

PA-01 Member of Congress Tracking Report - 07.26.20

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

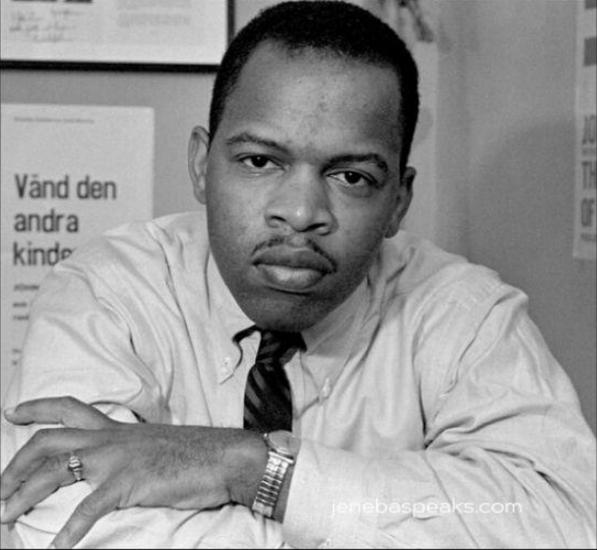
Tracking Congress in the Age of Trump

Member of Congress	This week's score	Change from last report
Senator Bob Casey (D)	29.3%	-0.2%
Senator Pat Toomey (R)	88.1%	+0.1%
PA-01 Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R)	64.0%	-0.4%

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. The votes scored this week are a Senate confirmation vote and the House vote on the National Defense Authorization package.

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

Words From Our Nation's Sages



A black and white photograph of Representative John Lewis. He is wearing a white dress shirt and a dark tie, looking slightly to the left of the camera with a serious expression. His hands are resting on a surface in front of him. In the background, there is a poster with the text "Vänd den andra kände". A watermark "jenebaspeaks.com" is visible at the bottom of the photo.

"Get in
good trouble,
necessary
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of America."
- Rep. John Lewis
March 1, 2020

"Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America."

— the late civil right leader and [Representative John Lewis](#),
speaking on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, on
March 1, 2020

National Defense Authorization Votes

Much of the action in both the House and the Senate relate to the “minibus” spending packages needed to fund the government for the 2021 fiscal year. The votes detailed below were taken in both houses in relation to our Defense spending package.

The House passes the NDAA for 2021

[House Vote](#) on [H.R. 6395](#): William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021

While the Defense spending authorization bill contains text to rename confederate military bases (something many media outlets have centered their coverage upon) this bill for nearly three quarters of a trillion dollars contains MANY other provisions. From [GovTrack](#):

The bill authorizes appropriations to DOD for Procurement, including aircraft, weapons and tracked combat vehicles, shipbuilding and conversion, and missiles; Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation; Operation and Maintenance; Working Capital Funds; Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction; Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities; the Defense Inspector General; the National Defense Sealift Fund; the Defense Health Program; the Armed Forces Retirement Home; the Space Force; Overseas Contingency Operations; and Military Construction.

The bill also authorizes the FY2021 personnel strengths for active duty and reserve forces and sets forth policies regarding military personnel; acquisition policy and management; international programs; National Guard and Reserve Force facilities; compensation and other personnel benefits; health care; matters relating to COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019); DOD organization and management; civilian personnel matters; matters relating to foreign nations; and strategic programs, cyber, and intelligence matters. The bill authorizes appropriations for base realignment and closure activities, and maritime matters.

The bill authorizes appropriations and sets forth policies for Department of Energy national security programs, including the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. The bill also sets forth policies regarding certain federal activities related to artificial intelligence, including implementation by the President of a National Artificial Intelligence Initiative to support research and development, education, and training programs.

Vote date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Vote Tally: 295-125

Party Breakdown: The majority of both parties voted for this bill. For Democrats, there were 43 NO votes (18.7% of those present). The Republicans were more closely split, with 81 NO votes (42.6% of those present). Libertarian Justin Amash voted NO as well. If the 295 lawmakers who voted YES hold to their initial position, this is a veto-proof majority.

Brian Fitzpatrick voted YES.

House Amendments of Note

Often the roll call votes relating to amendments are the most interesting part of Congressional proceedings on these big appropriations bills. Below you find some of the hundreds of amendments offered and how our Pennsylvania lawmakers voted.

To save time, about 100 amendments were compiled “en bloc” into [House Report 116-457](#) so that only one vote needed to be taken upon the lot of them. In light of the sheer quantity of those amendments, only items introduced by Rep. Fitzpatrick are highlighted below:

- “Creates a cyber attack exception under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA) to protect U.S. nationals against foreign state-sponsored cyber attacks.” (amdt 2, sponsored

by PA-01's Brian Fitzpatrick, PA-10's Scott Perry and PA-14's Guy Reschenthaler along with about two dozen other MoCs of both parties)

