

PA-01 Member of Congress Tracking Report - 03.08.20

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! And apologies for the longer-than-planned hiatus we took. Unexpected illnesses can get in the way of our best intentions.

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)	28.8%	-0.3%
Senator Pat Toomey (R)	87.6%	+0.1%
PA-01 Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R)	64.0%	-0.8%

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 expressed by the president. The two votes scored since our last report were both in the House - one related to flavored tobacco products and the other on the rights of Transportation Security Administration employees.

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

Congress swiftly passes Coronavirus Preparedness Funding

[House Vote](#) AND [Senate Vote](#) on [H.R. 6074](#): Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act

Both houses of Congress moved quickly to approve \$8.3 billion in funding to address the COVID-19 outbreak. This amount is more than 3 times what the Trump Administration requested. The funding will be divided between:

- the Department of Health and Human Services, at least \$3.1 billion - this will go to vaccine development, supporting community health centers, therapeutic process development. Additional funding was assigned for the purchase of supplied like masks and respirators
- the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, \$950 million - this will be dispersed to state and local departments of health to increase staffing for labs, data analysis, and disease vector tracking
- the State Department and other international-facing offices, \$1.25 billion - this will be used for international containment and mitigation efforts

There will also be \$1 billion in loan available to businesses who sustain losses due to decreased commerce from the outbreak. We should expect additional appropriations bills along these lines to be brought up in coming months.

President Trump signed this into law on Friday.

House Vote date: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 **House Vote Tally:** 415-2
Senate Vote date: Thursday, March 5, 2020 **Senate Vote Tally:** 96-1

Party Breakdown: The three lawmakers to vote against this funding were all Republicans - Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, Rep. Andy Biggs of Arizona and Rep. Ken Buck of Colorado.

Additional Reading:

- "[Congress Quickly Passed An \\$8.3 Billion Spending Package To Fight And Treat The Coronavirus](#)," from *BuzzFeed News*
- "[Here's where taxpayer money will go from the coronavirus package Trump just signed](#)," from the *Los Angeles Times*
- "[Trump signs \\$8.3 billion emergency coronavirus spending package](#)," from *CNBC News*
- "[Where That \\$8.3 Billion In U.S. Coronavirus Funding Will And Won't Go](#)," from *NPR*

Casey voted YES and Toomey voted YES. Fitzpatrick voted YES.

AntiLynching Bill Passes the House after a Century of Attempts

[House Vote](#) on [H.R. 35](#): Emmett Till Antilynching Act

This is a bill designed to classify lynching as a hate crime under our federal laws. That means additional punishment would be leveled against criminals who are found guilty of lynching someone. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Bobby Rush (D-Ill.) made the following [statement](#) upon the bill's passage:

"Today is a historic day for this U.S. House of Representatives, this Congress, and the American people. Being from Chicago, the death of Emmett Till sent shockwaves through my community and personally affected me and my family. However, his death would not be in vain, for it was the spark that ignited the long arc of the civil rights movement, leading us to this very moment.

"With the passage of this bill we correct a historical injustice, based on a lie, that took the life of this young man. We also bring justice to the over 4000 victims of lynching, most of them African-Americans, who have had their lives tragically, and horrifically cut short at the hands of racist mobs and hate-filled hordes. After 120 years, and 200 failed attempts, the House finally positions itself on the right side of history, outlawing the heinous act of lynching once and for all."

Vote date: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 Vote Tally: 410-4

Party Breakdown: The four votes placed against this measure were from three Republicans (Ted Yoho of Florida, Thomas Massie of Kentucky and Louie Gohmert of Texas) and our lone Independent (Justin Amash of Michigan).

Additional Reading:

- "[Trump is not alone among Americans in failing to understand what a real lynching is](#)," an opinion piece in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, authored by Jesse Jackson
- "[House passes bill to make lynching a federal crime in historic vote](#)," from *CNN Politics*
- "[Antilynching Bill Named for Emmett Till Clears House, 410-4](#)," from the *Courthouse News Service*

Fitzpatrick voted YES.

