled from investors through fraudulent activity is unable to be recovered because of a 2017 Supreme Court decision.” The Congressman added that he authored this bill so that “...the SEC has the necessary tools to go after bad actors and prevent these sophisticated fraudsters from keeping the money they have stolen from our teachers, military service personnel, seniors, and religious-affiliated groups.”

This measure passed on Monday, November 18, 2019, in a 314-95 vote, under suspension of the rules. All of the NO votes came from the GOP and the lone Independent. **Fitzpatrick voted YES.**

## **The House Streamlines Disaster Recovery**

[House Vote](#) on [H.R. 3702](#): Reforming Disaster Recovery Act of 2019

With climate change increasing disastrous weather events, the time is ripe for a government plan to streamline the manner in which funds are approved to help hard-hit communities. The sponsor of this legislation, Rep. [Al Green](#) (D-Texas), shared that “...the system currently in place has never been codified into federal law and requires a new process after every disaster that occurs, delaying and complicating the distribution of funds to impacted communities.”

Iowa's [KMA Land](#) provided a brief rundown of the contents of Rep. Green's bill:

Among other things, the bill would create a standardized grant application for disaster funds, put time requirements on agency response time and increase measures to eliminate fraud and abuse with disaster aid. [Rep. Cindy] Axne says the money to help flood victims recover has been approved, but the ability of victims to receive money has been hampered.

A Louisiana news outlet, *The Advocate* provided additional information, noting it would “set out specific guidelines for how HUD distributes Community Development Block Grant disaster funds, which are the major source for long-term recovery dollars for states.”

The disaster recovery bill had its vote on Monday, November 18, 2019, under suspension of the rules, meaning it needed a  $\frac{2}{3}$  super majority was needed to pass. The final vote was 290-118. All Democrats present votes YES, along with 71 of their Republican colleagues. **Fitzpatrick voted YES.**

## **The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals Flips Conservative**

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on Barbara Lagoa to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on Robert J. Luck to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit

The Senate confirmed two new judges this week in a move that flipped one of our thirteen courts of appeals. More on that change from [Slate's](#) Mark Joseph Stern:

As the House of Representatives held impeachment hearings on Wednesday, the Senate confirmed Barbara Lagoa to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. With this confirmation,

President Donald Trump has flipped the 11th Circuit, meaning a majority of its judges were appointed by Republican presidents. Five of the court's 12 judges were appointed by Trump himself, and another was appointed by George W. Bush. George H.W. Bush appointed the court's chief judge. Conservatives now hold a 7–5 edge.

The 11th Circuit is the third court that Trump has flipped, following the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the 2nd and 3rd Circuits. Seven of the nation's federal courts of appeals are now controlled by Republican appointees, six by Democratic appointees. Trump has appointed 48 judges to the courts of appeals in less than three years; by contrast, President Barack Obama appointed 48 judges to these courts total during his eight years in office. (That excludes the Federal Circuit, which can only hear a narrow range of claims, most notably patent law.) A quarter of all active appellate judges on the federal bench today were nominated by Trump.

While she is assuredly a conservative, Barbara Lagoa has ample experience to back her confirmation. The [Miami Herald](#) reports that she served for nearly 13 years on Florida's Third District Court of Appeal before being appointed to the Florida Supreme Court. And she worked in private practice as well as serving as an assistant U.S. attorney in South Florida.

Robert Luck, on the other hand, just turned forty, and according to [The Vetting Room](#), he has had only served on the Florida State Supreme Court for barely half a year. Now he's not only being promoted into the federal judiciary, but he's been jumped right over the district court level and into the Court of Appeals!

Mr. Luck was confirmed in a 64-31 vote on Tuesday, November 19, 2019. Eleven Democrats crossed party lines to approve this nominee. **Casey voted NO** and **Toomey voted YES**. Ms. Lagoa's vote took place the next day. She was confirmed 80-15. **Casey voted YES** and **Toomey voted YES**.