- "Expresses the Sense of Congress that the United States should reaffirm support for an enduring strategic partnership between the United States and Ukraine and support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity" (amdt 50, sponsored by PA-01's Brian Fitzpatrick and PA-02's Brendan Boyle)
- Requires a report on "how the Secretary of Defense determined whether to authorize fulltime National Guard duty for states' COVID-19 response" (amdt 60, from PA-01's Brian Fitzpatrick and a handful of other MoCs)
- "Directs the Administrator of USAID to incorporate early childhood development into current programming and in partner countries" (amdt 69, from PA-01's Brian Fitzpatrick and one other MoC)
- Inserts a section of the HEROES Act which "Re-establishes the government-wide lead for pandemic response, establishes an Interagency Review Council charged with implementing U.S. commitments under the Global Health Security Agenda, and requires a global health security strategy" (amdt 90, from PA-01's Brian Fitzpatrick and a handful of other MoCs)
- "Clarifies that qualifying subcontractors and subgrantees are afforded whistleblower protections against reprisal when disclosing information about gross mismanagement or waste of federal funds" (amdt 92, from PA-01's Brian Fitzpatrick and one other MoC)
- Requires the DOD to give "the transitional health benefits provided to a separating active-duty reservist" to National Guard members (amdt 112, from PA-01's Brian Fitzpatrick and a handful of other MoCs)
- Requires "manufacturers to disclose all PFAS discharges" over a certain amount (amdt 121, from PA-01's Brian Fitzpatrick and a handful of other MoCs)
- "Improves Department of Defense and landlord response to identification and remediation of severe environmental health hazards in military housing." (amdt 135, from PA-01's Brian Fitzpatrick and one other MoC)

This LONG cluster of amendments was voted on as [House Amendment 841](#), and it passed 336-71. **Brian Fitzpatrick voted YES.**

There were also several stand-alone amendments that received roll call votes. Four of those amendments were of particular note:

- Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-TX) introduced [Amendment 833](#), to "require certifications be made to Congress when the President deploys active duty military within the United States during civil unrest by amending the Insurrection Act." This measure passed 215-190. **Brian Fitzpatrick voted NO.**
- Rep. Ben McAdams (D-UT) introduced [Amendment 834](#), to "prohibit any funding for new nuclear testing." This passed in a 227-179 vote. **Brian Fitzpatrick voted YES.**
- Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) introduced [Amendment 835](#), to establish an "accelerated withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan." This measure failed 129-284. Democrats were split on the issue (55%-45%) but only 2 Republicans and Libertarian Justin Amash supported the amendment. **Brian Fitzpatrick voted NO.**
- Our own Rep. Madeleine Dean of PA-04 introduced [Amendment 840](#), to "provide up to \$10,000 in immediate assistance to pay down the balance of private student loans." This measure passed, 217-198. **Brian Fitzpatrick voted YES.**

The Senate passes the NDAA for 2021

[Senate Vote](#) on [S. 4049](#): National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021

The Senate voted on their own version of the 2021 NDAA. It covers the same departments outlined above in the House version. Much as in the House, our Senators had to make their way through a variety of amendments. But unlike the House, Senate amendments must pass with a 60% supermajority.

There were several amendments that reflect upon major policy debates of the day. First, Senators Brian Schatz (D-HI) and James Inhofe (D-OK) offered competing visions on how to handle transfers of military surplus items to local law enforcement departments. Sen. Schatz's [amendment](#) was the more progressive option, but it failed to get a supermajority - the vote was 51-49, with Casey voting YES and Toomey voting NO. Sen. Inhofe's [amendment](#) was more limited in scope, and it passed, 90-10 (Casey and Toomey both voted YES).

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) offered an [amendment](#) to "reduce the bloated Pentagon budget by 10 percent and invest that money in jobs, education, health care, and housing in communities in the United States in which the poverty rate is not less than 25 percent." This failed in a 23-77 vote. Senate Casey voted YES and Senator Toomey voted NO.

Vote date: Thursday, July 23, 2020

Vote Tally: 86-14

Party Breakdown: Four Republicans voted NO on this bill - Mike Braun of Indiana, Rand Paul of Kentucky, John Kennedy of Louisiana and Mike Lee of Utah. The Independents were split, with Angus King of Maine voting YES and Bernie Sanders of Vermont voting NO. And nine Democrats voted NO - Kamala Harris of California, Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Cory Booker of New Jersey, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Sherrod Brown of Ohio, Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden of Oregon, and Patrick Leahy of Vermont.

Bob Casey voted YES and Pat Toomey voted YES.

Additional Reading on the 2021 NDAA:

- ["House, Senate near NDAA endgame,"](#) from *Politico*
- ["Senate passes 2021 NDAA with veto-proof majority,"](#) from *Washington Technology*
- ["House passes NDAA, White House threatens veto,"](#) from *Space News*
- ["House passes NDAA with TikTok ban,"](#) from *Federal Computer Week*
- ["House passes \\$740 billion funding bill that would remove Confederate names from military bases,"](#) from *CNN Politics*
- ["Annual leave carryover, new anti-discrimination safeguards for feds in House NDAA,"](#) from *Federal News Network*

The two versions of the 2021 NDAA need to be reconciled before going to President Trump's desk. The president has [threatened a veto](#), but both chambers passed their bills with veto-proof majorities.

Another "2021 minibus" funding package passes the House

[House Vote](#) on [H.R. 7608](#): Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2021

This is one of the dozen "minibus" (as opposed to omnibus) bills that must be passed each year to fund various portions of the government. According to the summary provided on [GovTrack](#), this bill covers the State Department for Administration of Foreign Affairs, International Organizations, and International Commissions; the U.S. Agency for Global Media, the Asia Foundation, the U.S. Institute of Peace, the Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue Trust Fund, the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Program, the Israeli Arab Scholarship Program, the East-West Center, and the National Endowment for Democracy; the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China, and the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission; the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Peace Corps, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Inter-American Foundation, and the U.S. African Development Foundation; and the Department of the Treasury, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency.

