

Pennsylvania Member of Congress Tracking Report - 05.10.20

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 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 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Senator Bob Casey (D) | 29.8% | 0.0% |
| Senator Pat Toomey (R) | 87.9% | 0.0% |
| PA-01 Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R) | 64.5% | 0.0% |

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. FiveTHirtyEight has not scored votes since late March.

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

A Failure to overturn a Trump veto on asserting Congressional War Powers on Iran Hostilities
[Senate Vote](#) to overturn a veto on [S.J.Res. 68](#): A joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress

Back in February a bipartisan group of four senators (Time Kane of Virginia, Dick Durbin of Illinois, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Mike Lee of Utah) introduced a joint resolution to limit the president's ability to direct an offensive strike against Iran. The resolution is built around the opening statement of "Congress has the sole power to declare war under article I, section 8, clause 11 of the United States Constitution." The measure goes on to affirm that the United States Congress has NOT declared war on Iran, and notes that "more than 100 members of the United States Armed Forces sustained traumatic brain injuries in the Iranian retaliatory attack on the Ain al-Assad air base in Iraq despite initial reports that no casualties were sustained in the attack." The closing portions of the resolution read (**emphasis** added by MoCTrack):

(a) Termination - Pursuant to section 1013 of the Department of State Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1984 and 1985 (50 U.S.C. 1546a), and in accordance with the provisions of section 601(b) of the International Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Act of 1976, **Congress hereby directs the President to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces for hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran or any part of its government or military**, unless explicitly authorized by a declaration of war or specific authorization for use of military force against Iran.

(b) Rule of construction - **Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the United States from defending itself from imminent attack.**

The Senate passed this with a 55-45 vote on February 20, 2020. The House passed this with a 227-186 vote on March 11, 2020 (Pennsylvania MoCs split on party lines). But [President Trump vetoed this](#)

resolution on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, and the Senate was unable to get the $\frac{2}{3}$ vote needed to overturn that veto.

Vote date: Thursday, May 7, 2020 **Vote Tally:** 49-44 (failed, $\frac{2}{3}$ needed)

Party Breakdown: All Democrats and Independents present voted YES. They were joined by seven Republicans - Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Todd Young of Indiana, Rand Paul of Kentucky, Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, Susan Collins of Maine, Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, and Mike Lee of Utah. Jerry Moran of Kansas, who had supported this measure in February, was not present for the vote this week.

Additional Reading:

- [“Senate fails to override Trump veto of Iran War Powers resolution,”](#) from *CNN Politics*
- [“Senate fails to overturn Trump's Iran war powers veto,”](#) from *Politico*
- [“Failing to Override a Veto, Senate Falls Short of Curbing Trump's Iran War Powers,”](#) from *The New York Times*

Bob Casey voted YES to overturn the veto and Pat Toomey voted NO to support President Trump.

Senate Confirmation #1

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on William R. Evanina to be Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center

William R. Evanina has been filling the position as Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center since the Obama Administration, but he was not officially confirmed until this week. President Trump nominated him to officially in June 2018, but one senator was holding up the process. Iowa's Chuck Grassley had put a hold on this confirmation because the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) and the Attorney General had not responded to his oversight requests. As per [The Hill](#), Sen. Grassley made this statement:

If [they] had simply respected legitimate congressional oversight and their agreements with me and the Judiciary Committee from the beginning, Mr. Evanina would have been confirmed long ago... Let this also be a reminder that when it comes to congressional oversight, I will use all the tools at my disposal to get to the truth of the matter and get access to the records that I believe are necessary to advance my investigations.

But before anyone gets excited about the idea of a Republican senator exerting congressional oversight, know that the documents that Senator Grassley was seeking from the intelligence apparatus before he would lift his hold pertained to... the texts between Peter Strzok and Lisa Page. Apparently, there were some mentions of Mr. Evanina in those text messages, and Sen. Grassley placed the hold, at least in part, to find out more about how Mr. Evanina was involved with that maligned couple (he wasn't.)

Vote date: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 **Vote Tally:** 84-7

Party Breakdown: The seven NO votes were all from Democrats

Additional Reading:

- [“GOP senator lifts two-year hold on Trump's nominee for counterintelligence chief,”](#) from *The Hill*
- [“Senate Confirms William Evanina for Top Counterintelligence Position After 2 Years,”](#) from *The Epoch Times*
- [“Financial Cost of Coronavirus Leads Top Counterintelligence Official to Relax Top-Secret Clearance Rules,”](#) from *Newsweek*

Both Bob Casey and Pat Toomey voted YES

Senate Confirmation #2

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on Robert J. Feitel to be Inspector General, Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Mr. Feitel was confirmed to the Inspector General, or oversight watchdog position, at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the body that oversees all of our nation's nuclear power facilities. He was nominated last October, after serving for over two decades at the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the department of Justice.

The unanimous vote shows that he is a non-controversial nominee to this position. Any partisan exchanges over this confirmation vote pertained to why Mitch McConnell was bringing the Senate back into session for the week for a confirmation like this, when the Phase Four coronavirus negotiations and bill writing were left untouched.

Vote date: Monday, May 4, 2020 **Vote Tally:** 87-0
Party Breakdown: This was unanimous.