House Gives TSA Workers full federal workforce rights

[House Vote](#) on [H.R. 1140](#): Rights for Transportation Security Officers Act

This bill would integrate the employees of the TSA into the mainstream of federal government workers. That would give them all the right to collective bargaining and to appeal discriminatory employment actions in the same manner as any other government employees, as well as put them in track for the seniority-based pay raises that are afforded to other federal workers. Including TSA workers into the mainstream of the federal workforce would also give them whistleblower protections.

The bill's sponsor, [Rep. Bennie Thompson](#) (D-Miss) noted, "that lack of a due process protection has bred a culture of retribution and arbitrary personnel practices, leading to misbehavior and a reluctance to

report security vulnerabilities.” His bill was designed to correct that issue among the workers who keep our airports secure.

Vote date: Thursday, March 5, 2020

Vote Tally: 230-171

Party Breakdown: All Democrats present voted YES and they were joined by 14 Republicans, including PA-01’s Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick.

Additional Reading:

- [“House poised to reclassify TSA workforce,”](#) from *Federal Computer Week*
- [“TSA inches closer to putting officers on general schedule despite veto threat,”](#) from *Federal News Network*
- [“House Passes Bill Granting TSA Employees Full Workers Rights,”](#) from *Government Executive*
- [“House passes bill to expand TSA worker protections,”](#) from *The Hill*

Fitzpatrick voted YES.

The House takes on E-Cigarettes and Flavored Tobacco products

[House Vote](#) on [H.R. 2339](#): Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act

In an attempt to halt the rapid spread of teen and young adult tobacco use, the House passed a bill that would ban all flavored tobacco products. This includes not only popular vaping product and e-cigarettes, but also cigars, menthol cigarettes, and many other artificially flavored tobacco products.

Many of the Democrats who voted NO on this bill are from the African American community. [Roll Call](#) explained that “...a ban on menthol flavors was criticized by many African American lawmakers, who fear that police could use it as an excuse to harass black smokers. Since the bill would carve out more of a regulatory safe space for premium cigars while banning sales of cheaper flavored cigars and menthol cigarettes, some members of the Congressional Black Caucus said there was a double standard.” In addition to those who voted against the measure, an unusually large number of MoCs - twenty-two - chose to place no vote at all.

President Trump has threatened a veto, and this bill is unlikely to be brought up for a vote in the Senate.

Vote date: Friday, February 28, 2020

Vote Tally: 213-195

Party Breakdown: Most Democrats voted YES and Most Republicans voted NO. Seventeen Democrats and five Republicans crossed party lines. Among Pennsylvania’s MoCs, PA-01’s Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick voted with Democrats and PA-17’s Rep. Conor Lamb voted with the Republicans.

Additional Reading:

- [“House OKs bill banning all flavored tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, but Trump promises veto,”](#) from *MarketWatch*
- [“House passes bill to restrict flavored tobacco products,”](#) from *Roll Call*
- [“House approves bill banning flavored tobacco products,”](#) from *The Hill*

Fitzpatrick voted YES.

Bureaucratic Confirmation

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on Katharine MacGregor to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior

Katherine MacGregor worked for 4 years as a registered lobbyist at the firm Alcalde & Fay before becoming a congressional staffer for Republican members of Congress for a decade. She then moved to the Interior Department in 2017, working under disgraced former Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke as the deputy assistant secretary for land and minerals management. [Environment & Energy News](#) reports that the newly confirmed number two at the Interior has advocated for environmental deregulation:

In 2017, MacGregor championed Interior’s effort to rewrite an Obama administration rule controlling methane waste from oil and gas operations, declaring at the time that “its

significant regulatory burden ... encumbers American energy production, economic growth and job creation"

With her new boss, Secretary of the Interior David Berhardt, being forced to recuse himself from work with dozens of corporations due to his extensive lobbying employment background, MacGregor will have significantly more authority at the Department of the Interior than most deputies.