Vote date: Friday, July 24, 2020

Vote Tally: 224-189

Party Breakdown: All Republicans voted NO on this funding bill. They were joined by Libertarian Justin Amash and seven Democrats who represent both ends of the political spectrum on the felt side of the aisle - Daniel Lipinski of Illinois, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, Ilhan Omar and Collin Peterson of Minnesota, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Kurt Schrader of Oregon and Ben McAdams of Utah.

Additional Reading:

Please note that while many articles covered the Defense Authorization package, there were few pieces about the entire appropriation bill. The few I could find dealt with narrow provisions in the bill from interest group and international publications.

- [“House approves to double budget of Special Envoy to combat antisemitism,”](#) from *The Jerusalem Post*
- [“House Passes USDA Funding Bill, but White House Opposes it,”](#) from *Progressive Farmer*
- [“Amendment in Support of Demining in Artsakh Passes the House,”](#) from *The Massis Post* (the English language presence of an Armenian-language publication)

Brian Fitzpatrick voted NO.

House Amendments of Note:

Much as it was with the Defense Authorization vote, the amendments on the State Department appropriations package were the most interesting part of the legislative process. Here are some of the amendments offered, as well as how our Pennsylvania lawmakers split on those issues:

One of the procedures that the House uses to conserve time is that they will bundle amendments “en bloc” and vote for them as a chunk. They did that with 29 amendments offered by Democrats. Some of the provisions encompassed in [House amendment 851](#) include:

- Prohibiting funds from being used to withdraw from the U.S.-South Korea Mutual Defense Treaty (amdt 3)
- Discouraging “the State Department from pushing aside the modern human rights that the United States helped establish in favor of narrower protections for women, including reproductive rights; for members of the LGBTQI community” (amdt 4)
- Prohibiting funds from being used “to enter into any new contract, grant, or cooperative agreement with any Trump related business” (amdt 5)
- Prohibiting funds from being used “to facilitate the transfer or sale of air-to-ground munitions to Saudi Arabia and the UAE” (amdt 18)
- Prohibiting funds from being used to withdraw from NATO and the WHO (amds 23 & 24)
- Prohibiting funds from being used “to offer any tracts available for oil and gas leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge” (amdt 83)

Text quoted above is from the listing of amendments in [House Report 116-459](#). This cluster of amendments passed 223-194. **Brian Fitzpatrick voted YES.**

The second “en bloc” cluster of amendments offered in [House Amendment 852](#) were proposed by Republicans. The contents of those amendments include:

- Prohibiting “federal contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC), and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which advise governments around the world on climate change” (amdt 15)
- “States that none of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency” amdt 25, from PA-10’s Rep. Scott Perry)
- Prohibiting funds from being used in opposition to two of President Trump’s executive orders related to the environment (amds 76, 77 & 88)
- Prohibiting the EPA from using funds “in response to the Watershed Implementation Plan” (amdt 95, from PA-10’s Scott Perry and PA-13’s John Joyce)
- “Strikes language that impedes the President’s border wall construction” (amdt 120)

The text quoted above is also from the listing of amendments in [House Report 116-459](#). This measure failed 187-230. **Brian Fitzpatrick voted NO.**

As with most bills, the final vote was preceded by a motion to recommit with instructions. In this case, the Republicans wanted the bill to be recommitted (sent back to committee) “to transfer \$102,500,500 from the Economic Support Fund to the Development Assistance Fund” per the [Congressional website](#). This measure failed, 183-228. **Brian Fitzpatrick voted YES.**

It is unclear how many of these amendments, or even the provisions agreed to in the rest of the appropriations package, will make it into the final bill once it gets to the Senate. This is a “must-pass” bill, but it is likely that a very different version will pass under Mitch McConnell, and then both houses will have to go to conference to resolve their differences.

Funds and Protections delivered for our Nation’s Parks and Wilderness Areas

[House Vote](#) on [H.R. 1957](#): Great American Outdoors Act

This bill is a collection of initiatives that deal with issues facing our National parks and wilderness programs. First it will permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund ([LWCF](#)), a program that protects federal public lands and waters and encourages voluntary conservation of private lands. This excellent program is funded not by taxpayer dollars, but by using fees paid by fossil fuel extraction corporations who pay the federal government to lease public lands. Specifically, it permanently sets aside \$900 million in oil and gas revenues to fund the LWCF.

There has also been a large backlog of renovation and maintenance tasks in our national parks. This bill appropriates \$6.5 billion to address those issues.

From a political perspective, many believe this bill was put on the floor of the Senate for a vote back in June because Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell wanted to provide some campaign assistance to a pair of his most vulnerable GOP senators - Cory Gardner of Colorado and Steve Daines of Montana - as this is legislation that is quite popular in western states. That aim was telegraphed best by a [tweet from President Trump](#), that applauded the pair for their efforts in putting this bill together. While House Speaker Nancy Pelosi scheduled the bill for a vote because it represents topics that are in line with Democratic goals, there is no doubt the passage of this bill will bolster the political profile of the House Republicans who supported it, including PA-01’s Brian Fitzpatrick.