Additional Reading:

- ["Senate Confirms Trump Nominee for Nuclear Regulator Watchdog,"](#) from *Bloomberg Law*
 - ["Senate Confirms Robert Feitel to be Inspector General of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,"](#) from the *U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works* press release
 - ["Senate confirms nominee in first non-coronavirus vote since May,"](#) from the *Washington Times*
- Editor's Note - in general MoCTrack does not like to use the Washington Times in our additional reading recommendations, as it is rated as a right-of-center "questionable source" by the [Media Bias/Fact Check](#) website. But the only other coverage of this confirmation was either paywalled or a press release, so there were few alternatives for those who want additional information.*
- Both Bob Casey and Pat Toomey voted YES

Unanimously passed legislation

The following concurrent resolution was passed through unanimous consent. There were a handful of other items passed unanimously, but it is the practice of MoCTrack to exclude matters related to post offices, stamps, memorials, awareness weeks and other ceremonial activities.

- [S.Con.Res.38](#) - A concurrent resolution to establish the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies for the inauguration of the President-elect and Vice President-elect of the United States on January 20, 2021

What coronavirus-related or -adjacent legislation are our MoCs supporting?

Our lawmakers have made many statements about the sort of legislation they want to see, but there's a big difference between statements and the process of introducing, sponsoring and co-sponsoring bills. Below you'll find a rundown of the coronavirus legislation that our lawmakers have put their names on.

The chart below is an attempt to reduce the following 12 pages into a single image. You'll find that there are many bills out there attempting to tackle those 20 different broad topics listed below, so a lot of detail is lost in the translation. But it should paint a picture of the sort of topics that are attracting our MoCs.

| Topics of Coronavirus legislation sponsored & co-sponsored BY PA MoCs | Senator Bob Casey | Senator Pat Toomey | PA-01 Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R) | PA-02 Rep. Brendan Boyle (D) | PA-03 Rep. Dwight Evans (D) | PA-04 Rep. Maureen Dean (D) | PA-05 Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (D) | PA-06 Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D) | PA-07 Rep. Susan Wild (D) | PA-08 Rep. Matt Cartwright (D) | PA-09 Rep. Dan Meuser (R) | PA-10 Scott Perry (R) | PA-11 Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R) | PA-12 Rep. Fred Keller (R) | PA-13 Rep. John Joyce (R) | PA-14 Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R) | PA-15 Rep. Glenn W. Thompson (R) | PA-16 Rep. Mike Kelly (R) | PA-17 Rep. Conor Lamb (D) | PA-18 Rep. Mike Doyle (D) |
|---|---|--------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | ACA Open enrollment/Medicare/Medicaid expansion | X | | X | X | | | X | X | | | | | | | | | | X | X |
| Expanded food security services | X | | | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | X | | | | |
| Expanded foster care/child care/child services | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | | X | | | | |
| Paid leave/sick time | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Deployment of Defense Production Act | X | | | X | X | X | | X | | | | | | | | | | X | X | |
| Addressing Medical Device/PPE shortage/Stockpile | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | | | | | | X | | | | X | X | |
| Monthly payments to US residents | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Post office protection/appropriations | | | | X | X | X | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Unemployment expansion | X | | | X | X | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Updating industries to accommodate new realities | X | X | | X | X | X | | X | | | | | X | X | X | | | | | |
| Student Debt Assistance | | X | | | X | | X | X | | | | X | | | | | | X | X | |
| State/Local government assistance | | X | | | X | | X | X | X | | | | | | | | | X | X | |
| Election security and process updates | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Worker protection and/or assistance | | X | X | | X | X | | X | X | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Data collection/Oversight commission | | | | | X | X | X | | X | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tax holidays/benefits for critical workers | | X | | X | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | X | | |
| Small business Assistance | | X | | X | X | | X | X | | | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Recission of already appropriated COVID funds | | | | | | | | | | X | X | | X | X | | | | | | |
| Indemnification | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Actions against other nation or international group | | X | | | | | | | | | | | X | | X | | | | | |

Senator Bob Casey:

Senator Casey has introduced a handful of new bills related to the coronavirus, the current pandemic or pandemic preparedness:

- [S.3536](#) - **Ensuring Coverage in Public Health Emergencies Act**, “This bill requires private health insurance plans to provide a 30-day special enrollment period for eligible individuals after a public health emergency is declared... The bill also requires such plans to cover services related to the disease or condition resulting in the public health emergency.”
- [S.3544](#) - **Coronavirus Relief for Seniors and People with Disabilities Act**, this is a detailed bill that would appropriate additional funds to expand Medicaid and provide for expansive coverage of pandemic related health services.
- [S.3562](#) - **Supporting Child Care Providers and Families Affected by Coronavirus Act**, “To provide supplemental appropriations for the Child Care and Development Block Grant program, and the Head Start and Early Head Start programs.”
- [S.3563](#) - **Food Assistance for Kids and Families During COVID-19 Act**, “This bill modifies food and nutrition programs of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to address COVID-19... The bill provides funding for USDA to support grocery delivery for SNAP participants who are seniors, immunocompromised individuals, or other individuals who are unable to travel safely to a grocery store.”
- [S.3564](#) - **Ensuring Treatment for COVID Act**, “This bill requires state Medicaid programs to cover treatment for COVID-19. State Medicaid programs must also cover COVID-19 testing and treatment for uninsured individuals.”
- [S.3655](#) - A bill to provide funding for targeted purchases of qualified agricultural products from producers that rely on local agricultural food markets affected by COVID-19. (*text not available at MoCTrack Report time*)
- [S.3660](#) - A bill to provide emergency funding for caseworkers and child protective services. (*text not available at MoCTrack Report time*)

