

PA-01 Member of Congress Tracking Report - 06.07.20

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 Pennsylvania Together 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) | 29.8% | 0.0% |
| Senator Pat Toomey (R) | 87.9% | 0.0% |
| PA-01 Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R) | 64.7% | 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. There were only Senate votes this week, and none of them were scored.

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 - another McConnell Confirmation extravaganza week

Bureaucratic Confirmation #1 - Inspector General, Pandemic Response

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on Brian Miller to be Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery

This position will oversee the dispersal of nearly a half a trillion dollars in pandemic relief funds from the coronavirus response bills. Concerns about the confirmation of Mr. Miller stem mostly from the fact that he served on the president's legal team during the impeachment process. Prior to his role as the president's attorney, Mr. Miller was a former inspector general at the General Services Administration.

Vote date: Tuesday, June 2, 2020

Vote Tally: 51-40

Party Breakdown: Nearly everyone voted along party lines (with Republicans voting YES; Independent and Democrats voting NO) except Sen. Doug Jones of Alabama, who voted YES with the Republicans.

Additional Reading:

- "[Senate Confirms Inspector General to Oversee Virus Bailout Funds](#)," from *The New York Times*
- "[Senate confirms Brian Miller to be pandemic inspector general](#)," from *YourSun.com*
- "[US Senate confirms special watchdog for coronavirus pandemic recovery](#)," from *WNEP*

Bob Casey voted NO and Pat Toomey voted YES.

Bureaucratic Confirmation #2 - Defense Department

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on Victor G. Mercado to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

Vote date: Tuesday, June 2, 2020

Vote Tally: 75-15

Party Breakdown: All Republicans present voted YES, and they were joined by 24 Democrats and the one Independent present (Sen. Angus King of Maine). Fifteen Democrats voted NO.

Bob Casey voted YES and Pat Toomey voted YES.

Bureaucratic Confirmation #3 - Defense Department

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on James H. Anderson to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense

Vote date: **Wednesday, June 3, 2020** **Vote Tally:** **78-17**

Party Breakdown: As with the Defense Department vote from the previous day, all Republicans present voted YES, and they were joined by 24 Democrats and the one Independent present (Sen. Angus King of Maine). But there were more senators in Washington, so there were three additional Republicans voting ES. And two more Democrats were also present for voting, putting the NO total at seventeen.

Bob Casey voted YES and Pat Toomey voted YES.

Editor's note - there was very little in the news about these two defense department picks. The only article that had any content of note was this [Defense News](#) piece from March, when the pair was nominated.

Bureaucratic Confirmation #4 - US Agency for Global Media

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on Michael Pack to be Chief Executive Officer of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for the term of three years

The *New York Times* covers the key issues for this nomination succinctly, so we'll leave it to them:

Senate Republican leaders, under pressure from President Trump to install an ally who would dictate more favorable news coverage of his administration, are moving to swiftly confirm a conservative filmmaker to lead the independent agency in charge of state-funded media outlets... Mr. Trump's personal intervention to push through his favored nominee illustrates his determination to install a sympathetic figure at the parent agency of broadcasters, which includes the Voice of America, the largest American international broadcaster and one that has recently provoked his ire.

The position of Chief Executive Officer of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, also referred to as the US Agency for Global Media, puts a Steve Bannon ally in charge of the Voice of America broadcast system.

Also of note is that Mr. Pack is under investigation by the Washington DC's attorney general over whether he unlawfully used funds from his nonprofit, Public Media Lab, to benefit himself.

Vote date: **Thursday, June 4, 2020** **Vote Tally:** **53-38**

Party Breakdown: All Republicans present voted YES, along with Democrat Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia. The remaining Democrats and Independent Angus King of Maine voted NO.

Additional Reading:

- ["US Senate Approves Trump Nominee to Head US Broadcasting,"](#) from *Voice of America*
- ["McConnell sets vote for Trump media agency pick, who has ties to Steve Bannon,"](#) from *The Hill*
- ["With Push From Trump, Senate Moves to Install Contentious Filmmaker at U.S. Media Agency,"](#) from *The New York Times*

Bob Casey voted NO and Pat Toomey voted YES.