Vote date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Vote Tally: 310-107

Party Breakdown: Republicans were split 81-104 on this vote, with 56% of the party voting NO. They were joined in their NO votes by Libertarian Justin Amash and two Democrats, Peter Visclosky of Indiana and Cedric Richmond of Louisiana. All but those two Democrats voted YES.

Additional Reading:

- [“The Great American Outdoors Act passes with bipartisan support,”](#) from *The Hill*
- [“Great American Outdoors Act Hailed as Landmark Conservation Bill,”](#) from *Democracy Now!*
- [“House approves Great American Outdoors Act, which is expected to create thousands of jobs,”](#) from *The Denver Channel*
- [“Great American Outdoors Act Would Improve National Parks—and U.S. Economy,”](#) from *Pew Trusts*

Brian Fitzpatrick voted YES.

The House Approves Replacement of Statues of Racists in Capitol Buildings

[House Vote](#) on [H.R. 7573](#): To direct the Joint Committee on the Library to replace the bust of Roger Brooke Taney in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the United States Capitol with a bust of Thurgood Marshall

As the title of this bill indicates, it would replace the bust of Supreme Court Chief Justice [Roger B. Taney](#), the segregationist who wrote the 1857 Dred Scott ruling, with the bust of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Further, it tasks the Library of Congress to remove the statues of [Charles Brantley Aycock](#), [John Caldwell Calhoun](#), [James Paul Clarke](#), and [John Cabell Breckinridge](#). Lastly, the bill amends the federal code related to the National Statuary Hall, so that anyone who voluntarily served in the Confederate Army would be excluded from being present in the hall.

Vote date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Vote Tally: 305-113

Party Breakdown: All Democrats voted YES, and they were joined by 72 Republicans (39%) and Libertarian Justin Amash. Of the remaining Republicans, 113 voted NO and 13 did not vote.

Additional Reading:

- ["House votes to remove Confederate statues from Capitol,"](#) from Harrisburg's *CBS News* affiliate
- ["House Poised To Pass Bill Removing Confederate Statues From Capitol,"](#) from *WABE* Atlanta's *NPR* affiliate
- ["House votes to remove Confederate statues from Capitol,"](#) from *The Washington Post*

Brian Fitzpatrick voted YES.

Bureaucratic Confirmation - Office of Management and Budget

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on Russell Vought to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Prior to his time serving the Trump Administration, Russell Vought served as the Vice President of Heritage Action, a conservative advocacy group that works in concert with the Heritage Foundation. He also worked as the policy director for the House Republicans. He moved into the number two position at the Office of Management and Budget in March 2018, and took effective leadership of the OMB in early 2019, when Mick Mulvaney was moved into the White House as President Trump's Chief of Staff.

The party line vote in the Senate on the confirmation of Vought can be at least partly attributed to his actions to stonewall congressional oversight. Vought also defied a subpoena during the impeachment process, when he was called to testify on what he knew related to the freeze on aid payments to Ukraine.

Vote date: Monday, July 20, 2020

Vote Tally: 51-45

Party Breakdown: This was a pure party line vote, with all Democrats and Independents voting NO and all Republicans voting YES.

Additional Reading:

- ["Senate confirms Russ Vought to be White House budget chief,"](#) from *Politico*
- ["Russell Vought Confirmed to Lead OMB,"](#) from *Meritalk*
- ["Senate Confirms Russell Vought as Head of White House Budget Office,"](#) from *The Wall Street Journal*

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.

- [H.Res.1054](#) - Expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable John Lewis

- [S.3607](#) - Safeguarding America's First Responders Act
- [S.3637](#) - A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to extend lease protections for servicemembers under stop movement orders in response to a local, national, or global emergency
- [S.4148](#) - A bill to extend the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security
- [H.Res.1058](#) - Electing a Member to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives (this assigned Rep. Chris Jacobs, the Republican who won the special election in Ny-27, to the House Committees on Agriculture and the Budget.)
- [S.3989](#) - United States Semiquincentennial Commission Amendments Act (this measure, introduced by our own Sen. Toomey, amends the existing commissions tasked to plan the nation's celebrations on our 250th anniversary, to introduce new funding and intellectual property measures)
- [S.906](#) - Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act
- [S.4065](#) - Reinforcing American-Made Products Act
- [S.3841](#) - A bill to protect 2020 recovery rebates for individuals from assignment or garnishment
- [H.Con.Res.105](#) - Permitting the remains of the Honorable John Lewis, late a Representative from the State of Georgia, to lie in state in the rotunda of the Capitol

A final legislative note on the Muslim Ban reversal

MocTrack apologizes for being unable to cover this bill in today's report. Several lawmakers took to Twitter to cheer about the passing of a "[Muslim Civil rights bill](#)". And an article from [Time](#) notes that "the House on Wednesday voted to repeal the Trump administration's travel ban and further restrict the president's power to limit entry to the U.S., a symbolic victory for Muslim American and civil rights groups." That same article notes that the bill passed 233-183.

The only bill to pass last week with that tally was tied to H.R. 2486: FUTURE Act (a bill about funding historically black colleges and universities) and has a somewhat [obscure note](#) "it was not the final House vote on the bill... on Concurring in the Senate Amdt with Amdt Specified in Section 4(a) of H. Res. 891 in the House." And that [resolution](#) is a deep tangle of nested Rules Committee reports, references and clauses.