There are also several pandemic related bills that Sen. Casey has co-sponsored:

- [S.3415](#) - **Paid Sick Days for Public Health Emergencies and Personal and Family Care Act**, “This bill expands the availability of paid sick time by requiring employers with at least one employee to provide a minimum amount of accrued paid sick time per work week and additional

paid sick time in the event of a public-health emergency such as the coronavirus.” *Introduced by Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WA)*

- [S.3468](#) - **Preventing Essential Medical Device Shortages Act**, “To require the manufacturers of certain essential medical devices to notify the Food and Drug Administration when such manufacturers become aware of a circumstance that could lead to a shortage of such devices.” *Introduced by Rep. Kelly Loeffler*
- [S.3491](#) - **Job Protection for Quarantined Individuals Act**, “This bill prohibits employers from taking adverse actions (e.g., terminating, disciplining, threatening, or penalizing) against employees who are unable to work because the employee is or has been (1) quarantined, (2) in isolation, or (3) caring for a family member in isolation or quarantine.” *Introduced by Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN)*
- [S.3497](#) - **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Act**, “This bill expands unemployment benefits to certain individuals affected by the public health emergency declared by the Department of Health and Human Services on January 27, 2020, with respect to COVID-19.” *Introduced by Sen. Gay Peters (D-MI)*
- [S.3499](#) - **Free COVID-19 Testing Act**, “This bill requires specified public health care programs and private health insurance to cover testing for COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) without imposing cost-sharing (e.g., deductibles, coinsurance, or copayments) for the duration of the public health emergency.” *Introduced by Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN)*
- [S.3513](#) - **Providing Americans Insured Days of Leave Act**, “This bill establishes, revises, and repeals specified paid sick time and paid leave programs, including programs addressing the public-health emergency related to COVID-19.” *Introduced by Sen. Patty Murray D-WA)*
- [S.3517](#) - **ACCESS ‘Advancing Connectivity during the Coronavirus to Ensure Support for Seniors’ Act**, “To increase the ability of nursing facilities to access telehealth services and obtain technologies to allow virtual visits during the public health emergency relating to an outbreak of coronavirus disease.” *Introduced by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)*
- [S.3570](#) - A bill to provide for the expedited procurement of equipment needed to combat COVID-19 under the Defense Production Act of 1950, “Not later than 24 hours after the enactment of this Act, the President shall issue a “DX” rated priority purchase order...to procure 300,000,000 N95 respirators and facemasks” and other specified equipment. *Introduced by Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WA)*
- [S.3627](#) - A bill to provide for the expedited and transparent procurement and distribution of equipment and supplies needed to combat COVID-19. *(text not available at MoCTrack Report time) Introduced by Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WA)*

● **Senator Pat Toomey:**

Sen. Toomey has not sponsored any of his own legislation related to the coronavirus, the current pandemic or pandemic preparedness. He has, however, co-sponsored one of his colleague’s legislation on those topics:

- [S.3600](#) - A bill to authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to the deliberate concealment or distortion of information about public health emergencies of international concern. This bill would enable the President to impose sanction upon any foreign person who “is responsible for, or complicit in, ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, or financially benefits from, acts intended to deliberately conceal or distort information about a public health emergency of international concern, including coronavirus disease 2019.” *Introduced by Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)*

● **PA-01’s Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick:**

Rep. Fitzpatrick has introduced a pair of bills to address issues related to the pandemic:

- [H.R.6431](#) - **Made in America Emergency Preparedness Act**, “This bill establishes in the legislative branch a National Commission on United States Preparedness for National Emergencies...The bill (1) requires certain medical, pharmaceutical, and emergency preparedness products integral to the response to a national emergency to be manufactured and procured within the United States; and (2) provides for a temporary 100% expensing for firms that

incur costs associated with pharmaceutical or medical device manufacturing within the United States, including personal protective equipment and other necessary items.”

- [H.R.6497](#) - **Never Again Small Business Protection Act**, “To make available insurance coverage for business interruption losses due to national emergencies.”

There are also several pandemic related bills that Rep. Fitzpatrick has co-sponsored:

- [H.R.6198](#) - **Emergency Paid Leave Act**, “This bill requires the Social Security Administration (SSA) to provide emergency paid leave during each 30-day period that specified employees take leave due to COVID-19.” *Introduced by Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL)*
- [H.R.6206](#) - **PREP ‘Pandemic Response and Emergency Preparedness’ Act**, “To provide that the President may provide additional Federal assistance for an emergency related to a public health emergency, including a pandemic or virus threat.” *Introduced by Rep. Antonio Delgado (D-NY)*
- [H.R.6283](#) - **Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act**, “This bill extends liability protection for harm caused by acts or omissions by volunteer health care professionals in the course of providing certain health care services during specified public-health or national emergencies or major disasters.” *Introduced by Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA)*
- [H.R.6355](#) - To temporarily modify the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This bill increases funding to the foster care program and directs states to “establish and conduct an outreach program designed to increase the enrollment of individuals who are eligible for medical assistance under the State plan.” *Introduced by Rep. James Langevin (D-RI)*
- [H.R.6364](#) - **SECURE ‘Securing and Enabling Commerce Using Remote and Electronic’ Notarization Act**, to “establish minimum standards for electronic and remote notarizations that occur in or affect interstate commerce.” *Introduced by Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA)*
- [H.R.6408](#) - To extend the charitable deduction to all taxpayers regardless of whether a taxpayer itemizes deductions in order to encourage and increase charitable giving, and to provide for loans and loan guarantees to certain public charities. This bill “directs the Department of the Treasury to make or guarantee loans to tax-exempt charitable organizations. The aggregate amount of such loans may not exceed \$60 billion. Treasury must give priority in making such loans to organizations that are providing direct assistance to the COVID-19 (i.e., the coronavirus disease 2019) response effort.” *Introduced by Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA)*
- [H.R.6427](#) - **PANDEMIC ‘Pausing All New Detention and Ending Movement of Inmates for Coronavirus’ Act**, “This bill limits the transfer of prisoners between facilities during the public health emergency.” *Introduced by Rep. Fred Keller (R-PA)*
- [H.R.6487](#) - **ACCESS ‘Advancing Connectivity during the Coronavirus to Ensure Support for Seniors’ Act**, “To increase the ability of nursing facilities to access telehealth services and obtain technologies to allow virtual visits during the public health emergency relating to an outbreak of coronavirus disease.” *Introduced by Rep. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL)*
- [H.R.6502](#) - **COVID-19 Graduate Relief Act**, “This bill allows students who graduate from institutions of higher education between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020, to defer payments on their federal student loans for up to three years.” *Introduced by Rep. Josh Harder (D-CA)*
- [H.R.6550](#) - **Access to Credit for Small Businesses Impacted by the COVID-19 Crisis Act**, “This bill temporarily provides credit unions with an exception to limits on outstanding member business loans. Specifically, for a three-year period, loans used for recovery from the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) emergency do not count towards this limit.” *Introduced by Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)*
- [H.R.6559](#) - **COVID-19 Every Worker Protection Act**, “This bill requires the Department of Labor to promulgate both an emergency temporary occupational safety or health standard and a permanent standard to protect certain employees from occupational exposure to the coronavirus... Further, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must collect and make public information regarding employee exposure in these occupations and provide guidance to further protect such employees.” *Introduced by Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA)*
- [H.R.6597](#) - **Equity in Student Loan Relief Act**, “the Secretary of Education shall carry out a temporary program concerning the novel coronavirus virus disease (COVID–19) outbreak to

provide payment relief to borrowers” with federal family education loans.” *Introduced by Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY)*

- [H.R.6643](#) - **Supporting State and Local Leaders Act**, “This bill repeals the prohibition against granting federal, state, and local governments a tax credit for paid sick and paid family and medical leave. *Introduced by Rep. Bradley Schneider (D-IL)*
- [H.R.6697](#) - To amend the Small Business Act to expand the Paycheck Protection Program for certain organizations, *(text not available at MoCTrack Report time)* *Introduced by Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH)*
- [H.R.6699](#) - To establish a commission to determine essential employment during the COVID-19 crisis period and provide loan repayment and education credit to workers employed in such essential employment during such crisis, *(text not available at MoCTrack Report time)* *Introduced by Rep. Ann Kuster (D-NH)*
- [H.R.6776](#) - To provide for improvements related to the employee retention tax credit, *(text not available at MoCTrack Report time)* *Introduced by Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL)*
- [H.R.6789](#) - To extend certain temporary credit union provisions enacted under the CARES Act, to include an exception for disaster area member business loans made by insured credit unions, *(text not available at MoCTrack Report time)* *Introduced by Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)*
- [H.R.6797](#) - To increase support for State Children’s Health Insurance programs during the COVID-19 emergency *(text not available at MoCTrack Report time)* *Introduced by Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA)*

MoC Twitter Action

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

Twitter Action - Pandemic

● Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, [05/07/20](#):

“Reminder that the President and Republicans in Congress are STILL trying to dismantle the Affordable Care Act and rip away pre-existing condition protections – in the middle of a public health emergency. #DropTheLawsuit #ProtectOurCare”



Alice Miranda Ollstein ✓
@AliceOllstein

Trump just confirmed to the White House press pool that he will continue asking SCOTUS to eliminate the ACA.

“We want to terminate health care under Obamacare” and replace it.”

“Obamacare--we run it really well.... But running it great, it’s still lousy health care.”

2:12 PM · May 6, 2020 · [TweetDeck](#)

● Senator Pat Toomey, @SenToomey, [05/07/20](#):

“Our nation’s nursing homes face extraordinary challenges right now. See @SenBobCasey’s & my op-ed in the @mcall on what we must do to protect the lives of nursing home workers & residents.” *Tweet includes [link](#) to article in The Morning Call.*



Your View by Senators Toomey and Casey: How we can reduce nursing...
Op-ed by Sens. Toomey and Casey: Immediate action is necessary to
prevent more nursing home deaths from the coronavirus.
mcall.com

● PA-01's Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, @RepBrianFitz, [05/08/20](#):

"Community First. I am fighting for our local community hospitals to have access to Remdesivir, to allow our local healthcare professionals to provide the best possible treatment for those who have tested positive for #COVID19 in our community." *Tweet includes [link](#) to Bucks County Courier Times article.*



Fitzpatrick questions how hospitals chosen for use of coronavirus drug
St. Mary Medical Center is in a clinical trial for up to eight patients.
buckscountycouriertimes.com

Twitter Action - Corruption/ Pandemic Malfeasance

🌀 **Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, 05/05/20:**

"The complaint raises serious concerns that the Trump Administration is playing political games with the health of the American people. If confirmed, these allegations involve the worst kind of cronyism—that which puts human life in jeopardy."