Judicial Confirmation #1 - Florida

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on John Leonard Badalamenti to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida

This nominee was a clerk for two judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit before joining a federal public defender's office. He was appointed to a judicial seat in the Florida state court system five years ago.

As [The Vetting Room](#) notes, "Badalamenti has most of his pre-bench career as a federal public defender, an unusual background for a judicial nominee, particularly one in a Republican administration." It is rare enough to have defenders as judicial nominees in any administration, so it is a welcome and rare perspective in the federal court system.

Vote date: Monday, June 1, 2020

Vote Tally: 55-22

Party Breakdown: McConnell brought up this nomination on a day when 23 senators had not yet made it back to Washington. The 43 Republicans present all voted yes and they were joined by 11 Democrats and Independent Angus King of Maine. The 22 NO votes were all from Democrats.

Additional Reading:

- [“U.S. Senate confirms John Badalamenti as Tampa’s next federal judge,”](#) from *The Tampa Bay Times*
- [“Judge John Badalamenti – Nominee to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida,”](#) from *The Vetting Room*

Bob Casey voted NO and Pat Toomey voted YES.

Judicial Confirmation #2 - Texas

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on Drew B. Tipton, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas

Drew Tipton is an attorney who has spent the entirety of his career in private practice. He worked for over 20 years at the firm Baker Hostettler, where he is a partner. He specializes in employment law, and he has represented both employees and employers. Tipton is a member of both the Republican National Lawyers Association and of the Federalist Society. He has given thousands of dollars in donations to Republicans Senate candidates.

Vote date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Vote Tally: 52-41

Party Breakdown: This was a party line vote, with all Republicans present voting YES, and the Democrats and Independent voting NO.

Additional Reading:

- [“Drew Tipton – Nominee to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas,”](#) from *The Vetting Room*
- [“Senate Confirms Nomination of Drew Tipton for Texas’ Southern District Court,”](#) from *The Texan*
- [“Sens. Cruz, Cornyn on Nomination of Drew Tipton as U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas,”](#) from *Newsbreak*

Bob Casey voted NO and Pat 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.886](#) - Indian Water Rights Settlement Extension Act
- [H.R.7010](#) - Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act
- [S.3846](#) - COVID-19 Pandemic Moment of Silence Act

This week’s official statements from our MoCs on the protests, the federal response, and criminal justice reform

🌀 **Senator Bob Casey, from his official website, [06/03/20](#):**

Casey, Brown, Blumenthal, Baldwin and Bennet Lead 16 Senators in Urging Defense Department to Refrain from Using U.S. Military to Suppress Nationwide Protests - Senators Express Strong Opposition to Use of Military to Impede the First Amendment Rights of Americans

“President Trump’s behavior over the last three years has repeatedly politicized our Armed Forces and portrayed their mission not as one to protect and defend the Constitution, but rather to protect and defend his political interests. The military should never be weaponized by the President to limit these expressions for liberty and justice. We believe it is antithetical to what those in uniform have sworn to protect and defend, and a serious threat to our democratic system.”

“This is a critical moment for our Nation. How our institutions respond will determine whether the coming weeks and months lead to healing and unity, or continued derision, discord and injustice. We urge you to refrain from using the United States military to diminish or suppress the peaceful, free expression of Americans who are exercising their civil liberties in a call to hold government institutions to a higher standard in the fight for racial justice.”

The full letter can be read [here](#).

● **Senator Pat Toomey, from his official website, [06/02/20](#):**

Toomey Decries Violent Riots, Stands with Peaceful Protesters and Law Enforcement - yesterday, U.S. Senator Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) visited Philadelphia to reaffirm his support for peaceful protesters and police officers while condemning the violent acts of rioters.

In remarks delivered from the U.S. Custom House in Philadelphia, Senator Toomey expressed his deepest sympathies to the family of George Floyd while expressing his anger at the actions that led to his death. Senator Toomey then expressed support for peaceful protesters and police officers while decrying the rioting that has engulfed cities across the country, including Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Harrisburg.