We are uncomfortable providing any sort of recaps on bills that we here at MoCTrack cannot untangle and read for ourselves... so while this issue is important and we are thrilled when civil rights are extended to any group that needs additional protections, we cannot provide a rundown of the legislative action in this case.

What's going on with the next Phase of Coronavirus rescue legislation

Many key provisions of the past three phases of pandemic rescue bills are going to expire at the end of the month. The \$600 increases to unemployment payments, as well as protections against foreclosures and evictions will end, leaving millions of Americans in danger of losing everything right in the midst of this national health emergency.

The House passed the [HEROES Act \(H.R. 6800\)](#) to address these concerns and help out state and local governments over two months ago, but Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has shown no interest in picking up on that package.

Politico has a daily newsletter that contains legislative updates (you can [subscribe here](#)) called *Huddle*. This is how Friday's *Huddle* described the current situation on coronavirus relief:

The Senate left town for the weekend without the GOP releasing their proposal for a coronavirus recovery package — and Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said its introduction will slip to next week. The reason? Well, after a week of internal bickering, the White House and GOP have struggled to coalesce around a broad

relief package. And in a sign of how well things are going, lawmakers apparently spent more time [talking about alligator soup](#) than the coronavirus negotiations during yesterday's GOP lunch.

Keep in mind, this is just the GOP's opening offering — we haven't even gotten to the tougher negotiations with Democrats yet. So, if Republicans can't even agree on their own proposal, how are they supposed to quickly cut a deal with Democrats? The flailing almost guarantees that the enhanced unemployment benefits will expire next week. Or, as Marianne and Bres write, "[Senate Republicans and the White House wasted a week at the worst possible time.](#)"

From Bres and Marianne: "The main area of dispute was over extension of federal unemployment assistance for workers that have lost their jobs as the United States economy shut down in response to the coronavirus pandemic. ... Beyond the snafu over unemployment payments, there were other differences among Senate Republicans and the White House that took days to iron out. There will be no payroll tax cut sought by Trump in the new plan."

Another potential hang-up, per [WaPo](#): "Complicating matters, the White House renewed its push for language related to the location of the Federal Bureau of Investigation building in downtown Washington — which is cater-cornered from Trump International Hotel on Pennsylvania Ave NW — according to two people with knowledge of the talks who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss them. Trump has expressed interest in the location of the FBI's headquarters for some time."

If you find this state of affairs - looming evictions and foreclosures at a moment when Americans should be staying in their homes as much as possible - YOU ARE NOT ALONE. See this week's Call to Action at the end of the report for more about what you can do.

MoC Twitter Action

Courtesy of contributor Susan Vogel

Twitter Action - Coronavirus relief

● Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, [07/21/20](#):

"This week in the Senate:

Republicans will use the pandemic as an excuse to dole out favors to corporate interests while slashing the \$600 extra benefit for unemployed workers.

And @SenateDems will fight like hell for #COVID19 relief that goes to working families. #Priorities"

● PA-01's Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, @RepBrianFitz, [07/24/20](#):

"My bipartisan bill would extend the timeframe to use Coronavirus Relief Funds. This will allow our counties, which have all been impacted, more time to utilize funds allocated through the CARES Act and better serve our constituents in to next year." *tweeted with a link to a Ripon Advance piece titled "[Fitzpatrick proposes bill to extend timeframe for federal reimbursements to local governments](#)"*

Twitter Action - MoCs on Legislation

● Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, [07/23/20](#):

"Yesterday I led 36 of my colleagues in requesting that Ldr McConnell support the funding & flexibility for state and local governments included in the House-passed HEROES Act. Existing funding is not enough for jurisdictions grappling with these extraordinary #COVID shortfalls."

● **PA-01's Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, @RepBrianFitz, 07/21/20:**

"Today, I voted in favor of the #FY21NDAA. This bipartisan legislation will strengthen our national security, support our troops, and help our veterans. I was proud to join my colleagues in showing strong support for the brave men and women who choose to serve our country."



Tweet of the Week

● **Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, 07/25/20:**

"Emmett Till should have turned 79 today.

It's long past time for Congress to pass the anti-lynching legislation that bears his name. #BlackLivesMatter shouldn't be a partisan issue."

● **Senator Pat Toomey, @SenToomey, 07/22/20:**

"The Blue Jays in Pittsburgh would have meant more hours for some ballpark workers, increased tax revenue for the city, and a small yet meaningful boost for a number of local businesses struggling during the pandemic. I hope the Governor will change his mind before the Blue Jays find somewhere else to call home this summer."

● **PA-01's Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, @RepBrianFitz, 07/24/20:**

"This is great news and a big win for the residents of Falls Township. I have long opposed this project, and I am proud of our community for coming together to express our collective concerns about the facility's environmental impact." *tweeted with a link to a Levittown Now article titled ["Elcon Withdraws Controversial Waste Treatment Facility Proposal"](#)*

Casey in the News

Courtesy of contributor Linda Houk

"Complying with the [judge's] order by separating children from their families would merely be substituting one harm to the child for another... Moreover, forcing parents to choose between keeping their child detained or separating from them is unconscionable and inherently coercive."

—from an article on [WFMZ 69 News](#), titled "[Casey calls on ICE to release families from Berks center Agency has until Friday to comply with judge's order](#)"

"A democracy doesn't have secret police & a paramilitary force... What we saw in Portland is performative fascism meant to inflame tensions & rally the President's base ahead of an election. This should not be happening in America and we cannot allow it to continue."