"The past few years have been beyond challenging. Time after time I was pressured to ignore or dismiss expert and scientific recommendations and instead to award lucrative contracts based on political connections."

— Ousted HHS official Dr. Rick Bright

DR. RICK BRIGHT FILES WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT

VIA TELECONFERENCE

DR. RICK BRIGHT
FORMER HEALTH DEPT. OFFICIAL

Dr. Bright: I was pressured to let politics, cronyism drive decisions over science
Dr. Rick Bright, an ousted Health and Human Services official, is alleging that the Trump administration pressured him to award contracts on the basis of politics ...
[msnbc.com](https://www.msnbc.com)

Tweet of the Week

🌀 **Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, 05/08/20:**

"Today Ahmaud Arbery should be celebrating his 26th birthday. His family deserves full accountability and justice for a life lost too soon."

- **Senator Pat Toomey, @SenToomey, [05/06/20](#):**
 “We are currently experiencing technical difficulties, but will be live again in a minute.”



My virtual roundtable is starting in just a few minutes. You can watch live here:



- **PA-01’s Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, @RepBrianFitz, [05/05/20](#):**
 “Yesterday, I led a bipartisan effort w/ @HouseForeign Chair @RepEliotEngel, RM @RepMcCaul & @RepStephMurphy calling to extend the Iran Arms Embargo. The @StateDept must renew the embargo & travel restrictions on those aiding Iran's proliferation pursuits.”
 Tweet includes [link](#) to Radio Farda article.



A Large Majority Of US House Members Call For Extension Of Iran Arm...
 A large majority of U.S. legislators on both sides of the aisle called on President Donald Trump's administration on Monday, May 4, to push fo...
[en.radiofarda.com](#)

Casey in the News

Courtesy of contributor Linda Houk

Since it has been so long since we have had a media coverage section, a lot of these statements from Senator Casey have been used in multiple sources across the past few weeks. Linda was kind enough to note when she saw one comment in many places.

“Many of these rural hospitals are operating at close to negative margins to begin with... What we could not secure was in law, in statute, a specific outline or determination as to how that money would be spent.”

—from an article in [WENY News](#) titled [“New York to receive over \\$600 million in new hospital funding”](#) - also seen in [2 other articles](#)

"I'm certainly open to those ideas because we may have to codify this beyond just the pandemic premium provision... There may be reason to codify or enlarge the scope of this based upon the crisis itself." ... "wouldn't be able to reach the millions of workers that should be provided this just measure of compensation."

—from an article in *WTAE Action News* titled "[Senators Casey, Toomey say they are open to discussing legislation on essential worker hazard pay](#)" - also seen in 1 other article

"Republicans talk about it (Medicaid) as a problem to be managed. That's the official Republican position for many years now. They want to end Medicaid expansion. When you cut Medicaid, you not only hurt health care, you are losing jobs."

"We need more Democrats to win elections. That is the political battle ahead of us as far as Medicaid and other political battles."

—from an article in the *Williamsport Sun-Gazette* titled "[Senator Bob Casey speaks out on behalf of Medicaid](#)"

"I am pleased that Pennsylvania will receive more than \$8.1 million to help our public housing authorities provide safe, clean, reliable housing to the communities."

"83 different housing authorities across the Commonwealth will be able to use funding from the Housing Choice Voucher program to ensure they can meet emerging needs during the COVID-19 pandemic and maintain existing programs. Housing insecurity is among the challenges worsened by this crisis and these grants come at a time when families and individuals need assistance most."

—from an article in the *Bradford Era* titled "[Casey announces funds for housing authorities](#)" - also seen in 3 other articles

"Pennsylvania's nurses are fighting on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, making sacrifices to help their patients every day."

"They spend tireless hours caring for those sickened with the virus, risking their own health to care for others. Our nurses are heroes, and I will continue fighting to ensure that all of our health care workers caring for COVID-19 patients receive premium pay, as well as the resources they need to fight this pandemic."

—from an article in the *Bradford Era* titled "[Officials offer thanks to nurses for National Nurses Week](#)"

"This is a positive but long overdue step which must now be carried through to ensure the United States does not lose its last remaining electrical steel manufacturer. For two years, I have been calling on this Administration to take action on electrical steel cores and laminations. I'm glad they're finally paying attention to an issue on which several senators have repeatedly urged action."

—from an article in the *Pennsylvania Business Report* titled "[US Commerce Dept launches investigation into steel component imports that impact AK Steel](#)"

"We cannot simply pat them on the back and say thank you. That's not enough. We've got to provide them a tangible benefit."

—from an article in *WTAE Action News* titled "[WTAE Action News](#)" - also seen in 4 other articles

"Republicans were happy to provide a tax giveaway to the super-rich and biggest corporations in 2017, which is expected to drive up the deficit by \$1.9 trillion over ten years," he said in an email to The Center Square on Wednesday. "And yet, decades of disinvestment in local, state and federal governments has left us unable to do the basic things that many other countries are doing for their citizens during this

pandemic. We need governments that are resourced to respond to the needs of the people, in good times and in bad times.”