"Good afternoon, we're here today to talk about the tragic death of George Floyd, but even more, frankly, about the response to it.

"I want to start by offering my deepest sympathies to Mr. Floyd's family for their loss. I will tell you the video of his death is sickening to watch. It was very, very deeply disturbing. But it's worth noting that the officer responsible was promptly fired, arrested, and charged with Mr. Floyd's murder. In the coming months that officer will stand trial for his actions, and I am hopeful and confident that there will be justice.

"I think it's really important to underscore the fact that the vast majority of police officers, men and women in, across Pennsylvania, and across the country are hardworking, honorable people who do the right thing. But like any other profession, any other walk of life, or any other group of organizations, there will be bad apples and they need to be held accountable when they commit misconduct.

"As Attorney General Bill Barr has said, and I quote: 'Accountability for Mr. Floyd's death must be addressed, and is being addressed through the regular process of our criminal justice system.'

"In addition, I think policy makers at all levels of government ought to make sure we're doing what we can to minimize the risk of future such events. I'm pleased that the Senate Judiciary Committee has announced that they'll hold a bipartisan hearing on the police use of force with the goal of finding a better way forward for our nation.

"Also I want to be very clear, I fully understand the anger that so many people feel. I felt that anger when I watched that video, I still feel that anger. And I fully support the right of people to peacefully protest and register their concerns. Peaceful protest goes back to the beginning of this great republic, the right to do so is enshrined in the very first amendment of our Constitution. Law-abiding Americans, and Pennsylvanians, and Philadelphians, they have come together to exercise that right peacefully in an effort to effect change. But unfortunately, these peaceful protests have been marred

by some who have chosen violence, and lawlessness, and rioting, and who have chosen to leave a wake of destruction in their path.

"Violent rioters have wrecked entire city blocks, shot two federal contract security officers in Oakland, killing one of them. Assaulted injured police officers, burned police cars, looted stores, in some cases stores that have been closed for months, and even destroyed the property of organizations that serve under-served populations.

"For instance, rioters in Philadelphia set fire to a supply trailer for Broad Street Ministries. While Americans have the right to peacefully protest, no one has a right to violently riot. These acts must stop, and we need to support the law enforcement folks who are doing all that they can to bring an end to this violence. Those who are committing these acts of violence, they're doing a lot of harm to our Commonwealth and to our country. Especially damaging to minority neighborhoods, lawlessness and violence are most dangerous to the most vulnerable.

"As Robert Woodson wrote in today's Wall Street Journal, and I quote: 'Violent protest are devastating the people in whose name they demand justice.'

"They're also undermining the peaceful efforts to honor George Floyd's memory, and to spark dialogue and constructive action. George Floyd's brother said, and I quote: 'My brother wasn't about that,' referring to the riots.

"And let's be honest, looting businesses has nothing to do with peaceful protest. And assaulting police officers is never acceptable. I personally am very grateful for the brave police officers in Philadelphia and across Pennsylvania who have gone into harm's way to quell the lawless rioting and looting.

"I am grateful for the good Samaritans that have helped clean up the damage and try to dissuade rioters from engaging in destructive acts. And I'm really pleased that we have a number of leaders from various walks of life to speak about the events we've seen the last few days."

- **PA-01's Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick** has no releases on his website about the protests, the federal response, and criminal justice reform as of 5:00 PM on Saturday, June 6, 2020.

MoC Twitter Action

Created with the research assistance of Susan Vogel

Twitter Action - Black Lives Matter protests and federal reaction

- **Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, [06/06/20](#):**

"Yesterday, I attended a listening session in Philadelphia with Reverend Dr. Waller & young Black leaders. We must reform our systems & try to right injustice wherever we see it. I'm committed to being the best ally I can be in this fight. I see you. I hear you. I am listening."