### **We have a New Ambassador to Romania**

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on Adrian Zuckerman to be Ambassador to Romania

It is not a new thing for a president to appoint donors and cronies to ambassador positions. But it is a distinctly Trumpian twist to appoint one who is facing sexual harassment claims. But that's exactly what we are getting with our new Ambassador to Romania, who sexually harassed a legal secretary while he was a partner at a large estate law firm, according to [Law.com](#). Mr. Zuckerman has no previous State Department or diplomatic experience. But, according to [Foreign Policy](#), he is a member of one of the president's exclusive golf clubs. And [FEC filings](#) show he also is a donor to the president's campaign fund.

The new ambassador was confirmed in a 65-30 vote on Wednesday, November 20, 2019. The NO votes were all placed by Democrats. **Casey voted NO** and **Toomey voted YES**.

### **We have a new Secretary of Energy**

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on Dan Brouillette to be Secretary of Energy

With the departure of Rick Perry, President Trump now has a new Energy Secretary in Dan Brouillette. And it will be no surprise to anyone that he has deep ties to industries friendly to fossil fuel and extractive corporations. [Newsweek](#) reports that Mr. Brouillette was both a vice president of Ford Motor Company and the senior vice president and head of public policy for the United Services Automobile Association.

[Politico](#) provided information on Mr. Brouillette's past work in government and his experience at working with the legislative branch:

Brouillette has a reputation around Washington as a pragmatist who can break through policy log jams. During the Bush administration, he was a key figure in laying the

groundwork for what became the 2005 Energy Policy Act. The law, which expanded DOE's research and development authority, first began to take shape while Brouillette was assistant secretary for congressional and intergovernmental affairs at DOE, a post he held from 2001 through 2003... Brouillette helped get the bill through a House-Senate conference, and resulting bill passed in the House. [That] version failed in the Senate by two votes, but a similar bill passed the next year after both Tauzin and Brouillette left Congress.

As one would expect from a Trump nominee, Mr. Brouillette has recently supported an industry-friendly approach to giving corporations the right to exploit resources on government lands. [The Hill](#) reports "Brouillette on Thursday morning endorsed the idea of mining the Arctic to dig up minerals for electric batteries and touted the American emission reductions."

Dan Brouillette was confirmed to be our new Secretary of Energy on Thursday, November 21, 2019 in a 74-18 vote. All 18 NO votes came from Democrats. **Casey voted YES** and **Toomey voted YES**.

### Unanimously passed legislation

The following bills were passed through unanimous consent or voice vote (which presumes unanimity, as any member can object to the voice vote and ask for a roll call). This list excludes bills related to post offices, stamps, memorials, awareness weeks and other ceremonial activities.

- [S.333](#) - National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act
- [S.1430](#) - Representative Payee Fraud Prevention Act
- [S.1846](#) - State and Local Government Cybersecurity Act
- [S.2193](#) - Charging Helps Agencies Realize General Efficiencies Act
- [H.R.182](#) - Authorization for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission
- [H.R.255](#) - Big Bear Land Exchange Act
- [H.R.925](#) - North American Wetlands Conservation Extension Act
- [H.R.4258](#) - Reauthorizing Security for Supreme Court Justices Act
- [H.R.4029](#) - Tribal Access to Homeless Assistance Act
- [H.R.4300](#) - Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act
- [S.2071](#) - Repealing Existing Substandard Provisions Encouraging Conciliation with Tribes Act

### MoC Twitter Action

*Courtesy of contributor @ElastigirlVotes*

### Twitter Action - Healthcare/ ACA

🌀 **Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, 11/18/19:**

"The Trump Admin has been working hard to sabotage the ACA and undermine the health care of millions, but I believe all Americans deserve access to quality, affordable health services. Thank you for joining me @PAHumanServices @SecretaryMiller to discuss access to health care.



REMINDER: There are only 27 days left until <http://HealthCare.Gov> open enrollment ends on Dec 15. To ensure you are choosing a plan that meets ACA requirements, such as protections for pre-existing conditions, make sure to ONLY enroll in a plan through <http://HealthCare.Gov>."

● **Senator Pat Toomey, @SenToomey, 11/20/19:**

“Alzheimer's is a devastating disease that has touched my family & millions more in the US. With November being #AlzheimersAwarenessMonth, @SenStabenow & I hosted a hearing today focused on access to care & a bill I'm working on to help families with the cost of long-term care.”