—from an article in *Tioga Publishing* titled [“Pennsylvania governor prefers more federal coronavirus aid to bankruptcy”](#)

“This virus spares no state, no county, no facility. The unprecedented crisis unfolding in our nation’s nursing homes demands an immediate, extraordinary response. Reports indicate nursing home residents and workers account for roughly 1 in 4 deaths from COVID-19 in the United States.”

“The Nursing Home COVID-19 Protection and Prevention Act would provide \$20 billion in emergency funding to devise a sorely needed national, coordinated response to stem the spread of this terrible virus in nursing homes and intermediate care facilities.”

— from an article in the *Press & Journal* titled [“Sen. Casey bill would provide \\$20 billion to nursing homes in U.S. to fight coronavirus”](#)

Fitzpatrick in the News

Compiled with the assistance of volunteer CC

"I think everybody ought to be angry and outraged at what transpired. And included in this "Made in America" bill is a full audit of the World Health Organization. On January 14th, they tweeted out basically the China talking point that there was no human to human transmission of COVID-19, which is outrageous because the exact opposite is true. Not only is there human to human contagion, it's highly contagious, much more so than many of the other viruses that we've faced. So for the World Health Organization, the international entity whose sole responsibility it is to alert the world of global pandemics like this, to miss this, is a huge problem, especially given the fact that we send hundreds of millions of dollars to them every year. Everybody ought to be outraged."

— from a 05/05/20 *Fox News Radio* interview excerpt titled [“Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick: “Everybody Ought To Be Angry And Outraged” About China’s Role In The COVID Crisis”](#)

“Time and time again, Iran has shown that they cannot be trusted. Their efforts to destabilize the region and the world will only increase if we do not extend the U.N. embargo. Iran must be prohibited from buying and selling weapons, and moreover, we must prevent Iran from increasing its influence in the region. I am proud to lead a bipartisan coalition on this urgent issue, and I am encouraged to see so many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle add their voice in support of this critical national security matter.”

— from a 05/06/20 *Homeland Preparedness News* article titled [“Congress members call on Trump administration to extend Iran arms embargo”](#)

“It was great to hear from former Commissioner Gottlieb on what has been working in Maryland and Massachusetts as they continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is critical that we learn from the successes and failures of other parts of the country, to have every option on the table. Our efforts to safely reopen the country need to be coordinated at the local, state, and federal levels. I look forward to continuing to work with this Task Force as we prepare for the eventual reopening of our country.”

— from a 05/05/20 *Parsippany Focus* article titled [“Sherrill, King Lead First Meeting of the Bipartisan Regional Recovery Task Force”](#)

“Our essential workers put their lives at risk every day to make sure the rest of us are safe and healthy. They deserve all of the help we can provide them. By providing the option to help pay their student loans or continue their education, we can give them one less thing to worry about.”

— from a 05/07/20 article in the *Ripon Advance* titled [“Fitzpatrick bill seeks to help essential workers with student loan debt”](#)

“With our health care infrastructure pushed to its limits, it is crucial for the hospitals in our region to have supplies of Remdesivir (for) critically ill patients who contracted the novel coronavirus... within the last few days, multiple hospitals in Pennsylvania, including dozens of hospitals in Southeastern Pennsylvania, were denied access to the drug. It is my understanding that Gilead Sciences has turned over the distribution process of Remdesivir to both FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) and Health and Human Services (HHS). Given this information, I ask for the distribution of Remdesivir to be more transparent.

— from a [05/08/20 Bucks County Courier Times](#) article titled [“Fitzpatrick questions how hospitals chosen for use of coronavirus drug”](#)

“The funding appropriated by Congress is simply not enough to help districts like Morrisville stay afloat. We need to give school districts maximum flexibility to access much-needed funds, to help them stay on track to best support their students, faculty, and staff...School districts cannot wait any longer. The U.S. Department of Education must act now to ensure that our school districts can provide the best quality of education during these turbulent times and to protect the jobs of our educators.”

— from a [05/01/20 Doylestown Intelligencer](#) article titled [“Lawmakers seek more state aid to keep Morrisville schools afloat”](#)

“We will continue to rely on the experience, expertise and ingenuity of the sector during future recovery efforts,” wrote Rep. Fitzpatrick and a bipartisan group of colleagues that included U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA). “As we work to build on the CARES Act in the next relief package, we cannot overlook the needs of these community-based institutions and must ensure that charitable nonprofits are fully supported in their service on the front lines of responding to the COVID-19 crisis.”

— a portion of a joint statement made by Rep. Fitzpatrick and 140 other lawmakers, from a [05/01/20 article in the Ripon Advance](#) titled [“Fitzpatrick joins 140+ lawmakers, national groups in urging pandemic relief for nonprofits”](#)

“This money will provide a much-needed boost to help residents in our Congressional District get through this pandemic. We are all united in this fight and we are most effective when all levels of our government, federal, state, and local, are working together to help our community.”

— from a [04/24/20 Levittown Now](#) article titled [“Bucks County Getting \\$109 Million In COVID-19 Relief Funds From Feds”](#)

“Small businesses across our country are suffering through no fault of their own. During this crisis, many have been forced to lay-off employees or shut down. We must provide assurance to them that in the case of future national emergencies, they will not have to go through so much uncertainty ever again. Our small businesses need our help, and they need it now. I am proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation to make sure that businesses can access a policy they pay into when they need it most.”