● **Senator Pat Toomey, @SenToomey, [06/01/20](#):**

The Senator has tweeted nothing directly about this topic, but he did retweet Philadelphia journalist Jonathan Tamari. "PA @SenToomey speaking on Floyd in Philly now: "The video of his death is sickening to watch - very very deeply disturbing" - says he is "confident" there will be justice through the justice system. Adds that most police are honorable/do the right thing"

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

"Our nation ought to be 100% focused on achieving complete justice for George Floyd and his family and honoring his memory. Instead these rioters and arsonists are focused on themselves and destroying our nation. We must unite as a nation behind peaceful protesters and against these rioters and arsonists who are dishonoring George's memory and destroying our country.

Governors and Mayors must completely utilize the National Guard immediately to assist law enforcement and regain control of our cities, so that our nation can join together in peaceful protest and calls to action to achieve justice for George."

Twitter Action - MoCs on Legislation

● **Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, [06/05/20](#):**

"Today I #WearOrange in honor of those lost to gun violence. This year I'm thinking not only of the 2900 kids & teens lost every year, but of all the parents raising Black children who live in fear that their kids will be the next victim simply because of the color of their skin.

I am proud to cosponsor @SenBooker's Breaking the Cycle of Violence Act to provide vital funding for life-saving & data-driven gun violence intervention programs—but I know this is just one of many steps we need to take. We need urgent action to combat this public health crisis."

● **Senator Pat Toomey, @SenToomey, [06/04/20](#):**

"The Chinese Communist Party must know there are consequences to destroying the freedom of Hongkongs. My bipartisan Hong Kong Autonomy Act (S.3798) will deliver those consequences. [See more](#)"

● **PA-01's Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, @RepBrianFitz, [06/05/20](#):**

"Gun violence is the leading cause of death for American children. As a supporter of HR 8, I know that we need to come together and continue to advocate for solutions to ending gun violence. #WearOrange #GunViolenceAwarenessDay #SafeStorageSavesLives"

June 5 wear orange

National Gun Violence Awareness Day

Text JOIN to 644-33

Tweet of the Week

● Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, 06/04/20:

"#OTD 31 years ago, pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square were brutally suppressed by the People's Liberation Army. As we remember the lives lost, may we honor the resilience of human spirit and capacity of people to rise up and make their voices heard.

The anniversary of Tiananmen Square comes just days after the President deployed tear-gas, rubber bullets and armed personnel on peaceful protesters so that he could cross the street for a photo op—the same President who has praised China for their "strength" during Tiananmen.

Also, this—and FWIW, he's defended his comments."

Trump told Playboy in a 1990 interview: "When the students poured into Tiananmen Square, the Chinese government almost blew it. Then they were vicious, they were horrible, but they put it down with strength. That shows you the power of strength. Our country is right now perceived as weak."

● Senator Pat Toomey, @SenToomey, 06/05/20:

"As we reopen PA, we need to understand how businesses & workers have been affected by the crisis, & how they're adapting for the future. Thanks to Tim from Bartram House Bakery & Sean from Sara's for meeting with me, @MikeKellyPA, @GResenthaler, & @senatorlaughlin on this."



● PA-01's Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, @RepBrianFitz, 06/04/20:

"The #COVID19 pandemic has been a historic crisis in America. Congress' response must be equally historic. @RepKendraHorn @ProbSolveCaucus" *tweeted with a link to a USA Today article titled "[Congressional leaders: Invest in broadband, domestic supply chains to restore economy](#)"*

Casey in the News

Courtesy of contributor Linda Houk

"All those responsible must be held fully accountable. We cannot accept a system which disregards the value of black life."

— from an article in *the Daily Item*, titled [“Valley lawmakers, law enforcement, religious leaders 'appalled,' 'disgraced' by death of George Floyd”](#)

“The House bill answers so many of our challenges, including the obligation we have to frontline workers.”

—from an article on *Erie News Now*, titled [“Second stimulus check? State & local aid? Senate Democrats increase pressure on GOP leaders for additional coronavirus relief”](#)

“Still to this day, we are trying to help those residents and workers in nursing homes with one hand tied behind our backs because the Administration... is not releasing any data on outbreaks in these facilities.” This is unconscionable.”