**Twitter Action - Economy/ Environment**

● **Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, 11/19/19:**

“As climate change & air pollution worsen, we're committing children to a future where their health & well-being are increasingly threatened. If we want to ensure the health of a child born today isn't defined by a changing climate, we need bold action to combat the climate crisis.” *Tweet quotes tweet with [link](#) to NYT article*



“As the @LancetCountdown's new report shows, placing health at the center of the climate fight and taking action to limit global warming to well below 2°C is possible – and will greatly benefit the public and the economy, with cleaner air, safer cities and healthier diets.”

● **PA-01's Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, @RepBrianFitz, 11/19/19:**

“Today, alongside @RepDanKildee, @MarkRuffalo, and attorney Rob Bilott, we launched the Fight Forever Chemicals Campaign. Together we will continue to fight for the clean water that we all deserve.”



## Twitter Action - promoted legislation

### ● Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, [11/21/19](#):

“60 million Americans live & work in rural communities, but @realDonaldTrump 's attacks on Medicaid make it even harder for them to access the care they need, when they need it. We must protect rural providers and the care they provide in their communities. #NationalRuralHealthDay.

Rural hospitals serve as important providers of health care and support. My Rural Hospital Sustainability Act (S.2157) would allow rural hospitals across the country to redesign care, providing financial stability, helping keep rural hospitals open and improving health outcomes.”

### ● PA-01's Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, @RepBrianFitz, [11/22/19](#):

“Proud to work with @RepAnnieKuster to introduce the Extend Act. Our drug epidemic is a complicated issue and our response must be multi-faceted.” *tweeted with a Patch article titled [“Fitzpatrick-Backed Opioid Bill Targets Deadly Fentanyl”](#)*

## Tweet of the Week

### ● Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, [11/21/19](#):

“The witnesses who testified this week have honorably served the United States of America. At a time when our democratic process is under attack, we owe them our deepest gratitude and appreciation for their courage in coming forward and their commitment to the rule of law.” *Tweet includes video.*

### ● Senator Pat Toomey, @SenToomey, [11/19/19](#):

“Every single day, people who are legally prohibited from buying a weapon...are able to get their hands on a gun due to this unchecked commercial firearms market.”

@ChrisMurphyCT, @Sen\_JoeManchin, and I are working to fix this. Read our @USATODAY Op-ed: *Tweet includes [link](#) to USA Today op-ed.*

### ● PA-01's Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, @RepBrianFitz, [11/20/19](#):

“It is crucial we stay on the same page to best combat the opioid crisis. This epidemic touches every part of our lives, and we need to continue this discussion to find bipartisan solutions to help all Americans.”

## Casey in the News

*Courtesy of contributor Linda Houk*

“For some people it’s really attractive... If you’re someone below the age of 40 maybe who’s looking for something really inexpensive you might enroll yourself in a plan that doesn’t have the protections you need”

—from an article at [lehighvalleylive.com](#) titled [“Beware ‘junk plans’ in 2020 health insurance open enrollment, senator says in Valley visit”](#)

"It's obviously an effort that needs a lot more work to meet the legitimate expectations of seniors... Especially when you launch something new, (it) can go awry. People steered in the wrong direction should get a measure of fairness."

—from an article in *the Star Tribune* titled "[Medicare drug plan finder can steer seniors to higher costs](#)"

"Transgender people, particularly transgender women of color, are disproportionately affected by fatal violence... We must do more to stop hate crimes, enforce legislation to prosecute these crimes and prevent those convicted of hate crimes from purchasing guns."

— from an article on *ABC 7 Eyewitness News* titled "[Lawmakers mark Transgender Day of Remembrance, highlighting transphobia, grim stats](#)"

## **Fitzpatrick in the News (non-impeachment edition)**

"I'm proud that the House has recognized these home front-heroes with the passage of the bipartisan Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act. These 'Rosie the Riveters' embodied the 'We can do it' spirit forever connected with the famous poster... [I'm] especially proud to represent a 'Rosie,' Mae Krier of Levittown, who has worked tirelessly in advocating for this long-deserved recognition."

— from a blog post in the *Ripon Advance* titled "[Fitzpatrick applauds House passage of bill recognizing female efforts during WWII](#)"

"We must act quickly to prevent the spread of these dangerous chemicals and ... hold those responsible for this pollution accountable... We're going to take to the floor and fight hard for this because this is really important."

