

The PerryScope (week ending 4/7/19)

Welcome to the weekly PerryScope! Our goal is to track how our PA-10 member of Congress votes and hold him accountable. We also include a recap of social media and other mentions in the past week as well as coverage of Senator Casey and Senator Toomey. If you'd like to read the full MoCTrack from the PA-01 Team, click [here](#).

TRACKING CONGRESS in the AGE of TRUMP

Nate Silver's [FiveThirtyEight](#) keeps a running tally of how often every member of the House and Senate votes with or against the president. The higher the number, the more the legislator votes to support the Trump agenda. With no votes this week, the score remains unchanged from last week.

Member of Congress	Career	116 th Congress	Change from last report (career)	Change from last report (116 th Congress)
Senator Bob Casey (D)	30.9%	20.0%	UNCHANGED	UNCHANGED
Senator Pat Toomey (R)	87.9%	80%	UNCHANGED	UNCHANGED
Rep. Scott Perry (R)	87%	95%	+0.3%	+0.6%

HOW PERRY VOTED in the HOUSE THIS WEEK

Link to Bill Details	Explainer	Topic	Perry Vote	Date	Vote Count	Result
H.R. 1585	Reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act, and introduces expansions (closing the boyfriend loophole of background checks, adds in transgendered people)	Civil Rights	NO	04-04-19	263-158	PASS
S.J. Res. 7	Stops the US military from any role in Yemen	Foreign Affairs	NO	04-04-19	247-175	PASS
H. Res. 271	Condemns the Trump administration for its legal efforts to dismantle the ACA	Health care	NO	04-03-19	240-186	PASS

PA-10 UPDATES & MEDIA COVERAGE

Tele-Town Hall Recap

In a predictably anodyne "town hall" broadcast, Perry addressed topics that pandered to his base. He also attempted to justify his vote against NATO as well as deflecting questions about the Mueller investigation. Listen to archived audio [here](#).

Republicans gloat at annual gathering

The Harrisburg area played host to [Pennsylvania Leadership Conference](#), an annual meeting of conservatives this past weekend. Rep. Perry spoke to the group, urging them to "shout [their pro-Trump beliefs] from the rooftops." His comments responded to remarks from the event's keynote speaker, political reporter Salena Zito, who noted that 24 percent of Trump supporters kept their support of Donald Trump quiet. See coverage from PennLive [here](#).

Senator Pat Toomey also addressed the group, boasting that that GOP could "run a victory lap" over Trump's seating of two Supreme Court justices and dozens of appellate court judges in the first half of his term. These sentiments were echoed by another speaker, anti-choice homophobe Tim Goeglein, who, according to a [Pennsylvania Capital-Star recap of the event](#), remarked that Trump is "on track to replace more than one-third of all federal judicial slots with conservative judges in his first term."

Two votes this week highlight Perry's disregard for women

On April 2, Rep. Perry [Tweeted in support of a Republican sham](#) of a discharge resolution on the "Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act." Despite knowing they lacked the signatures to bring the measure to the floor, Republicans went through the motions of calling members to the clerk's table to sign the roster in support of the resolution. See Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon's delightfully scathing Tweet of the bill's GOP supporters [here](#).

In his [weekly update posted on Facebook](#), Perry described his understanding of the hypothetical process of a late-term abortion: "they literally put 'em in a closet and let them lay there until they die ... or what have you." Clearly the words of someone who has no concept of the trauma of having to terminate a pregnancy in the third trimester – an [extremely rare](#) and typically medically necessary procedure. As Planned Parenthood of America president Dr. Leana Wen explained, "this legislation is based on lies and a misinformation campaign, aimed at shaming women and criminalizing doctors for a practice that doesn't exist in medicine or reality."

Analysts, however, see the move as part of a larger GOP strategy to push America toward an abortion ultimatum, bringing a challenge to *Roe v. Wade* to the Trump-stacked Supreme Court. So the political theatre of this discharge resolution is clearly intended to remind socially conservative GOP voters of the importance of their blind submission to the Trump brand.

For background on the bill, see [the Post's coverage of the Senate bill's failure](#). For a comprehensive explanation of how this move may have larger implications, see Sarah North's excellent Vox piece [here](#). According to Vox: "When the earlier version of the bill was proposed in 2017, the head of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists called it [a "gross legislative interference into the practice of medicine, putting politicians between women and their trusted doctors."](#)"

In a second markedly misogynist move, Rep. Perry was one of 157 Republicans voting against the [Violence Against Women Act reauthorization](#). Nevertheless, House Democrats (joined by 33 House Republicans, including PA MoC Brian Fitzpatrick [PA-01]) persisted and the reauthorization passed 263-158.

Perry continues to downplay impact of climate change

At a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on how climate change threatens national security held on April 2, Rep. Perry seemingly attempted to diminish deaths caused by climate change in an exchange with witness Paul Weisenfeld, an international development expert:

Just curious, talking about natural disasters with some component of climate change in the mix there, are you familiar with the numbers over the last decade of deaths per hundred thousand based on natural disasters? Is it going up generally or going down? [witness did not have numbers, promised follow-up]... I'm a little familiar, and because all of this stuff is familiar to us as policy makers, and trying to get the policies right; but it's gone down dramatically, dramatically, per hundred thousand over the last hundred years, hundred years. And just in case you're interested, or the audience is interested, most of the deaths occur from earthquake, as opposed to flood or drought or hurricane, or something like that. So when we talk about getting this policy right, all that stuff has to be considered, we don't want to just assume that natural disasters occurring as a component of climate change, and causing more deaths than they have in the past, because that in fact is not the case.

The full hearing is available on [YouTube](#); Perry's remarks start around 1:03:50

WEEK IN TWITTER RECAP

This week we have sections on [protecting the ACA](#), a purely symbolic discharge petition on some [anti-choice legislation](#), [Equal Pay Day](#), the continually evolving situation surrounding [AG Barr's letter and the Mueller Report](#), and the [GOP Tax bill](#). We also have our regular features on what [legislation](#) our MoCs are promoting and ["assorted awesomeness."](#)

TOOMEY & CASEY UPDATES

[Senator Casey](#) talked about the pain caused by the GOP tax bill and what he is doing about it, as well as health care,

antisemitism and Alzheimer's research. [Senator Toomey](#) trashed the Green New Deal, discussed illegal fentanyl imports and had some nuanced thoughts about common sense gun reform.

OTHER SECTIONS

[Committee Corner](#) took on two fascinating hearings. Two of our new PA lawmakers had things to say at the [House Judiciary Committee hearing](#) about the Equality Act. And a trio of MoCs expressed themselves in a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing titled "[How Climate Change Threatens U.S. National Security](#)." Our guest contributor on all things environmental, Andrea Wittchen, provided a detailed explainer on the [carbon tax bill](#) in our Legislation of Interest section. And for our [Call to Action](#) this week, we bring up two CTAs from earlier the first quarter of 2019 that passed the House, but could use a few calls to Senator Toomey to encourage some Senate action.

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