

PA-01 Member of Congress Tracking Report - 02.02.20

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 Demcast and Pennsylvania Statewide Indivisible 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
Senator Bob Casey (D)	29.6%	0.0%
Senator Pat Toomey (R)	87.3%	0.0%
PA-01 Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R)	65.6%	+0.2%

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, a House bill that changes rules for credit reporting.

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.

Votes of Interest

The Senate forgets what it means to be a co-equal branch of government



Senate Impeachment Votes

While the media was mostly focused on the vote related to witnesses (understandably so), there were actually six separate votes that took place on Friday night. Below, please find the details on all six votes. The roll call votes themselves are nested within the Congressional Record, in the details of the impeachment trial..

Vote on the Motion (Shall It Be In Order To Consider And Debate Any Motion To Subpoena Witnesses Or Documents)

Part of the Impeachment Trial rules that passed last week set up the opportunity to debate on whether there should be a debate of witnesses (yes, that does sound circuitous - it's from the mind of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.). In fact, that was one of the issues that House Impeachment Manager Adam Schiff took issue with last week. Schiff had argued for an amendment that would have automatically made it acceptable to debate specific witnesses. Since that did not pass, there was four hours of debate in the Senate if they should consider bringing in any witnesses at all.

A portion of the explanation from House Impeachment Manager Val Demings:

“At the onset of this trial, we moved for Leader McConnell's resolution to be amended to subpoena documents and witnesses from the outset. This body decided to hold the question over. You have now heard opening arguments from both sides. You have seen the evidence that the House was able to collect. You have heard about the documents and witnesses President Trump blocked from the House's impeachment inquiry. We have vigorously questioned both sides.

The President's counsel has urged you to decide this case and render your verdict upon the record assembled by the House. The evidence in the record is sufficient. It is sufficient to convict the President on both Articles of Impeachment--more than sufficient.

But that is simply not how trials work. As any prosecutor or defense lawyer would tell you, when a case goes to trial, both sides call witnesses and subpoena documents to bring before the jury. That happens every day in courtrooms all across America. There is no reason why this impeachment trial should be any different. The commonsense practice is borne out of precedence. There has never been--never before been--a full Senate impeachment trial without a single witness. In fact, you can see in the slide that in every one of the 15 prior impeachment trials the Senate has called multiple witnesses. Today we ask you to follow this body's uniform precedence and your common sense. We urge you to vote in favor of subpoenaing witnesses and documents.”

Vote Date: January 31, 2020, 05:35 PM

Final Vote: 49-51 (failed)

Casey voted YES and Toomey voted NO; Mitt Romney of Utah and Susan Collins of Maine were the two GOP Senators to vote with the Democrats.

On the next four amendments, there was no debate at all. As soon as Minority Leader Schumer offered the amendment, Majority Leader McConnell moved to table it. That went straight into a roll call vote, and each matter was quickly closed

Vote on Amendment No. 1295, to subpoena certain relevant witnesses and documents

This is a request to subpoena an extensive list of witnesses and documents, including John Bolton, Mick Mulvaney, Michael Duffey, Robert Blair, and materials from the National Security Council, the White House, the Treasury Department and a vast array of other bureaucratic agencies

Vote Date: January 31, 2020

Final Vote: 53-47 (motion tabled)

Casey voted NO (in support of the amendment) and Toomey voted YES (against the amendment)

Vote on Amendment No. 1296, to subpoena John Robert Bolton

This was an amendment directing the Chief Justice to issue a subpoena for John Bolton.

Vote Date: January 31, 2020

Final Vote: 51-49 (motion tabled)

Casey voted NO (in support of the amendment) **and Toomey voted YES** (against the amendment); **Mitt Romney and Susan Collins were the two GOP Senators to vote with the Democrats.**

📦 **Vote on [Amendment No. 1297](#), to subpoena John Robert Bolton**

This was an amendment asking for one day of deposition and one day of live testimony from John Bolton.