Vote date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 **Vote Tally: 58-38**

Party Breakdown: Republicans were unanimous in their support of the nominee. They were joined by 4 Democrats (Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, Christopher Murphy of Connecticut, Martin Heinrich of New Mexico and Joe Manchin of West Virginia) and one Independent (Angus King of Maine).

Additional Reading:

- ["Trump nominates former Hill staffer as deputy secretary,"](#) from *E&E News*
- ["Senate confirms a second former lobbyist atop Interior,"](#) from *Roll Call*
- ["MacGregor confirmed as Interior deputy chief,"](#) from *The Hill*

Casey voted NO and Toomey voted YES.

Judicial Confirmations, widely approved

This group of judges were confirmed with supermajorities, a rare occurrence for Trump nominations.

- [Travis Greaves](#), a Judge of the US Tax Court for a term of fifteen years, was confirmed in a 85-3 vote on Thursday, February 27, 2020. **Casey voted YES and Toomey voted YES**
- [Silvia Carreno-Coll](#), a US District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, was confirmed in a 96-0 vote on Tuesday, February 25, 2020. **Casey voted YES and Toomey voted YES**
- [Robert Anthony Molloy](#), a Judge for the District Court of the Virgin Islands for a term of ten years, was confirmed in a 97-0 vote on Tuesday, February 25, 2020. **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. 995](#) - Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act
- [H.R. 561](#) - Protecting Business Opportunities for Veterans Act
- [H.R. 2227](#) - Gold Star Spouses and Spouses of Injured Servicemembers Leasing Relief Expansion Act
- [H.R. 3749](#) - Legal Services for Homeless Veterans Act
- [H.R. 4613](#) - VA Reporting Transparency Act
- [H.R. 560](#) - Northern Mariana Islands Residents Relief Act
- [H.R. 1492](#) - Yucca House National Monument Expansion Act
- [H.R. 2427](#) - Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Reauthorization Act
- [H.R. 3399](#) - To amend the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 to include California in the program
- [H.R. 4852](#) - GIVE Act (G.I. and Veterans Education Empowerment Act)
- [H.R. 4998](#) - Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act
- [H.R. 2819](#) - Gold Star Mothers Families National Monument Extension Act
- [H.R. 4351](#) - Yes In My Backyard Act
- [H.R. 5003](#) - Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act
- [H.R. 5931](#) - Improving FHA Support for Small Dollar Mortgages Act
- [H.R. 5932](#) - Ensuring Chinese Debt Transparency Act
- [H.R. 4334](#) - Supporting Older Americans Act
- [H.R. 5214](#) - Representative Payee Fraud Prevention Act
- [H. Res. 230](#) - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States condemns all forms of violence against children globally and recognizes the harmful impacts of violence against children
- [S. 1822](#) - Broadband DATA Act

- [S. 1869](#) - Secure Federal LEASEs Act
- [S. 893](#) - Secure 5G and Beyond Act
- [S. 1678](#) - Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act
- [H.R. 4803](#) - Citizenship for Children of Military Members and Civil Servants Act
- [S. 2683](#) - Child Care Protection Improvement Act
- [S. 3414](#) - Major Medical Facility Authorization Act

MoC Twitter Action

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

Twitter Action - MoCs on Legislation

● Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, [03/05/20](#):

“PASSED: My bipartisan resolution with @SenKevinCramer designating March 4, 2020 as “National Assistive Technology Awareness Day” – because assistive technology devices and services are necessities, not luxury items, for millions of individuals with disabilities and older adults.”

● PA-01’s Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, @RepBrianFitz, [03/02/20](#):

“By promoting the collaboration between higher education and apprentice programs, my bill will help to prepare the next generation for good-paying jobs, while simultaneously addressing our nation's current shortage of trained workers.” *Tweeted with a link to a [Ripon Advance](#) blog post*

Twitter Action - Healthcare/ corona virus

● Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, [03/06/20](#):

“Every elected official is charged with working constructively to at least – at least – do the following:

1. Slow the spread of the coronavirus
2. Support state and local preparedness efforts
3. Provide complete and accurate information to the public to address their concerns

The evidence so far indicates that the virus poses a significant, even deadly, risk to older adults and people with underlying health conditions. Full hearing on the U.S. response to the coronavirus in the Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions”

Tweet includes [link](#) to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

● Senator Pat Toomey, @SenToomey, [03/04/20](#):

“Expanding our capacity to test for the coronavirus on a large scale is my priority right now. I have been in contact with the FDA, CMS, and the CDC in order to ensure that Pennsylvania’s hospitals are able to administer all the coronavirus tests that Pennsylvanians need.