—from an article in [Penn Live](#), titled "[Gov. Wolf says federal officers would be unwelcome in Pa. but Trump 'doesn't listen to me'](#)"

"The idea that you're going to take away those unemployment benefits makes no sense."

— from an article on [3 CBS Philly](#), titled "[Unemployed Philadelphians Are A 'Nervous Wreck' As Unemployment Money From Federal Stimulus Set To Expire](#)"

"Hispanic and Black individuals are three times as likely to become infected with the virus and ... twice as likely to die from the virus as whites."

"We have a chance right now in the next three weeks to begin to address these injustices.... We hope to put ourselves on the road to actually correcting these injustices and thereby to advance the cause of justice for communities of color all across America."

"We must do all of this and more to protect aging Americans of color... the actions we take in the short term are not a solution to issues that have plagued communities of color for decades."

— from an article in *WITF*, titled "[Senator Bob Casey pushes for more money to protect aging communities of color from coronavirus](#)"

"The right to vote is one of the fundamental pillars of American democracy, but that right is under threat due to barriers that prevent or make it hard for seniors and people with disabilities to cast their ballots.

"The Accessible Voting Act would remove the barriers and ensure the full process of voting — from registering to vote, to casting a ballot in person or by mail — is accessible for everyone."

— from an article in the *Daily Local News*, titled "[Scanlon votes to expand voting rights](#)" (*the article is about Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon, but the quote is from Senator Casey*)

"The bill has to work for state and local governments... All of them have to balance budgets, but they can't do that when a big hole has been blown in the side of their budget.

Providing additional funds to state and local governments will ensure that jurisdictions have the financial resources to fund first responders, and the life-saving work is done in our public hospitals and by public health departments in communities large and small.

[Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's framework] falls disastrously short. Everything that makes our state safe and strong will be compromised."

—from an article in the *Daily Item*, titled "[Union president: Next COVID-19 aid package should help workers on front lines](#)"

Fitzpatrick in the News

Research courtesy of contributor CC

"Washington elites have already begun trying to spread their socialism further and further into our communities and at this rate, our strong common-sense ideals could become a thing of the past."

— a quote from a Fitzpatrick campaign email, cited in a *Philadelphia Inquirer* article titled "[National groups come to the aid of Democrat challenging U.S. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick in Bucks County](#)"

"Those calling for the defunding of the police as a serious policy prescription for improving police-community relations simply do not understand nor have placed themselves into the position of the on-duty police officer. Our communities need the police, they should be fully funded, and their service deserves our respect. Calls to defund the police are irresponsible, misguided, and dangerous."

— from a *Yardley Patch* article titled "[Fitzpatrick Sponsors Bill Against Defunding Police](#)"

"I am thrilled the House has overwhelmingly passed the Great American Outdoors Act. This bipartisan, bicameral, and landmark legislation is the most important conservation package in years, and will do incredible things for our economy, our public lands, and our country. The LWCF is a vital program that protects public lands and contributes millions to our economy, and I am pleased to see that it is now permanently authorized and funded. This landmark package also provides funding to address the large maintenance backlog in our parks, which will allow visitors to

enjoy them for years to come. I'd like to thank Members of Congress, advocacy groups, and everyone else who fought hard to see this package head to the President's desk to become law."

— from a [Levittown Now](#) article titled "[Congressman, River Coalition Cheer Passage Of Great American Outdoors Act](#)"

"The NLRB [National Labor Relations Board] must guarantee that workers across the country can exercise their right to organize during the COVID-19 pandemic and that fair elections are held."

— from a [Competitive Enterprise Institute](#) article titled "[Electronic Union Elections: A Permanent 'Temporary' Solution?](#)"

"This bipartisan bill would extend the timeframe under which Coronavirus Relief Funds can be used. This extension will allow our counties, which have all been severely impacted, more time to utilize the funds allocated to them through CARES Act and better serve our constituents into early next year.

It is becoming more likely that COVID-19 and its repercussions are a reality that we will continue to face through the end of the year. This will lead to our counties and local governments incurring costs beyond the December deadline passed in the CARES Act."

— from a [Ripon Advance](#) blog post titled "[Fitzpatrick proposes bill to extend timeframe for federal reimbursements to local governments](#)"

"I'm a career FBI agent. I spent my entire adult life in law enforcement. And my goal was to build bipartisan coalition here in Washington, D.C., to make sure that we have a voice defending our police officers. They are under assault right now and they need our support. Do we need to make reforms? Of course we do. And our coalition believes that that should happen and we will do that in a responsible manner. We need some voices of reason and they need to start speaking up,"

— from a [FoxNews](#) article titled "[Republican and Democrat pushing legislation against defunding police: 'We need some voices of reason'](#)"

"This important legislation would preserve and protect our nation's public lands for generations, and I am happy to see the Problem Solvers endorse this bipartisan, landmark piece of legislation. From promoting recreational activity to contributing to our economy, along with furthering environmental protection, treasured public lands in my community such as Nockamixon State Park, Tyler State Park, and venues such as Hatfield Community Park are all just a few of the examples of the beneficiaries of this valuable fund. I am encouraged by the strong bipartisan support for permanent funding of the LWCF."