Vote Date: January 31, 2020

Final Vote: 51-49 (motion tabled)

Casey voted NO (in support of the amendment) **and Toomey voted YES** (against the amendment); **Mitt Romney and Susan Collins were the two GOP Senators to vote with the Democrats.**

📦 **Vote on [Amendment No. 1298](#), to help ensure impartial justice by requiring the Chief Justice to rule on motions to subpoena witnesses and documents and issues of privilege**

This was an amendment allowing Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts to subpoena witnesses if he felt they could provide information relevant to the impeachment trial.

Vote Date: January 31, 2020,

Final Vote: 53-47 (motion tabled)

Casey voted NO (in support of the amendment) **and Toomey voted YES** (against the amendment)

📦 **Vote on [S.Res. 488](#): A resolution to provide for related procedures concerning the articles of impeachment against Donald John Trump, President of the United States**

With those four amendments out of the way, the Senate moved to vote on a resolution that says:

- The record is closed, and no new evidence will be added
- Final arguments will be held on Monday, with each side getting 2 hours
- The final vote will be held on Wednesday at 4PM.

Vote Date: January 31, 2020

Final Vote: 53-47

Casey voted YES and Toomey voted NO

The House moves to overhaul the credit reporting process

📦 **House Vote** on [H.R. 3621](#): Comprehensive CREDIT Act of 2020

This is a bill that would rework the manner in which credit reports are compiled, and includes banning of mortgage delinquencies from the report if the mortgage provider participated in abusive or fraudulent practices. That same model, excluding a debt if a lender engaged in fraudulent practices, would apply to student debt as well. It also would exclude medical debts for procedures that were deemed medically necessary, and it would lessen the time that late bill payments would affect the report. The bill also empowers the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to test new models for scoring credit reporting.

Vote date: **Wednesday, January 31, 2020**

Vote Tally: 221-189

Party Breakdown: This vote was nearly on party lines. All Republicans and the lone Independent voted NO. They were joined by two Democrats - Hawaii's Ed Case and Minnesota's Collin Peterson.

Additional Reading:

- "[House to vote on credit reporting reform bill](#)," from *Housing Wire*
- "[House passes legislation to overhaul consumer credit reporting](#)," from *The Hill*
- "[The House passed Ayanna Pressley's credit score reform bill. Here's what it would do](#)," from *Boston.com*

Fitzpatrick voted NO.

The House Passes two efforts to block war with Iran

Editor's note - the procedural details on this are convoluted. This is one of those situations where the Rules Committee provided new text and inserted it into an old bill number. So while it looks like there are two votes on the exact same bill, that is not the case.

📦 **FIRST House Vote** on [H.R. 550](#): No War Against Iran Act

On Concurring in the Senate Amdt with Amdt Specified in [Section 4\(a\)](#) of H. Res. 811 in the House

This is a measure to block funding for any use of offensive military action against Iran without congressional approval. The text was taken from a bill introduced by Rep. Ro Khanna earlier this year.

Vote date: **Thursday, January 30, 2020**

Vote Tally: 228-175

Party Breakdown: All but three of the NO votes came from Republicans. One of the three Democrats who voted NO was PA-17's Conor Lamb. Most of the YES votes were Democrats, and they were joined by four Republicans and Independent Justin Amash.

📦 **SECOND House Vote** on [H.R. 550](#): No War Against Iran Act

On Concurring in the Senate Amdt with Amdt Specified in [Section 4\(b\)](#) of H. Res. 811 in the House
The text of this measure would repeal the 2002 Iraq Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF), and was taken from a measure introduced by Rep. Barbara Lee.

Vote date: Thursday, January 30, 2020 **Vote Tally:** 236-166

Party Breakdown: Most of the YES votes came from Democrats, who were joined by 11 Republicans and Independent Amash. The NO votes were mostly placed by Republicans, along with a pair of Democrats (one of whom was PA-17's Conor Lamb).

Additional Reading:

- [Nancy Pelosi's floor speech](#) about these votes, from her website
- ["U.S. House votes to limit Trump's war authority \(again\). Here's how Pa. lawmakers voted,"](#) from the *Pennsylvania Capital-Star*
- ["House Votes 'No War Against Iran,' In Rebuke To Trump,"](#) from *NPR*
- ["House Votes to Repeal 2002 Military Authorization in Bid to Rein in Trump on Iran,"](#) from the *New York Times*
- ["House of Representatives passes two measures limiting Trump's ability to go to war with Iran,"](#) from *NBC News*

Fitzpatrick voted NO on both bills.