Congress is very likely to approve supplemental funding this week to provide states, local governments, and health care professionals the resources needed to respond to the virus. I intend to support this measure.”

● PA-01’s Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, @RepBrianFitz, [03/06/20](#):

Check out this updated fact sheet from the @CDCgov on the Coronavirus COVID-19.

What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

Yes. COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in parts of the United States. Risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. Learn more about places with ongoing spread at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html#geographic>.

Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.?

Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is available on CDC's webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but is now spreading from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath



CS 314837-A 03/03/2020

What are severe complications from this virus?

Some patients have pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure and in some cases death.

How can I help protect myself?

People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What should I do if I recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19?

If you have traveled from an affected area, there may be restrictions on your movements for up to 2 weeks. If you develop symptoms during that period (fever, cough, trouble breathing), seek medical advice. Call the office of your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to take everyday preventive actions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often.

Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

Twitter Action - Social Safety net/ Healthcare

📍 Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, [03/06/20](https://twitter.com/SenBobCasey/status/1266666666666666666):
Receipts:

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S EMPTY PROMISES to Seniors and People with Disabilities

Empty Promise #1
"I'm not going to cut Social Security like every other Republican and I'm not going to cut Medicare or Medicaid."
Twitter from 5/27/2015

Since 2015 President Trump has made **150 empty promises** about protecting Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Here are just a few examples.

Empty Promise #2
"We will always protect patients with pre-existing conditions. And we will always protect your Medicare and we will always protect your Social Security."
Message to the President 12/2017

Empty Promise #3
"The Republicans who want to cut SS & Medicaid are wrong."
Twitter from 7/15/2018

Empty Promise #4
"Democrats will destroy your Medicare, and I will keep it healthy and well!"
Twitter from 1/18/2018

Empty Promise #5
"Republicans stand for protecting Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid and strengthening the safety net for truly needy Americans."
July 18/2018

jeopardize access to care.

FACT: President Trump has consistently recommended cutting and capping Medicaid funding, which would leave millions, including seniors, at risk of losing the care they need.

FACT: President Trump has repeatedly threatened to reduce funding for the Social Security Administration, which put at risk the earned benefits for almost 50 million seniors.

Trump's Proposed Budget Cuts

	Fiscal Year 2019	Fiscal Year 2020	Fiscal Year 2021
Medicare	\$-21.1 Billion*	\$-4.6 Billion*	\$-10.0 Billion*
Medicaid	\$-1.4 Billion*	\$-1.5 Billion*	\$-2.0 Billion*
Social Security Administration*	\$-2.9 Billion*	\$-2.5 Billion*	\$-2.4 Billion*
Federal Disability Programs*	\$-2.2 Billion*	\$-4.8 Billion*	\$-7.4 Billion*

*There is some overlap between the cuts to the Social Security Administration and Federal Disability Programs.

U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY
SENATOR MEMBER, Social Committee on 3/16/20

Donald J. Trump [@realDonaldTrump](#) · Mar 6

I will protect your Social Security and Medicare, just as I have for the past 3 years. Sleepy Joe Biden will destroy both in very short order, and he won't even know he's doing it!

Tweet of the Week

Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, 03/03/20:

"We are the most prosperous Nation the world has ever known—no one should go hungry. We must expand and improve our nutrition programs to eliminate hunger in America. Thank you @fractweets @FeedingAmerica @FeedingPA for your tireless leadership in the fight against hunger."

Food Research & Action Center @fractweets · Mar 3

"One of the best ways to lift kids out of poverty is to make sure they have enough to eat."