— from an article in the *Pennsylvania Capital Star* titled "[Here's how Pa. lawmakers are waging a multifront war against PFAS contamination](#)"

## **Fitzpatrick Impeachment Media Extravaganza**

Prior to this Friday, Rep. Fitzpatrick had been toeing the same line on impeachment for the past several weeks. It is most recently exemplified by this snippet from an 11/19/19 *Doylestown Intelligencer* article titled "[Veterans urge Fitzpatrick to support Trump impeachment](#)." The Representative stated:

"The way it is now, it will be hard to get at the truth with so much partisanship and divisiveness going on. With allegations like this, I believe in letting law enforcement take a look at this and then reporting the facts to Congress... The bar for impeachment is set very high. We have to be very judicious and cautious on how we proceed with that."

Then, on Friday, Rep. Fitzpatrick finally decided to expand upon that opinion! He chose to... straddle the fence, as one would expect from his previous tone.

Here's the timeline...

At 2:16 PM, Tom Sofiled of the Levittown Now dropped this [tidbit](#):



Tom Sofield  
@BuxMontNews

SCOOPLET: Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick just said that at this point, he hasn't seen enough evidence to vote for impeachment against President Trump. Says process is too political, but witnesses have been credible. Noted the president's actions on Ukraine aid were "troubling."



2:16 PM · Nov 22, 2019 · Twitter for Android

That was picked up by national media and retweeted all afternoon long. Then *The Levittown Now* released their full article on Fitzpatrick's position, titled "[Congressman Fitzpatrick Says Not Enough At This Point To Impeach.](#)" Most of the article is the journalist recapping the Representative's positions. The only real direct quotes are Fitzpatrick referring to Trump's actions as "troubling" and then him asserting, "There's no reason we can't refer this to law enforcement." (*aside, which is a ridiculous assertion, since law enforcement had their chance to deal with the whistleblower complaint, and Attorney General Barr quashed the investigation. But whatever - wouldn't want to let logic get in the way of a partisan argument.*)

Then, in the 5PM news block on *NBC 10 Philadelphia*, Rep. Fitzpatrick actually deigned to participate in a recorded interview. You can view the 3 minute clip here - [GOP U.S. Rep. Fitzpatrick of Bucks Co. Weighs Impeachment.](#) For those of you who prefer to read your content, MoCTrack has transcribed the interview.

### From NBC 10's Lauren Mayk (LM), interview with Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (BF)

**LM <intro>**: He has been willing to cross party lines before on issues like guns and healthcare, but in terms of what has been happening in Washington, Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick says this is not a serious investigation, and he believes that there should be one. In Bristol, Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick is today back in his home district, after days of impeachment inquiries dominated Capitol

Hill. Fitzpatrick, the only Republican House member representing the Philadelphia suburbs, is also a former FBI agent. In a one-on-one interview today, he told me he wants more investigation before voting on impeachment.

<start of interview>

**BF:** My concern, from day one, has been that for the first time in the history of our country, we are proceeding down this path without first allowing law enforcement to do a 360 degree investigation, so we don't know what all the facts are.

**LM:** What about the witnesses we just heard from?

**BF:** Absolutely, and that's important that we hear from them. But who are we not hearing from. Because there have been a number of people that have come into the SCIF that have not testified publicly, and will not testify publicly.

**LM:** So do you want to hear from people like John Bolton, Mick Mulvaney?

**BF:** Absolutely. We can't get a full, 360 degree rounding out of the facts unless we hear from everybody.

**LM:** So if the Administration is preventing them from testifying, do you think that the Administration should allow them to?

**BF:** I think that everybody should testify. That's the only way to conduct an investigation - you gotta hear from everybody.

**LM:** Given what we do have, because you may have to make a vote just with this information, do you think that what happened was an abuse of power?

**BF:** Uhh... I would call it, uhhh... poor judgement, for sure. Ummmm... and whether it hits that next threshold? Again, we have to hear from all the witnesses. You can't... in order to make that decision, you gotta have all the facts. We don't have all the facts right now.

**LM (voice over):** The Congressman wants to be able to call witnesses himself, including FBI Director Chris Wray, and suggests that agency or a special counsel like Bob Mueller should handle the investigation. Fitzpatrick calls what he heard in the last two weeks more troubling allegations.