—from an article on *ABC News*, titled [“In first federal count, over 25,000 coronavirus deaths in nursing homes”](#)

“The overwhelming majority of protests have been peaceful, courageous, responsible and inspiring. And they deserve our respect and support, not condemnation.”

“The arrest of ex-police officer Chauvin was a step towards justice for George Floyd and his family, but it is only the first of many steps we need to take to reform these systems and hold accountable those who abuse them.”

“The fact that George Floyd’s family had to go out and get an independent autopsy is clear evidence of the systemic injustice people are protesting against. As leaders, it is our moral imperative that we recognize the pain and injustice in our communities and take action to ensure our government, law enforcement and country live up to the promise of liberty and justice for all.”

—from an article in *the Daily Item*, titled [“Pa. lawmakers agree Floyd's death was tragedy, differ on president's response”](#)

“As Israel enters a hopeful new chapter after over a year of political turmoil, I am concerned that stated plans to move forward with unilateral annexation of the West Bank will not only eliminate the possibility of a two-state solution, but may result in erosion of regional and international arrangements that guarantee Israel’s safety and security.”

“I ask that you choose an alternate path that will avert further conflict and lay the groundwork for peace.”

“The United States and Israel enjoy an unbreakable bond that goes beyond a typical bilateral relationship between two allies. This relationship permits space for criticism and concern when necessary.”

—from an article in *the Jewish Insider*, titled [“Sen. Bob Casey opposes unilateral West Bank annexation in solo letter to Israel leaders”](#)

“We’ve got to provide support for families and provide support to organizations that are combating child abuse.”

“About a billion dollars more for nonprofit organizations that are dealing with this problem ... and secondly to provide \$500 million for an increase in efforts to provide more technology and more Personal Protective Equipment.”

—from an article on *WJHL News*, titled [“US lawmakers worry about child abuse during pandemic, push for more funding to help”](#)

“There’s no question our dairy farmers need more help.”

“We’re going to continue to work on ideas for our dairy farmers and their families. This is an opportunity in the next couple of weeks where we may have a Senate bill, and this is a time to get ideas on the table.”

—from an article in *Lancaster Farming*, titled [“FSA Head: More Commodities Could Get Aid”](#)

Fitzpatrick in the News

Composed with research from volunteer CC

This week, there was little in the news about Rep. Fitzpatrick other than his primary victory. Many pieces quoted portions of his official statement. Instead of quoting those articles, here is the statement in full, from his [campaign Facebook presence](#):

I am honored that the amazing people of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District have once again placed their trust and faith in me and our campaign.

Our campaign is a team effort, and I once again thank our amazing and hardworking volunteers who give of their time, talents and energy to bring our community together. Now, as we look forward towards the future, it is imperative that we come together as one community to save our nation from the divisive politics that is tearing our country apart. I am and will continue to be dedicated to serving the people of the First District, and I look forward to continuing our campaign by bringing our community together, standing together in unity and solidarity. #TeamFitz #OneCommunity

Sign our petition here and stand with me: <https://bit.ly/36VrJdm>

The link provided at the end of the statement is presented as a petition, but it is, in fact, an opt-in for his campaign communication and fundraising appeals.

Toomey in the News

Courtesy of contributor Elayne Baker

“We’ve got to make sure that the police know that we’ve got their backs. We are gonna allow them to do their job. I think there has been some progress. It seems to me that the worst of the violence wasn’t last night. But there can’t be any tolerance for violence.

Look, a peaceful protest is perfectly fine, it’s completely legitimate. The killing of George Floyd, it was a sickening thing to look at that video, it’s terrible. But it is no excuse to have a riot! It’s no excuse to destroy private property, to attack police officers! It’s just terrible what’s been happening, and the idea of letting rioter vent is a ridiculous idea.

I saw a police chief - not from Philadelphia but from another city - who was talking about how ‘well, buildings can be replaced, you know...’ What kind of message is that?! You can destroy property? It’s not ok.”