Congress looks to reauthorize laws about deadly Fentanyl and its lookalikes

📦 **House Vote** on [S. 3201](#): Temporary Reauthorization and Study of the Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act

The way that narcotics laws are built in this country, lawmakers have always been very specific about the chemical make-up of the drug they are dealing with. But in recent years, illegal drug makers have been tweaking their formulas slightly, and then the new version isn't illegal, even if it has the same damaging effects. This has been the case with a class of drugs that is nearly but not exactly identical to Fentanyl. So this bill could temporarily apply a class-wide ban on Fentanyl-like drugs, just before a previous temporary authorization was about to run out. The Justice Department wanted to make this ban permanent, but, according to the *New York Times*, "...opposition by criminal justice reform groups and researchers led the Senate to put off a permanent solution by passing legislation that would temporarily extend the DEA's class-wide ban on fentanyl analogues for another 15 months in order to buy the Government Accountability Office time to study how the policy will affect scientific research."

Vote date: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 **Vote Tally:** 320-88

Party Breakdown: All but two of the NO votes came from Democrats. They were joined by Independent Justin Amash and Republicans Thomas Massie of Kentucky.

Additional Reading:

- ["U.S. House Passes Bill to Extend Temporary Ban on Fentanyl Look-Alikes for 15 Months,"](#) from the *New York Times*
- ["Congress passes an extension to an emergency order on fentanyl,"](#) from the ABC affiliate in Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- ["House of Representatives extends bill banning unauthorized Fentanyl,"](#) from North Dakota's *KFYRTV.com*

Fitzpatrick voted YES.

This House promotes Suicide Research

📦 **House Vote** on [H.R. 4704](#): Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act

This is a bill that directs the National Science Foundation to create and fund competitive research grants related to suicide. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Ben McAdams, observed that "...how we understand human behavior, our social ties, and the environment in which we live can nexus into understanding to what puts people at risk of suicide and how we can support those in crisis."

Vote date: Monday, January 27, 2020

Vote Tally: 385-8

Party Breakdown: Independent Justin Amash and seven Republicans voted NO. The dissenting Republicans are all members of the House Freedom Caucus.

Additional Reading:

- "[Rep. Ben McAdams' bill to spur suicide prevention research passes House](#)," from the *Deseret News*

Fitzpatrick voted YES.

House Advances Holocaust education bill

📖 [House Vote](#) on [H.R. 943](#): Never Again Education Act

This bill, passed on the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau, would provide additional funding to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's education programming. This would enable the museum to create and distribute new resources to raise awareness of the Holocaust, its causes, and the lessons we should take from it today.

Vote date: Monday, January 27, 2020

Vote Tally: 393-5

Party Breakdown: The five NO votes came from four Republicans (members of the House Freedom Caucus) and Independent Justin Amash.

Additional Reading:

- "[House passes bill to support Holocaust education](#)," from *UPI*
- "[US House overwhelmingly passes Holocaust Education Act](#)," from the *Jerusalem Post*
- "[US House passes Never Again Education Act on International Holocaust Remembrance Day](#)," from the *Jewish News Syndicate*
- "[RJC withdraws support from GOP members who voted against Holocaust education bill](#)," from *Jewish Insider*

Fitzpatrick 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. This list included votes from this week, as well as the week of January 13th - 17th.