<back to interview>

**LM:** Does this give you any pause on whether or not President Trump deserves a second term?

**BF:** Isn't that up to the people? That's their decision. That's what democracy is about. I think we give people all the facts and we let them make a decision. That's why...

**LM:** Does he have your support?

**BF:** Well, he didn't in 2016. And I'll keep an open mind all the way up to the election this year.

**LM:** Are you still deciding at this point?

**BF:** Well, aren't you? Isn't everybody?

<end of interview>

In the wake of that interview, multiple news sites around the country have picked up on Fitzpatrick's comments. Most of them cite the same exact quotations. The *Bucks County Courier Times*, however, has a teensy bit more from the Congressman, taking a more disparaging tone about the impeachment proceedings in their article "[Rep. Fitzpatrick reiterates need for FBI probe before impeachment vote.](#)"

The Bucks County Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick said he wants more witnesses interviewed. “There’s zero reason why we’re not giving this to the FBI,” he said, rather than “seeing this circus, zoo on Capitol Hill.”

Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick, R-1, of Middletown knows he may have a decision to make on the vote to impeach President Donald Trump, but he still wants an FBI investigation first.

Despite days of congressional testimony, Fitzpatrick said that what played out on TV “was not a serious investigation ... You’ve got to have all the facts,” he said Friday. “I think everybody should testify. We have to hear from all the witnesses.”

And then the *Doylestown Intelligencer* followed up with their own article, “[Warwick seniors question Fitzpatrick on impeachment, immigration, Social Security](#).” Rep. Fitzpatrick ratchets up the level of discourse:

Fitzpatrick was critical of the impeachment hearings overall, adding “an impeachment is like pushing a nuclear button on the Constitution.”

So, if you’re in PA-01 and Rep. Fitzpatrick’s position on the Impeachment Inquiry has you dissatisfied with the manner in which he has chosen to uphold his oath of office, keep your eyes open on Facebook and Twitter for an event planned in the week after Thanksgiving.

## Toomey in the News

*Courtesy of contributor Elayne Baker*

“The president indicated a great deal of interest in doing something and of course, the something that I’ve been advocating for some time now is background checks at all commercial gun sales. It’s taken far, far longer than I certainly had hoped but I still think we have a chance of getting this across the finish line.”

— from KYW Newsradio 1060’s article titled “[Sen. Toomey, 2 Democratic colleagues believe time is still ripe for passage of common sense gun sales reforms](#)”

“[The Automotive industry] loaded up what is supposed to be a free-trade agreement . . . with all kinds of restrictions on trade... [Congressional Democrats] got things they never dreamed of getting in a free-trade agreement. ”

— from an article in the *National Review* titled “[NAFTA Was Good, and the USMCA Is Okay](#).” *The piece notes that Sen. Toomey is “the only declared Republican opponent of the agreement in the Senate”*

“As a recent US trade court opinion stated, the president’s authority to impose ‘national security’ tariffs or other import restrictions under Section 232 is not indefinite. With the 180-day deadline having passed, the window for new ‘national security’ taxes on imported automobiles has closed.”

— from a *South China Morning Post* article titled “[Donald Trump weighs new trade investigation to justify tariffs on EU](#)”

Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) reiterated that it was “inappropriate” for Trump to pressure Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate the Biden family. But he said he also still hasn’t seen “anything that rises to the level of being an impeachable offense.”

— a full excerpt, with context, from an article in [Politico](#) titled “[Trump’s Senate safety net holds firm as Republicans dismiss 'quid pro quo'](#)”

“I intend to sit through a trial. If the House pursues that, and, at that point, I’ll examine all the evidence they present.”

— from a [Radio.com](#) article titled “[Senator Toomey Focused On Gun Control Legislation During Impeachment Inquiry](#)”

## Call to Action - Support this Bill!

### [S. 1352/H.R. 2585](#) - Resources for Victims of Gun Violence Act

We’re revisiting a bill we covered this past May, as it’s primary sponsors (both Pennsylvanians) are making a big push for it to be considered. Let’s help them out by making some calls!