— from a [Ripon Advance](#) blog post titled "[Gardner, Fitzpatrick commend Problem Solvers Caucus support for conservation bill](#)"

Toomey in the News

Courtesy of contributor Elayne Baker

"Much of it has been distributed, much of it has not yet. There's over a billion dollars the governor has not yet allocated yet... Where does this need to go? Is it well targeted? Is there accountability for the existing spending?"

— from a 07/24/20 [Radio.com](#) article titled "[Toomey Questions Need for State and Local COVID Relief](#)"

"We've already spent \$3 trillion. For us to load the money cannon again and say, 'Let's spend literally trillions more,' that's a tough sell."

— from an 07/25/20 [Altoona Mirror](#) article titled "[Lawmakers brace for relief battle](#)"

"I think Michael Flynn should be pardoned. He has not been convicted of anything. The prosecutorial discretion that ought to be afforded to the Justice Department as it is in every other case — they recognize that he should not be prosecuted."

— from a [07/22/20 Washington Examiner](#) article titled "[GOP senator who opposed Roger Stone commutation says Trump should pardon Michael Flynn](#)"

"The unemployment benefit exceeds what people earn working and that's a very bad policy."

— from a [07/22/20 CBS Philly](#) article titled "[Unemployed Philadelphians Are A 'Nervous Wreck' As Unemployment Money From Federal Stimulus Set To Expire](#)"

"We have never said let's make sure that people are paid more not to work than they get paid working. We hear everyone talking about how they want to get everyone back to work but at the same time some people are advocating a system that we know discourages people from going back to work."

— from a [07/22/20 Hartford Courant](#) article titled "[The \\$600-a-week unemployment lifeline is about to run out as the coronavirus pandemic continues. Lawmakers are debating whether the program should be extended.](#)"

Senator Toomey also did an extended interview that appeared in the [07/23/20 Westfield FreePress Courier](#), under the title "[Sen. Toomey encourages mask use, wants Pa. back to normal with caution.](#)" Here are some excerpts from that piece.

On risk factors: "Kids have very, very little risk to coronavirus and young adults have very, very low risk."

On fatalities: "We already have a much lower fatality rate than we used to have; we have a much lower hospitalization rate than we used to have. That's going to continue to get better. And it's going to enable us to live with this virus, which is what we have to learn to do."

On school reopening: "I've got a 10-year-old son and he's ready to go into fourth grade. I hope he is able to go to school and go to fourth grade because ... it's better for him to be in school than not to be in school."

On masks: "I think people should be wearing masks when they're out in public and interacting with people in close proximity, and all the other protocols are important. But ... people are going to lose their livelihood, people are going to lose their life savings if we continue down this road. In a way, it's kind of similar to the way I think about speed limits. I have a car. I drive my car. And the speed limit infringes on my freedom to drive it faster. But that's a reasonable thing, because the person who gets hurt may not just be me if I drive my car too fast," Toomey said. "Similarly, with a mask, by people wearing a mask, we're protecting other people from the risk that they could unknowingly have the virus and could be spreading it to other people."

On the economy: "I think the shut down of the economy, forbidding people from going to work, that very subjective and arbitrary process of determining which businesses could stay open and which ones can't — that was all very problematic."

Committee Corner - the Helsinki Commission

Courtesy of contributor @jgcOCANADA

There was an important hearing at the bipartisan [U.S. Helsinki Commission](#) (@HelsinkiComm) on July 23, 2020, chaired by Congressman Steve Cohen, concerning press freedom in the United States. This hearing was particularly focused on the recent trend toward violence against journalists covering the Black Lives Matters protests, and how these events in the US impact free

speech and how recent treatment of journalists by the Trump administration is viewed by other governments and people around the world.

The Helsinki Commission monitors human rights and international cooperation in the 57 countries of the OSCE (Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe - [csce.gov](https://www.osce.org/)). To be named to this commission is an honor, both domestically and internationally, and has profound influence in world diplomacy. The list of nine House and nine Senate Commissioners can be found [here](#). One of those eighteen lawmakers comes from Pennsylvania - PA-01's Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick.

In this hearing, titled "[Human Rights at Home: Media, Politics, and Safety of Journalists](#)," witnesses Christiane Amanpour of CNN, David A. Kaye of UC Irvine Law, and Dr. Courtney Radsch of the Committee to Protect Journalists presented their informed opinions on recent attacks against journalists in the U.S.

Impressions from viewing the hearing: The hearing was lightly attended by the members of the US Helsinki Commission. There were many questions probed by guest chairperson Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN), with thoughtful answers from the expert panel, mainly concerning the current lack of engagement by the United States to protect worldwide human rights and a free press, previously a top diplomatic presence throughout all modern administrations until the Trump administration. The Obama administration did not escape criticism by the expert panel; the Obama administration's pressure to punish "leakers" was noted as having a chilling effect on free speech and the work of the journalist, a process accelerating under the Trump administration.

The last part of the hearing engaged US Helsinki Commission member Rep. Marc Veasey (D-TX) and hearing participant Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-FL) who asked questions surrounding the domestic Black Lives Matters protests, and the law enforcement response to the journalists professionally covering these events. Particular concern was given to the militarization of US police departments.