- [S.153](#) - Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act
- [H.R. 2153](#) - Keeping Girls in School Act
- [H.R. 5338](#) - Global Hope Act of 2019
- [H.Res. 752](#) - Supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests
- [H.R. 886](#) - Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act
- [S. 3084](#) - A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the limitation on pay for certain high-level employees and officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs
- [S.Res. 371](#) - A resolution reaffirming the support of the United States for the people of the Republic of South Sudan and calling on all parties to uphold their commitments to peace and dialogue as outlined in the 2018 revitalized peace agreement
- [S.Res. 471](#) - A resolution authorizing the taking of a photograph in the Chamber of the United States Senate
- [S. 2547](#) - Indo-Pacific Cooperation Act of 2019
- [S.Res. 260](#) - A resolution recognizing the importance of sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting the commitment of the United States Agency for International Development to reducing global malnutrition through the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy
- [H.R. 4302](#) - Homeless Assistance Act
- [H.R. 4458](#) - Cybersecurity and Financial System Resilience Act
- [H.R. 4841](#) - Prudential Regulator Oversight Act
- [H.R. 5315](#) - Expanding Opportunity for MDIs Act

Our Senators speak out about the Impeachment Witness Vote:

● Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, [01/31/20](#):

"Americans know that a fair trial requires relevant witnesses and testimony. In fact, 75% of Americans support calling witnesses. Yet, Republicans have blocked them at every turn. It seems that the president is calling the shots, dictating the Republican approach to this trial. Senate Democrats will continue to push for fairness. Trials have documents and evidence. Cover-ups don't. This is the third presidential impeachment trial in our country's history, and it would be the only one to be conducted without calling a single witness. In fact, every completed impeachment trial in history, for both judges and presidents, have actually included new witnesses that were not originally interviewed in the House. ... Americans deserve a fair trial, anything less is a cover-up." *This is an excerpt from the four minute long Weekly Democratic Address made by Senator Casey, a video clip of which is available in the [tweet](#) linked above.*

● Senator Pat Toomey, from his official website, [01/31/20](#):

"The purpose of a witness is to shed light on an important fact that could resolve a disputed issue and help determine the final outcome of the case. In my view, the House has brought forward articles of impeachment that do not justify removing President Trump from office, nullifying the results of the 2016 election, and denying Americans the right to vote for him in the next election. As a result, additional witnesses beyond the 17 who testified in the House proceedings, are not necessary."

MoC Twitter Action

Courtesy of contributor Helen, a.k.a. @ElastigirlVotes

Twitter Action - Witnesses and Documents

● Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, [1/31/20](#):

"By blocking relevant witnesses and relevant documents, Senate Republicans have denied the American people the fair trial they deserve. This proceeding was rigged from the start to protect the President."

Twitter Action - MoCs on Legislation

● Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, [01/30/20](#):

"Too many seniors have their savings & other resources stolen from them by unscrupulous thieves. In yesterday's Special Committee on Aging hearing, I called for passage of my bipartisan bill, the Stop Senior Scams Act, to raise awareness & help prevent seniors from falling victim. Yesterday @DemsOnAging released the Aging Committee's 2020 Fraud Book, which highlights top scams including the widespread Social Security impersonation scam. To learn more: <https://t.co/vCa7SKvK0B?amp=1>"

● PA-01's Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, @RepBrianFitz, [02/01/20](#):

"Too many Americans have become victims of stalking, and the crimes that come after. Congress must continue to raise awareness about the dangers of stalking. My bipartisan and commonsense resolution will work to raise awareness regarding the serious dangers of stalking, emphasize the protection of victims, and help victims recover and heal. Thank you @RepStephMurphy for partnering with me on this legislation." *tweeted with a link to this [blog post from the Ripon Advance](#)*

● PA-12's Rep. Fred Keller, @RepFredKeller, [01/29/20](#):

"Today, the @HouseCommerce committee is holding a hearing on bills that include the DAIRY PRIDE Act, which I co-sponsor. This is an important time to remember that **nut juice** and soy drink are no substitute for the delicious nutrition in whole milk and other real dairy products."



Editor's Note: Rep. Keller's tweet and image are so goofy as to demand inclusion in this report

Twitter Action - Healthcare/ safety net

🌀 **Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, 1/30/20:**

"The President's new block grant proposal is just another way to slash Medicaid and put health care for vulnerable Americans on the chopping block. This talking point of "more state flexibility" is just a Trojan horse for the blatant sabotage of our health care system."