— MoCTrack-transcribed excerpts from an interview that Senator Pat Toomey did with conservative talk radio host Dom Giordano of *WPHT 1210*, [“Sen. Pat Toomey Says There Can Be No Tolerance for Lawlessness,”](#) this portion begins at the four minute mark.

“I fully understand the anger that so many people feel. I felt that anger when I watched that video. I still feel that anger, and I fully support the right of people to peacefully protest and register their concerns.”

"Americans have the right to peacefully protest, no one has a right to violently riot... These acts must stop, and we need to support the law enforcement folks who are doing all that they can to help bring an end to this violence."

— from an [Allentown Morning Call](#) article titled "[Pat Toomey says George Floyd death 'sickening to watch,' defends most police officers as honorable](#)"; the article goes on to note '[he defended most police officers as "honorable"](#)'

"They're also undermining the peaceful efforts to honor George Floyd's memory and to spark dialogue and constructive action. George Floyd's brother said and I quote, my brother wasn't about that and I end quote, referring to the riots."

— from an article in [The Neighbor](#) titled "[Philadelphia again under curfew as National Guard called in amid protests](#)"

"[President Trump's tweets] have not been helpful. And it would be helpful if he would change the tone of his message."

— from a [WHYY](#) article titled "[Philly cleans up from protest as National Guard arrives ahead of more demonstrations](#)"

"What you need to do is nip that kind of violence in the bud. The fact is the police are the solution. They've got to be used and used properly so we can restore law and order. That is the government's first obligation...."

...I'm not [President Trump's] tweet editor. That's not the problem here. The problem here are these bandits, criminals, who have seized an opportunity to wreak havoc. That can't be tolerated...

...Maybe a month from now we'll see that there are some serious needs that still are unmet but, boy, we've done an awful lot. We've replaced the vast majority of lost income for people, for low income workers we've actually more than replaced their lost income. Demand is going to be there. It's a matter of being able to open up safely."

— from a [Newsmax](#) article titled "[Sen. Toomey: Acts of Violence During Protests 'Cannot Be Tolerated'](#)"

"[Sanction would] be an unprecedented action toward the Chinese Communist officials and it is intended to create obstacles to that aggression -- obstacles that the leadership in Beijing has not encountered before."

— from a [Bloomberg](#) article titled "[Senators Push 'Unprecedented' Sanctions on China Over Hong Kong](#)"

"There's bipartisan interest in getting legislation like this done as soon as possible."

— from a [Yahoo Finance](#) article titled "[U.S. Senator sees strong bipartisan support for Hong Kong sanctions bill](#)"

"The governor is moving much, much too slowly. There is a price we are paying for every day that we don't allow people to fully resume economic activity, fully resume the ordinary experience in their lives."

— from a [YourErie.com](#) article titled "[U.S. Senator Pat Toomey discusses Erie's economy and frustration with county remaining in yellow phase](#)"

"Folks, it's been a long time now that it's been abundantly clear that we aren't going to overwhelm our hospital systems..."

...the last thing we should do is have the federal government come in and dictate [to] local police. ... If there's a given community that needs to rethink their policies for their police force, fine, they should do

that. But I don't think we should try to federalize the local police force, diminish the accountability that they have to local elected officials."

— from a [WESA article titled "Toomey, Reschenthaler Hail Reopening, Say COVID Response And Police Reform Calls Have Gone Too Far"](#)

Learning about Legislation - Rep. Ayanna Pressley's resolution to condemn police brutality

[H. Res. 988](#): Condemning all acts of police brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive and militarized force throughout the country

In last week's MoCTrack, we provided what little information we had about Rep Ayanna Pressley's resolution, based on the recommendation of Indivisible National and the strength of the press release describing its contents. Now that the text is available, having been processed by the clerk's office in the House of Representatives, we are even more excited about its contents.

All resolutions are constructed in the same manner, with a series of "whereas" statements, laying out pieces of evidence or detailing events; followed by conclusions of the House or actions recommended by the Congress.