@SenBobCasey discusses importance of free school meals, esp through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

#hungerpc20



".@fractweets @FeedingAmerica @FeedingPA as you visit with your members of Congress today, know that every story you share and every ask you make brings us one step closer to ending hunger in America. This is a mission worthy of a great country."

● **Senator Pat Toomey, @SenToomey, [03/03/20](#):**

“Few nations have been as good a friend to the U.S. as Israel. That’s why those of us in Congress must continue supporting the safety and well-being of our closest ally in the Middle East. I enjoyed speaking about this, and other issues, with @AIPAC members today. #AIPAC2020”



● **PA-01’s Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, @RepBrianFitz, [03/04/20](#):**

“I was able to meet with @FeedingPA to discuss the important role that food banks play in our communities. Thank you for stopping by!”



Casey in the News

Courtesy of contributor Linda Houk

“Our obligation is really simple here... Every one of us is charged with working constructively to at least do the following: slow the spread of the virus, support state and local preparedness efforts and provide complete and accurate, always, always accurate information to the public to address their concerns about this challenge.”

[—from an article in *the Pennsylvania Capital-Star* titled “Pa. Sen. Casey calls for ‘accurate information’ on coronavirus as Dems slam Trump response”](#)

“Everyone says they are worried about kids, but then kids get pushed to the back of the agenda in Washington. I announced this Five Freedoms plan in 2020, partly because it’s an election year. Every candidate should be asked whether you support this type of policy, and if you don’t, what is your plan? I would like to see a presidential debate just about kids.”

“The harder part is getting consensus to move forward. There is a big divide in Washington on a lot of these issues. You have to make some tough calls on the tax code. There are about 13,000 children in this county. The question we have to ask ourselves is 15 years from now, what did we do to move them forward? Some of those 13,000 may not need a lot of help, but a lot of kids do, and we have to make that

investment. There is a light inside of every child and it's up to us to make sure that light shines to its full potential."

"In this state, 48 out of 67 counties, including Carbon, are considered rural. Poverty in rural areas is very high. The utilization of CHIP and Medicaid is actually higher in rural areas. We have to invest in those communities... We may have to have micro initiatives so if we can't get a big bill passed, we can pass them in parts."

"This will take many years to show the progress we want to show."

—from an article in the [Times News Online](#) titled "[Casey visits Lehighton, promotes education policy](#)"

"So many individuals who may have symptoms or contract the virus and are told to stay home and that they lose a lot of pay and don't have support for childcare or other basic needs in their family, we've got to figure out a way or remedy for that family.. Which we know will not happen in the next few months, but we hope by the end of the year that we would have a vaccine... So, then any community, that they're available for folks, so that people can be tested. We need to know the scope of this problem and you can't do that without testing and diagnosis."

— from an article on the [21 News](#) titled "[Sen. Bob Casey on coronavirus: 'Things will get worse before it gets better'](#)"

"In my judgment, the administration is not prepared. They shouldn't be trying to spin this."

"The president has to do a much better job in the coming days of providing accurate information all the time. I think it would be better if he did very little talking and let the experts and the scientists and the professionals do the talking."

—from an article in the [Meadville Tribune](#) titled "[Mixed reviews for administration's handling of coronavirus](#)"

"Look, I have the benefit of knowing him on a daily basis for 13 years, and never has he done anything like that... But, unlike some people around here, he offered an apology, and I wish someone in the executive branch would do that once in a while."

—from an article in the [Washington Examiner](#) titled "[Sheldon Whitehouse defends Schumer and rebukes Chief Justice John Roberts](#)"

"The people of Pennsylvania wish a speedy recovery to those who have been impacted by Coronavirus and we stand ready to help those families... Yesterday, Congress passed \$8 billion in funding to combat the Coronavirus and I will push to make sure appropriate resources are sent to Pennsylvania quickly."