Tweet [quotes Politico article.](#)

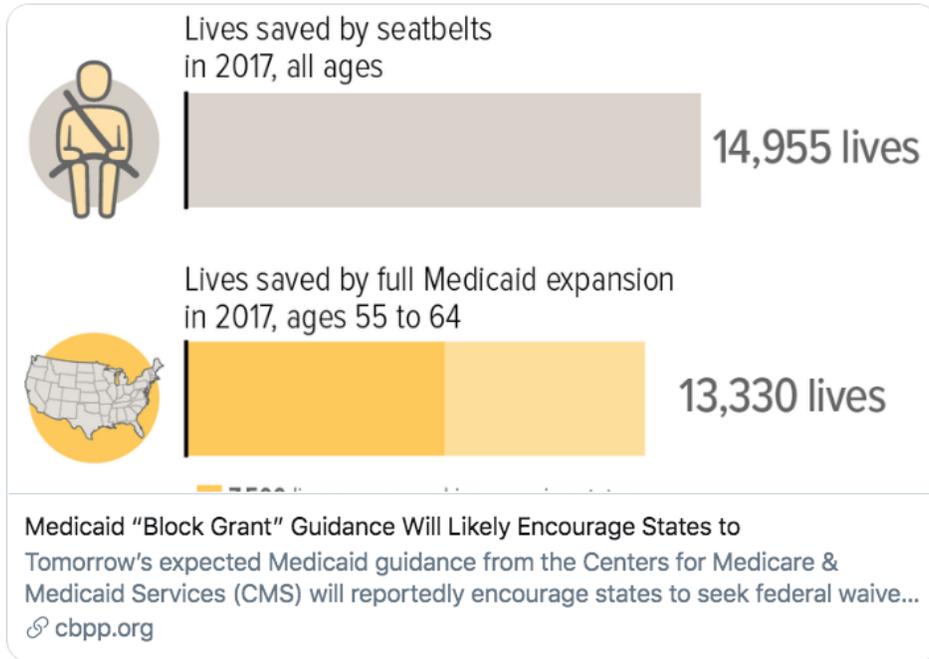


The Trump administration took a big step forward today to let states convert a portion of Medicaid funding into block grants



Trump releases block grant plan that would transform Medicaid
The plan to cap Medicaid spending, rejected by Congress just three years ago, will face swift resistance from Democrats and legal challenges.
[politico.com](https://www.politico.com)

"According to analysis by @CenterOnBudget a #Medicaid block grant plan will likely encourage states to UNDERMINE coverage, cap Medicaid expansion and weaken federal protections for the low-income adults it covers." *Tweet includes Center on Budget and Policy Priorities article [link.](#)*



Tweet of the Week

Where you'll find the best and worst content from Pennsylvania's MoCs

- **Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, 1/28/20:**
 Joining my colleagues @SenSherrrodBrown and @RepBrendanBoyle to fight back against the Administration's ableist attack on Social Security disability benefits. #NoSocialSecurityCuts #CripTheVote
 Tweet [quotes](#) Social Security Works.

Social Security Works @SSWorks

LIVE: Congressmembers & people with disabilities protest Trump's \$2.6 billion Social Security cut

36:12 5.7K viewers

- **Senator Pat Toomey, @SenToomey, 1/27/20:**
 75 years ago, allied forces liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau, a place that will forever embody the evil and horror of the Holocaust. This #HolocaustRemembranceDay we must recommit ourselves to ensuring that such an atrocity never happen again. #WeRemember



● **PA-01's Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, @RepBrianFitz, 01/28/20:**

"Thank you @GOPLLeader, @LeaderHoyer, @SpeakerPelosi, and all of my colleagues in the House for honoring my brother Mike on the floor last night. I am eternally grateful for all of the support my family and I have received." *tweeted with [a link to this YouTube video](#) of the House proceedings honoring the late Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick*

Casey in the News

Courtesy of contributor Linda Houk

"When I think about Dr. King and his legacy, I think of two words. One word is justice and the other word is service. If we're living up to his legacy, we will continue to fight the battles that we should fight against injustice to advance the cause of justice, and we must continue that fight today. His fight for justice must continue to be our fight here in the United States."