— from a [04/24/20 Orange County Breeze](#) article titled [“Reps. Cisneros, Fitzpatrick Hurd, Suozzi introduce bipartisan business interruption insurance bill to protect small businesses”](#)

“While we continue to focus on flattening the curve, we must also be prepared for when our health officials believe it is safe to reopen our economy. Our bipartisan checklist is a good first step to help establish parameters for reopening our country. Any plan to reopen the country must give attention to the medical and economic challenges this pandemic has created, while also providing solutions to the issues that allowed this virus to spread. We will come out on the other side of this pandemic, and we will continue to work to make sure this never happens again.”

— from a [04/20/20 Insider NJ - Press Releases](#) piece titled [“Problem Solvers Caucus Releases Reopening and Recover ‘Back to Work’ Checklist”](#)

“The Department of the Treasury must immediately fix the PPP to benefit Main Street, not Wall Street. Round 1 of the PPP missed its target. Banks were receiving applications not just from mom-and-pop small businesses that depend on foot traffic and are barely solvent, like small restaurants, hardware

stores and plumbers, whom the PPP was specifically designed to help. Banks were also receiving applications from businesses that are not small, do not rely on foot traffic and are not insolvent, like hedge funds and brokerage businesses, who in some cases received as much as \$10M in forgivable loans. This is money that is literally being taken away from the very small businesses Congress intended to help, small businesses who have been forced to lay off workers due to insufficient cash flow.”

— from a 04/22/20 *Levittown Now* article titled [“Business Owners Share Experiences With Federal Loan Program”](#)

“If the Treasury Department does not establish guardrails to differentiate between well-capitalized brokerage firms and under-capitalized mom-and-pop shops, we will not be helping the people that need us the most right now...This is not the time to be attacking each other. We must get through this crisis together. We must have each other’s backs.”

— from a 04/24/20 *KYW NewsRadio* article titled [“Trump signs \\$484B relief package for small businesses, hospitals, testing”](#)

“We must address this situation immediately and support funding for safe housing for domestic violence victims, their children and their pets. Everyone deserves to feel safe and to be safe, and this funding is an important step toward that goal.”

— from a 04/23/20 article in the *Ripon Advance* titled [“Fitzpatrick, Buchanan request more funds to support domestic violence survivors”](#)

“This money will provide a much-needed boost to help residents in our Congressional District get through this pandemic. We are all united in this fight and we are most effective when all levels of our government, federal, state, and local, are working together to help our community.”

— from a 04/23/20 *Bucks Local News* article titled [“Congressman Fitzpatrick announces more than \\$250M in federal COVID-19 funding for Bucks and Montgomery counties”](#)

“We believe the CARES Act will make a significant positive difference in our communities. However, to ensure that local chambers of commerce can continue to support small businesses at this precarious moment for our country, we are hopeful that you will take action to enable chambers of commerce and other 501(c)(6) organizations that support the needs of our local businesses to receive direct federal support through the initiatives in this legislation.”

— a portion of a joint statement made by Rep. Fitzpatrick and 62 other lawmakers, from a 04/15/20 article in the *Ripon Advance* titled [“Fitzpatrick leads contingent in seeking federal relief for local chambers of commerce”](#)

“Our transit workers are out there every day, risking exposure to COVID-19 to provide vital services...Taking these steps, in addition to current FTA guidance, will better protect our workers,”

— from a 04/17/20 article in the *Ripon Advance* titled [“Fitzpatrick, Bacon lead members in supporting enhanced protections for transit workers”](#)

“In these uncertain times, jobs are down and students are learning through video conferences. Graduating from college, looking for a job, and paying off student loans are stressful enough, and we need to do what we can to help students succeed... By allowing this year’s graduates to defer their student loan payments for up to three years, our bipartisan legislation will allow them to enter the job market and give them one less thing to worry about.”

— from a 04/14/20 article in the *Ripon Advance* titled [“Fitzpatrick’s bill supports recent graduates until U.S. economy rebounds”](#)

“Our community and our nation, and those most in need, cannot survive without [nonprofit organizations].”

— from a 04/13/20 piece in *Sustainable brands* titled [“Reimagining Corporate-Nonprofit Partnerships in Times of Crisis”](#)

Toomey in the News

Courtesy of contributor Elayne Baker

"All of government necessarily depends on having an economy. "Endless government spending is just not sustainable."

— from an article in *The Daily Item* titled [“Expert: Consumers need to feel safe before economy will fully reopen”](#)

“The Chinese Communist Party should have responded to the outbreak of COVID-19 with transparency. Instead, the CCP has consistently lied, spread disinformation, and withheld important facts and data about COVID-19, contributing to the virus’s spread and severity. This sanctions bill would allow the United States to hold accountable members of the CCP who deliberately lied and silenced doctors on the ground in Wuhan.”

— from a *CBS 21* article titled [“Sen. Toomey: Hold those accountable that lied, silenced doctors in China”](#)

Senator Toomey also provided an interview to **Breitbart** on May 8th, and they published the contents in their article titled [“Exclusive – Sen. Pat Toomey Calls for Reopening America Faster: ‘Danger’ of Coronavirus to Most Americans Overstated.”](#) It is so chock full of PEAK PATSY content that we are including it below, in full.