—from an article in the [Pittsburgh Post Gazette](#) titled "[Gov. Wolf confirms 2 presumptive positive cases of coronavirus in Pa.](#)"

Fitzpatrick in the News

Compiled with the assistance of contributor CC

"Consistent with both the Bucks and Montgomery County GOP committees' conclusion, we will not give a platform to anyone who uses hateful language dividing our community."

— from a [WHCU](#) article titled "[Rep Reed and Problem Solvers Caucus endorse Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act](#)"

"Children born with congenital anomalies deserve to be covered by health insurance providers. Rep. Peterson's bill will make sure that health insurance coverage extends to help provide treatment for these children, and I am happy to see that the Problem Solvers are endorsing this commonsense legislation."

— a statement from Rep. Fitzpatrick's campaign spokesperson Kate Constantini, from an article in the [Bucks County Courier Times](#) titled "[Challenger slams Fitzpatrick for rejecting debate](#)"

"I'm not a fan of the sort of tribalism or the strict ideology that just leads to gridlock and leads to arguing and leads to lack of civility."

— from an article in the [Pennsylvania Capital-Star](#) titled "[Pa.'s Fitzpatrick leads U.S. House in bipartisanship, new rankings show](#)"

"They feel they have the finances ... they feel they have the law on their side and they're going to do what they want to do ..."

— from an article in the [Doylestown Intelligencer](#) titled "[DEP alleges unauthorized quarry activity in Rockhill](#)" (ellipses in quote inserted by press outlet)

"Everyone deserves full-government transparency and protection, which is why I'm calling for an elimination of operations unless Hanson agrees to a comprehensive multi-year geological investigation by independent unbiased geologists."

— from an [Allentown 69 News](#) article titled "[Lawmakers calling for Bucks County quarry to be shut down](#)"

"The Rockhill Quarry is located in a residential area, with over 11,000 students attending school less than five miles away... I request that any redevelopment of the Quarry be suspended until a multiyear independent geologic investigation is conducted by a geologist, to ensure that our children and surrounding environment are safe from the dangers of asbestos."

— from a [Bucks County Courier Times](#) article titled "[Fitzpatrick calls for Rockhill Quarry closure ahead of Friday news conference](#)"

"It is incredibly important that Congress and the American public stay up to date on all the facts relating to coronavirus. We must provide the public with all available information to provide a full picture of how this has affected other countries, as well as our own... As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I know that a global crisis can quickly reach our borders, and we must have every resource available to properly respond."

— from a [Ripon Advance](#) blog post titled "[Fitzpatrick forms new bipartisan congressional Coronavirus Task Force](#)"

"It's a great experience for the kids because they get to show their appreciation for the troops. I just saw one of the cards one of the little girls was drawing. It had a big heart on it. It's just really nice receiving those kinds of cards from the kids. It's very meaningful."

— from a [Bucks Local News](#) article titled "[Yardley-Makefield Soccer scores big for Operation Gratitude](#)"

"Our economy is going through the longest period of expansion in our history. We need to embrace a governing vision that puts jobs, education and economic growth above the partisanship that too often divides us. Apprenticeship programs grow our economy by fostering training programs that will prepare workers for in-demand careers. There has been a consistent increase in the number of jobs, but employers are struggling to find skilled workers. By promoting the collaboration between higher education and apprentice programs, we can help to prepare the next generation for good-paying jobs, while addressing our nation's shortage of trained workers."

— from a [USA Today](#) article titled "[What's the BIG IDEA? Here are 4 ideas for how to create more jobs](#)"

"I mean, this is a crisis right now, so we got to respond in any way that's going to fix the problem."

— from an [AsumeTech](#) article titled "[The Coronavirus Is Challenging What Our Politicians Think About 'Medicare For All'](#)"

“Organizations like the YMCA do amazing work for our communities and our children, and I am humbled to receive this designation from them. At the YMCA, they understand that an investment in our children is an investment in our future, and it is critical that we continue to support their efforts.”

— from a [Doylestown Patch](#) article titled “[YMCA Honors Representative Brian Fitzpatrick](#)”

“These call center employees deserve to be treated with respect. Many of you have moved here, and I want to thank all of you for the work you do...I know customers call many times until they get connected with this call center because they know they are the best workers in the country.”