Panelists Dr. Courtney Radsch and David Kaye finished the hearing by giving their expert advice on how to address the escalating militarization of law enforcement and preserve First Amendment rights for all:

- More education and refresher courses given to "rank and file" police officers on journalists' rights and on the First Amendment, including specific training on how to manage protests--including what is violence against peaceful protesters.
- More accountability in police departments (there is a current lack of enforcement and consequences). There needs a "change in tone" from the most senior officials, following the Trump administration's messaging "Enemy of the People" which gives a feeling of "impunity" in police interactions with journalists.
- Commitment to thorough investigation and transparency by police departments in regard to complaints from the community
- Pare back the militarization of domestic law enforcement: uniforms, tactics. The expanding surveillance apparatus poses threats to all Americans' First Amendment rights. "This is not Afghanistan. This is not the Arab Spring."

In reference to #PA01, former FBI agent Rep Brian Fitzpatrick, a Republican-appointed member of the bipartisan U.S. Helsinki Commission, did not avail himself to ask questions directly to the expert panel on press freedom in the United States; this, in spite of Congressman Fitzpatrick's demand to the Department of Justice and to Attorney General William Barr that elements associated with antifa be declared a "domestic terrorist organization" in order to "protect journalists" and First Amendment rights. Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick did not appear for this panel,

Rep. Steve Cohen, who led the hearing, noted that the commissioners each have 48 hours to provide remarks that will be included with the hearing materials for the record. As this hearing took place on Sunday, two full business days have not elapsed before publication of this report. We at MoCTrack will be on the lookout to see if Rep. Fitzpatrick sends over remarks, which would appear at the [hearing page](#) on the U.S. Helsinki Commission website.

Civics Class - Appropriations and Authorizations

In light of this week's spending bill packages, it feels like a good time to revisit one of the first civics segments that ever appeared in MoCTrack from back in September 2017 on budget buzzwords.

The Constitution gives the power of the purse to the House of Representatives. In Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 it says, "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time." With that wording in our founding document, it is no surprise that one type of bill is an "Appropriation." The other type is an "Authorization."

Appropriations set spending limits for departments, agencies and programs. They are usually voted on for a single fiscal year.

Authorizations make rules about how appropriated funds can and cannot be spent. The Senate's glossary of terms says "A law that establishes or continues one or more Federal agencies or programs, establishes the terms and conditions under which they operate, authorizes the enactment of appropriations, and specifies how appropriated funds are to be used. Authorization acts sometimes provide permanent appropriations."

Call to Action - Tell Senator Toomey to Renew Pandemic Rescue Programs!

A number of programs created by the Families First and CARES Act to help Americans weather this unprecedented pandemic are set to expire in less than a week. Some of those programs include expanded nutrition assistance (SNAP), the \$600 unemployment boost, and eviction and foreclosure protections. These are programs that are helping millions of Pennsylvanians, and keeping over ten million Americans from falling into [poverty](#).

"It's not obvious to me that we need to load the money cannon and fire that off again," - [Pat Toomey](#) on June 18th

"For us to load the money cannon again and say, 'Let's spend literally trillions more,' that's a tough sell." - [Pat Toomey](#) on July 25th

Senator Toomey is one of the Republican senators who has been the most outspoken in his desire to NOT see another rescue bill. So, it is our job to make him FEEL otherwise.

Since we need to appeal to emotions, a script is not going to cut it. These messages need to come from the heart. But here are some tips you can use to making a successful emotional appeal:

1. Start off the message with what you want.
2. Tie your request to how you are feeling - anxious, scared, fearful, hopeless, etc.
3. Give a personal example of what you are experiencing that is causing your emotional state; OR
4. Include info about a person you love, and how this situation is affecting them.
5. Close by reiterating your request of the Senator.

Here is an example message, using these tips:

I have contacted the Senator to ask him to support efforts to help us all by supporting the extension of coronavirus rescue programs (1). I know that they end in less than a week, and I am scared of what will happen then (2). My husband's industry has been affected by this downturn, and I am terrified that without the boost of these programs, he will lose his job (3, 4). We can't just be left high and dry on July 31st. We need Senator Casey to help Pennsylvanians and support the

renewal of the SNAP and unemployment programs, as well as foreclosure and eviction protections. (5)

Emotional pleas work best when they are crafted out of personal experience, so please take a moment and craft your own message. We only have a short time to work on Senator Toomey, so please contact him each day this week via one of these methods:

Option ONE: CALL

TOLL FREE - (855) 552-1831
Erie - (814) 453-3010
Johnstown - (814) 266-5970
Pittsburgh - (412) 803-3501
Wilkes Barre - (570) 820-4088

Allentown - (610) 434-1444
Harrisburg - (717) 782-3951
Philadelphia - (215) 241-1090
Washington - (202) 224-4254

Option TWO: RESISTBOT

Text RESIST to 50409 or on Twitter, direct message "Resist" to @Resistbot
Then follow their directions. It takes about one to two minutes to complete a full letter

Option THREE: FAX

Send a free FAX straight to Toomey

https://faxzero.com/fax_senate/T000461

Option FOUR: TWEET

Use the Hashtags #HEROESAct, #COVID19, and #Coronavirus
Or search for those hashtags, and like/retweet content people have already composed to amplify their messaging.

Option FIVE: Senator Toomey's Website Contact Form

Use this site - <https://www.toomey.senate.gov/?p=contact> - to send an email to the Senator.

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

CC	Linda Houk
Elayne Baker	Kierstyn Piotrowski Zolfo
Gary Garb	Susan Vogel

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!