—from an article in *the Philadelphia Sunday Sun* titled "[The Philadelphia Martin Luther King, Jr. Association for Nonviolence, Inc. holds 38th Annual Awards and Benefit Luncheon](#)"

"It's one of the things we're wrestling with here: What is a public trust? Has that been violated? If it has been violated, what does that mean? What should happen?"

—from an article in *the Morning Call* titled "[What Pennsylvania's Bob Casey will ask when Q-and-A portion of Trump impeachment trial begins Wednesday](#)"

"This is wrong; it's a mistake... It's certainly not in the interest of justice, and it's certainly adverse to the interests of people with disabilities."

—from an article in *the Erie News Now* titled "[Democrats, activists oppose proposed cuts to Social Security disability programs](#)"

"The Social Security Administration scam is an impostor scam, plain and simple... Anyone, anyone, could be a victim of this kind of a crime."

"No one from our government will ever make these types of threats."

—from an article in *the Times Online* titled "[Casey: 'Anyone' can fall victim to Social Security phone scam](#)"

“These are grave charges in a serious determination we have to make. The best way to get to that is [to] put people under oath... I don’t know why Republicans seem to be afraid of having people put their hand in the air, testify under oath, and then be cross-examined. The president’s lawyers could have as much time as they need to cross-examine John Bolton or any other witness. But, what are they afraid of? They don’t seem to want to put anyone under oath who’s making the case for the president.”

“I would hope that to have a full and fair trial that they would be voting affirmatively for relevant witnesses and relevant documents... think the trial could proceed from there. I think it would be the right approach for the Senate to take, but, they have to make that decision.”

—from an article on [Fox News](#) titled “[Sen. Bob Casey: Why is GOP 'afraid' of impeachment witness testimony?](#)”

“As we prepare to celebrate the start of Black History Month, I am proud to cosponsor this bill to rename the U.S. Department of Transportation headquarters after the late William Thaddeus Coleman Jr., a Philadelphia native who was the first African-American to serve as Secretary of Transportation.”

“From arguing 19 cases in front of the U.S. Supreme Court and coauthoring the legal brief in *Brown v. Board of Education*, to his time at the helm of the Department of Transportation, Secretary Coleman exemplified the virtues of public service and I look forward to honoring his legacy.”

—from an article in [the Skanner](#) titled “[Bill introduced to Name US Department of Transportation Headquarters After Its First African American Secretary](#)”

Fitzpatrick in the News

“We must work to ensure girls in every country are able to stay in school so we can empower them in order to reduce poverty and create safer, healthier communities... [This will] help reduce barriers girls around the world face when trying to remain in school and help them access more opportunities.”

— an excerpt from [Rep. Fitzpatrick’s prepared website statement](#), as quoted in the [Ripon Advance](#) blog post titled “[Brooks, Fitzpatrick see bipartisan Keeping Girls in School Act advance](#)”

“Congress must continue to raise awareness about the dangers of stalking. Too many Americans have become victims of stalking, and the crimes that come after. This bipartisan and commonsense resolution, along with the Senate companion, will raise work to raise awareness regarding the serious dangers of stalking, emphasize the protection of victims, and help victims recover and heal,”

— an excerpt from [Rep. Fitzpatrick’s prepared website statement](#), as quoted in the [Ripon Advance](#) blog post titled “[Fitzpatrick’s bipartisan, bicameral resolution raises awareness of stalking](#)”

For the fourth week in a row it has been exceedingly hard to find press statements from Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick. The mainstream media has begun to take note. This is of particular note because of the legislation in question. Rep. Fitzpatrick is usually all too ready to paint himself as an ally to organized labor. His decision to forgo that opportunity is thought provoking, and should be causing his friends in labor to ask some pointed questions about his true level of commitment to their goals.

TIMES TELEGRAM

Ambitious attempt to strengthen unions set for vote next week

By Eli Rosenberg / The Washington Post

Posted Jan 29, 2020 at 6:08 PM

The Republicans who co-sponsored the bill, Reps. Jeff Van Drew and Christopher Smith, both of New Jersey, and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Pa., did not respond to requests for comment.