These are a pair of identical bills that were introduced last week. The Senate version was introduced by our own Bob Casey. It is pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and it had two Democratic co-sponsors (Sen. Harris of California and Sen. Klobuchar of Minnesota). The House version of the bill was introduced by PA-03’s Rep. Dwight Evans. It is pending in the House Judiciary Committee and it has 71 Democratic co-sponsors (up from 23 in May).

The *Philadelphia Inquirer* lays out the stakes that this legislation is attempting to address in their article titled “[Gun violence victims still feel forgotten. Sen. Bob Casey and Rep. Dwight Evans hope to change that](#)”:

Four months into 2019, nearly 400 people have been shot in Philadelphia.

Most have survived, thanks in no small part to the frenzied work of the city’s trauma surgeons. But just because someone manages to cheat death in an operating room doesn’t mean he or she won’t face months or years of struggling to recover, to adapt to a new life full of physical and psychological disabilities that create significant needs.

This American problem affects more than 100,000 people every year, in rural areas and cities alike. But it’s also an issue that hasn’t been meaningfully studied. On Tuesday, U.S. Sen. Bob Casey and U.S. Rep. Dwight Evans cosponsored the Resources for Victims of Gun Violence Act, which promises to establish a federal advisory council to support victims of gun violence, and identify gaps in the myriad support systems.

This bill would establish an advisory committee made up of members of various bureaucratic agencies (like Health and Human Services, Social Security Administration and the Department of Justice among others), but more importantly, victims of gun violence who can bring their lived experiences, as well as social workers and medical professionals. This new advisory group would assess a variety of needs of victims of gun violence; according to [Representative Evans](#), that would include “medical, legal, financial, educational, workplace, housing, transportation, assistive technology and accessibility needs.” From there, the new advisory group would have two mandates. First, they would make sure that information about currently available programs is more accessible to affected communities. Their second task is to provide to Congress a report on what additional programs need to be created to help victims of gun violence.

Senator Casey issued this [statement](#) in conjunction with the release of this legislation:

We can't stop pushing for the common-sense measures that will help prevent gun violence from happening. But we must also acknowledge the reality of our gun violence problem and make sure that survivors, families, friends and caregivers have the support they need to recover and manage their longer-term needs. That's what this bill is aiming to do, and I hope that Congress will take it up. There are millions of Americans who have been affected by gun violence and could benefit from this legislation.

Representative Evans echoed the senator's sentiments in his own [statement](#), adding, "this bill has nothing to do with gun rights and everything to do with helping victims of crime. This is something Americans across the political spectrum should be able to support. I thank Senator Casey for his leadership on this issue."

Please call Rep. Fitzpatrick and Senator Toomey to ask them to support H.R. 2585:

There are hundreds of thousands of Americans who are dealing with the traumatic results of gun related injuries. Regardless of your position on common sense gun reform, we owe a duty to those who have been injured. The reality of their lives is a day-to-day struggle to navigate a confusing maze of state, federal, and local government bureaucracy as they try to stitch together enough aid for basic necessities, like functional wheelchairs and handicapped-accessible housing. By creating an advisory committee, more information about existing programs will be made available, and Congress will be advised of areas where there are additional needs. These are members of our community, and I would like you to step up and do what you can to help them by supporting this bill.

Common sense gun reform centered organizations have lined up behind this bill. The [March for our Lives](#) group released a [tweet](#) that reads, "MFOL proudly endorses The Resources For Victims of Gun Violence Act. Congress would be wise to do the same. This is not a conversation on rights, it's on the responsibility to care for our fellow Americans in their time of need. #MarchForOurLives" Moms Demand Action [tweeted](#) "As a nation of gun violence survivors, we must provide more support for those who endure the devastating effects that follow. Our gratitude to @SenBobCasey & @RepDwightEvans for introducing legislation that would provide resources to gun violence victims."

Congress is on recess for Thanksgiving week, and our MoCTrack team will be spending the next weekend with our families. We will be back once Congress returns to DC, with a report on December 8, 2019.

**Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours, readers!**

This report brought to you by the Pennsylvania MoCTrack team...

Elayne Baker

Gary Garb

Helen a.k.a. @ElastigirlVotes

Linda Houk

Kierstyn Piotrowski Zolfo

We can always use 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](mailto:KierstynPZ@gmail.com) and put "MoCTrack Help" in the subject. Thanks!