— from a [People's World](#) article titled “[Rail unionists, passengers, lawmakers blast Amtrak outsourcing](#)”

Toomey in the News

Courtesy of contributor Elayne Baker

“Natural gas has been terrific for our economy, for our country. We should continue to use this really, really safe, clean source of energy.”

— from an article in [Erie News Now](#) titled “[Democrats' proposed fracking ban could be a problem in Pennsylvania, a 2020 swing state](#)”

“It is so wildly inappropriate for anybody in government, least of all a senior member of the legislative branch to threaten Supreme Court Justices. I certainly hope he will come under pressure to retract that statement.”

— from an article in [Erie News Now](#) titled “[Sen. Pat Toomey urges Democrats to condemn Schumer's comments about Kavanaugh & Gorsuch](#)”

“Congress is very likely to approve supplemental funding this week to provide states, local governments, and health care professionals the resources needed to respond to the virus. Expanding our capacity to test for the coronavirus on a large scale is my priority right now.”

— from an article in the [Meadville Tribune](#) titled “[Mixed reviews for administration's handling of coronavirus](#)”

Call to Action - The PAYBACK PROJECT!!

This 2020 election season is one where Pennsylvania does NOT have a senatorial election. Bob Casey just won his re-election bid in 2018, and Senator Pat Toomey is not up again until 2022.

That doesn't mean we can't help reshape the Senate this election season! There is so much at stake. Regular readers of MoCTrack have seen how a GOP-controlled Senate acts as a rubber stamp for the worst judges and Trump appointees, while shoving through young, unqualified judges to lifetime terms. We can only stop that by returning the Democrats to the majority in the Senate. And you can help that by supporting the [Payback Project](#), an initiative built on Indivisible principles designed to out the worst and most vulnerable to the Trump-enabling GOP senators who are up for re-election in 2020.

The Payback Project is focused on these 10 Republican Senators:

- Martha McSally, Arizona | Trump Score: 95.3%
- Cory Gardner, Colorado | Trump Score: 89.3%
- David Perdue, Georgia | Trump Score: 94.4%
- Kelly Loeffler, Georgia | Trump Score: 100%
- Joni Ernst, Iowa | Trump Score: 91.3%
- Mitch McConnell, Kentucky | Trump Score: 93.9%
- Susan Collins, Maine | Trump Score: 67%
- Thom Tillis, North Carolina | Trump Score: 92.9%

- Lindsey Graham, South Carolina | Trump Score: 86.2%
- John Cornyn, Texas | Trump Score: 94.8%

THE PLAN - Indivisible has outlined these four steps around which the Payback Plan is based:

1. **Build awareness & accountability.** When one of the ten Payback Project senators take bad votes or do something else awful, we'll be in their states to broadcast it and hold them accountable for refusing to listen to constituents. And we'll keep reminding voters of their stances on the Affordable Care Act, abortion bans, climate change, and all our other top issues
2. **Boost local political power.** We'll do the work to get as many people involved in the election as possible, educating folks about what's at stake, growing the size of our local Indivisible groups, funneling voters in these nine states directly to their local Indivisible group, and increasing logistical support for their election activities and recruitment efforts through trainings, organizer support, and powerful new tools.
3. **Organize to win.** Our nationwide network of organizers will work directly with groups on the ground to leverage their power with voters, the candidates, and the media to build support for strong progressive challengers.
4. **Get out the vote.** We'll run a robust GOTV campaign to turn as many people as possible out to the polls. Remember -- these senators thrive on disenfranchisement, so it's our job to make sure voters show up to kick them out.

Of course, an effort like this is taking donations, but the Payback Project has actions that you can take personally, from home, to help their efforts. You can sign up [HERE](#) to participate in their peer-to-peer text banking outreach campaign to engage voters across nine target states to take action and retake these ten senate seats.

Please consider helping out to retake the Senate in the best way possible for Pennsylvanians, who cannot exercise a vote on the senate this cycle.

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

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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!