The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

Congress's most ambitious attempt to strengthen unions in years is set for a House vote next week

By Eli Rosenberg

Jan. 29, 2020 at 6:00 a.m. EST

The vote is scheduled for next week.

The Republicans who co-sponsored the bill, Reps. Jeff Van Drew and Christopher H. Smith, both of New Jersey, and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), did not respond to requests for comment.

Toomey in the News

Courtesy of contributor Elayne Baker

Editor's note - many articles covering the impeachment votes simply cited Senator Toomey's official website statement. Since that is cited above in its own section, we are not including those articles here.

"I think most of it was all very relevant and very persuasive. Brevity is generally a virtue."

— [the senator's comments on the presentation by the White House attorneys, from a New York Post article titled "Trump lawyers attack Schiff, Dems for allegedly hiding evidence"](#)

"It has changed, and it's changed to the point where I am absolutely certain that we don't need witnesses. We don't need to drag this out any longer. We should move as quickly as we can to get this thing over with, get this behind us. Even if someone believes that everything John Bolton says is going to confirm what's charged in these articles, it's not impeachable."

— [from an article in TribLive titled "Sen. Pat Toomey to vote 'no' on impeachment witnesses"](#)

"Medicaid is growing at a rate that far outpaces our economy. The program consumes nearly 30 percent of state budgets. The Trump administration's proposal to give states more flexibility is a step in the right direction, but significant work remains to make this safety net program fiscally sustainable."

— from a [MyChesCo](#) article titled "[Toomey Statement on CMS's New Optional Medicaid Block Grant Proposal](#)"

Impeachment Trial Excerpt of Note

This portion of the impeachment trial, taken from the [Congressional Record dated January 31, 2020](#), show just why courts matter, and why progressives need to be just as activated about judicial confirmations as conservatives and evangelicals. Chief Justice Roberts chose to do absolutely nothing as the very concept of fair trial was under assault. It did not have to be handled that way.

The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Chief Justice, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The CHIEF JUSTICE. The Democratic leader will state the inquiry.

Mr. SCHUMER. Is the Chief Justice aware that in the impeachment trial of President Johnson, Chief Justice Chase, as Presiding Officer, cast tie-breaking votes on both March 31 and April 2, 1868?

The CHIEF JUSTICE. I am, Mr. Leader. The one concerned a motion to adjourn. The other concerned a motion to close deliberations. I do not regard those isolated episodes 150 years ago as sufficient to support a general authority to break ties.

If the Members of this body, elected by the people and accountable to them, divide equally on a motion, the normal rule is that the motion fails.

I think it would be inappropriate for me, an unelected official from a different branch of government, to assert the power to change that result so that the motion would succeed.

Call to Action - Reject the Cover-up!

On Wednesday, February 5, 2020, the Senate will be placing its final vote in the Impeachment Trial. At this point, it is a foregone conclusion that the GOP-led Senate will acquit President Trump.

In response, a collective a progressive organizations are hosting "Reject the Coverup" events around the country. You can find an event near you [HERE](#). More events are being scheduled as you read this.

Even if you can't attend one of these events, do take the opportunity on Wednesday to contact the offices of both Senator Casey and Senator Toomey. There are six ways you can do so:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Phone | for Senate Casey | for Senator Toomey |
| 2. Snailmail | for Senate Casey | for Senator Toomey |
| 3. Website contact form | for Senate Casey | for Senator Toomey |
| 4. Tweet | @SenBobCasey | @SenToomey |
| 5. Resistbot | Text RESIST to 50409 or via Direct Message on Twitter | |
| 6. Fax, using faxzero | https://faxzero.com/fax_senate/T000461 | |

Please do thank Senator Casey for his clever question and consistent presence calling for accountability for the president. And when you call Senator Toomey... you know what to say.

The following organizations are sponsoring the Reject the Coverup events.



Turn out for this critical event if your schedule and abilities permit it!

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

Elayne Baker
Gary Garb
Helen aka @ElastigirlVotes
Linda Houk
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!