“Let me start with my starting premise and that is there was a very specific reason why we shut down our economy,” Toomey told Breitbart News on Friday. “Think about how drastic and draconian a step that was. It was completely unprecedented in American history to just forbid economic activity. We did it for one reason. That was to slow down the rate of the transmission of the virus, not to stop it altogether—nobody thought that was possible, but to slow it down so that we wouldn’t have such a rapid surge of sick people that they would overwhelm our hospitals’ capacity to treat them. That was the reason. It is now absolutely clear that there is no danger of overwhelming our hospitals. In fact, the vast majority of hospitals in Pennsylvania are mostly empty. UPMC is the biggest hospital system in all of Pennsylvania, and one of the bigger systems in the country. They have 5,500 hospital beds. They have 40 COVID patients. So, there is no chance of overwhelming the hospitals. Therefore, since the whole reason of depriving everyone in Pennsylvania of an income and a livelihood is no longer a risk, why are we still doing it?”

“We need to get on with the business of reopening our economy,” Toomey said. “Here’s another very important factor in all of this, it’s now increasingly obvious what was not entirely obvious when this outbreak began and that is this is a disease of the elderly and the ill. In Pennsylvania, 68 percent of all fatalities have happened inside nursing homes. So it’s the most vulnerable subset of the most vulnerable subset—in other words, the nursing home residents of the elderly population, those are the ones who are

extremely vulnerable. By all means, we should be doing everything we can to protect them. But the vast majority of people are not vulnerable. So I've advocated a phased reopening of our economy. I think that actually most of Pennsylvania, a large majority of Pennsylvania, could be substantially reopened. We're not moving as quickly as we should and could and need to allow people to restore their livelihoods."

"I think that's hard to say and I don't want to speak for him," Toomey said when asked if Wolf is denying the scientific data that is informing his push to reopen Pennsylvania faster. "The science is an essential ingredient in our decision-making, in our input, but it doesn't have the answer. The question that we're posing is how do we weigh these tradeoffs between a maybe slightly lower rate of infection that's going to happen anyway if we stay locked down versus all the carnage we're doing by virtue of staying locked down including increases in diseases of despair like depression and alcohol and drug abuse and suicide that comes from people who have lost their livelihoods and lost their prospects of getting a job? How about all the businesses who are failing and will never come back? Medical science doesn't have an opinion about how you weigh those things. But for elected officeholders, that's our job—to weigh these competing claims or demands or interests and try to make a judgment about how to go forward. I think we are not making a good judgment about that right now, because we're overstating the danger of the virus—that's not to minimize it. Obviously, it's lethal for people who are vulnerable to it. But it's not lethal to everyone and in fact it's not lethal to the vast majority of people. The danger is we're overstating the risks of that, and we're underestimating the damage that's being done by a closed economy and I'm trying to strike what I think is an appropriate balance."

"I think it really varies state by state," Toomey said when asked if he expects others in Congress to follow his idea of offering a counter-plan to the governor's plan. "There's states that have had virtually no impact at all from the coronavirus and other states have been hit hard and governors have responded very differently. I would say it really depends on the state."

"In my case, I began working on my plan because the governor had not released one. There was no plan," Toomey said. "And, I completed my plan and announced that I would be releasing it the next day, and that afternoon that we started lining up the press conference for the following day the governor then announced a press conference that night and he then released a plan. Well, okay, that's good and that's progress. But part of the impetus of my doing a plan is because Pennsylvania did not have one. Then the reason I've continued to weigh in on this is I think our governor's plan moves just way too slowly. Look, as you know, having never been through this before, there's no plan on the shelf. Nobody ever contemplated the government shutting down our economy. It's just so bizarre and so unprecedented. So there's no plan for how you restore the economy. I think it's something we've got to have a vigorous debate about, and I feel like I have a point of view and I have an opportunity to get input from a tremendous wide range of really valuable sources all over Pennsylvania and beyond and so I've got a responsibility to lay out a vision, a process, a mechanism by which we restore our ability to have a livelihood."

Call to Action - Support this Bill!

[H.R. 5687](#): Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief and Puerto Rico Disaster Tax Relief Act

The pandemic is affecting each and every person on earth, so of course it is taking up a huge proportion of the news environment. But it also means that some truly newsworthy issues are not getting the attention they deserve. This is one of them.

Last weekend Puerto Rico was hit by another large earthquake on the southern part of the island. This is after that same area spent the better part of January suffering from hundreds of quakes, and they hadn't even fully recovered from Hurricane Maria! This whole situation is worsened by COVID, too - because you can't shelter at home in safety when your home has crumbled around you!

In February, the House passed an emergency aid package to help Puerto Rico - H.R. 5687 - but like so many other bills, it is just gathering dust while Mitch McConnell and the GOP lawmakers in the Senate ignore it. We need to call Senator Toomey and tell him that we expect him to help our fellow Americans, and we want to see H.R. 5687 get a vote in the Senate!

SCRIPT: Puerto Rico has experienced another earthquake while waiting for the Senate to take up H.R. 5687, to provide them with aid to recover from the disaster in January. The House passed this bill months ago! I want Senator Toomey to work with his GOP colleagues to bring H.R. 5687 up for a vote!

Please call, tweet, email, fax or Resistbot this messaging to Senator Toomey THIS WEEK!

STOP BLOCKING EARTHQUAKE
RELIEF FUNDING
SENATOR PAT TOOMEY

PUERTO RICO WAS HIT BY
ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE

Pass H.R. 5687 NOW!!

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

CC Helen aka @ElastigirlVotes
Elayne Baker Linda Houk
Gary Garb Kierstyn Piotrowski Zolfo

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