There "whereas" section of Rep. Pressley's resolution outlines:

- That "police brutality and the use of excessive and militarized force are among the most serious ongoing human rights and civil liberties violations in the United States and have led to community destabilization, a decrease in public safety, and the exacerbation of structural inequities"
- That "the system of policing in America, and its systemic targeting of and use of deadly and brutal force against people of color, particularly Black people, stems from the long legacy of slavery, lynching, Jim Crow laws, and the War on Drugs in the United States and has been perpetuated by violent and harmful law enforcement practices"
- Connections between "increased militarization of a police department and corresponding levels of police brutality"
- That "Black people, including Black women and girls, Native Americans, and Latinos are killed by police at disproportionately higher rates than their White peers" and "people with disabilities and other historically marginalized communities, including LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, and those experiencing homelessness are significantly more likely to be criminalized and targets of police violence"

The resolution then has three "whereas" statement that need to be quoted in full:

- Whereas the House of Representatives finds that the conduct of police officers who engage in racial profiling and excessive force, which can include shootings, brutal beatings, fatal chokings, and any other excessive treatment is a violation of the Constitution of the United States;
- Whereas the House of Representatives finds that the rule of law in the United States is undermined when police officers engage in conduct inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States; and
- Whereas **the House of Representatives has a moral and constitutional obligation to protect the civil rights and liberties of all people from police abuses**

Then the resolution moves to the portion where the House of Representatives announces what steps they are resolved to address if the measure is passed. Those are:

1. The House "condemns all acts of brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive force by law enforcement officers and calls for the end of militarized policing practices"
2. The House supports strengthening laws, rules and procedures that would eliminate brutality, profiling and excessive force, including calling on the Department of Justice to "reinstate its role in investigating individual instances of police brutality, violence, and racial profiling, and police departments that violate civil rights;" and "filing briefs urging courts to reconsider decisions that

permit unreasonable and excessive police practices and establish meaningful oversight of consent decrees”

3. The House supports the establishment of all-civilian review boards “with the authority to effectively investigate incidents of police misconduct... and discipline of police officers”
4. The House “calls for the adoption of sound and unbiased law enforcement policies at all levels of government that reduce the disparate impact of police brutality and use of force on Black and Brown people and other historically marginalized communities.”

Call to Action - Support this Bill!

Rep. Ayanna Pressley’s resolution to condemn police brutality

H. Res. 988: Condemning all acts of police brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive and militarized force throughout the country

In the previous section you learned about the contents of Rep. Pressley’s resolution. Now it is time to take action to support the bill! As of Sunday, June 7, 2020, the following Pennsylvania lawmakers are co-sponsors of H. Res. 988:

- PA-02’s Rep. Brendan Boyle
- PA-03’s Rep. Dwight Evans
- PA-04’s Rep. Madeleine Dean
- PA-05’s Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon
- PA-18’s Rep. Mike Doyle

If you live in their districts, please consider calling them to thank them for co-sponsoring H. Res. 988. You could add, “I support the peaceful protests calling for the end to police brutality, racial profiling and excessive violence, and I support YOU in your legislative efforts to end these policing practices.”

These are the Representatives that are not yet listed as co-sponsors of H. Res. 988:

- PA-01’s Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick
- PA-06’s Rep. Chrissy Houlahan
- PA-07’s Rep. Susan Wild
- PA-08’s Rep. Matt Cartwright
- PA-09’s Rep. Dan Meuser
- PA-10’s Rep. Scott Perry
- PA-11’s Rep. Lloyd Smucker
- PA-12’s Rep. Fred Keller
- PA-13’s Rep. John Joyce
- PA-14’s Rep. Guy Reschenthaler
- PA-15’s Rep. Glenn W. Thompson
- PA-16’s Rep. Mike Kelly
- PA-17’s Rep. Conor Lamb

If you live in their districts, please consider calling them to express your support for H. Res. 988 and ask them to join as a co-sponsor. You could say “I support the peaceful protests calling for the end to police brutality, racial profiling and excessive violence, and I would like to see you support those issues as well. One way you could express that is to co-sponsor Rep. Pressley’s H. Res. 988.”

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

CC
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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!