



# PAACC FEDERAL UPDATE

FEBRUARY 19, 2019

## Major Washington News

### Committee Assignments Announced

Over the past months, Members of Congress were assigned to standing committees for the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. Following are the committee assignments for Southwestern Pennsylvania Members:

#### Senator Robert Casey (D)

- Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
  - Subcommittee on Conservation, Forestry, and Natural Resources
  - Subcommittee on Livestock, Marketing, and Agriculture Security
  - Subcommittee on Nutrition, Agricultural Research, and Specialty Crops (Ranking)
- Committee on Finance
  - Subcommittee on Health Care
  - Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness (Ranking)
  - Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy
- Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
  - Subcommittee on Children and Families (Ranking)
  - Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety
- Special Committee on Aging (Ranking)

#### Senator Patrick Toomey (R)

- Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
  - Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection
  - Subcommittee on National Security and International Trade and Finance
  - Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment (Chairman)
- Committee on Finance
  - Subcommittee on Health Care (Chairman)
  - Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness
  - Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight
- Committee on the Budget

Congressman Mike Doyle (D)

- Energy and Commerce
  - Subcommittee on Communications and Technology (Chair)
  - Subcommittee on Energy

Congressman Mike Kelly (R)

- Ways and Means
  - Subcommittee on Oversight (Ranking)
  - Subcommittee on Health

Congressman Conor Lamb (D)

- Science, Space, and Technology
  - Subcommittee on Energy
  - Subcommittee on Environment
- Veterans' Affairs
  - Subcommittee on Technology Modernization
  - Subcommittee on Health

Congressman Guy Reschenthaler (R)

- Foreign Affairs
  - Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism
  - Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
- Judiciary
  - Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties
  - Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet
  - Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security

## Appropriations/Government Shutdown Update

Negotiations over funding bills have dominated Capitol Hill over the past month. After Congress failed to pass the remaining bills (Agriculture; Commerce, Justice, Science; Financial Services & General Government; Homeland Security; Interior, Environment; State, Foreign Operations; and Transportation, HUD) or another Continuing Resolution (CR) by December 21, the federal government shut down for 35 days. The shutdown affected about 25% of the government since the largest spending bills were passed earlier this fall.

On January 25, 2019, Congressional leaders and President Trump reached a deal to re-open the government through February 15, 2019. The deal included a CR to fund the remaining agencies, as well as a vehicle to enter Conference negotiations on the Homeland Security funding bill, which includes border security.

As February 15 approached, President Trump warned that another shutdown was possible if Congress could not reach an agreement. However, the Senate-House Conference Committee reached a deal that included approximately \$1.4 billion for physical border security, far less than the \$5.7 billion President Trump requested. Subsequently, on February 14, the Senate passed the \$333 billion fiscal 2019 package by an 83-16 vote. It contains seven of the 12 annual appropriations bills that were not signed into law before the Oct. 1 start of the fiscal year. The House then

passed the package that evening and sent it to President Trump. The final vote in the House was 300-128.

President Trump signed the package on February 15, but declared a federal emergency to fund the border wall. The national emergency will redirect \$6.6 billion from the Defense and Treasury departments to fund the construction of a Southern Border wall. Congress has the ability to stop the President's national emergency declaration with a veto-proof resolution passed in both Chambers.

### Supreme Court to hear arguments on 2020 Census Ruling

On Tuesday, January 15, a federal judge in Manhattan ruled that the Trump administration's decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census was unlawful. In his ruling, Judge Jesse Furman, of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, said Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross's decision to add the question to the census was "arbitrary and capricious." On February 15, the Supreme Court announced that it will hear oral arguments in the in April. This is an expedited timeframe since the census questionnaires must be finalized by the end of June.

### Democrats Announce Green New Deal

On Thursday, February 7, Democrats introduced a resolution that outlines future legislation for the Green New Deal. The resolution, which was sponsored by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in the House and Edward Markey in the Senate, call for a major overhaul of the U.S. economy. The plan "calls for a move to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions "through a fair and just transition" for all communities and workers; to invest in sustainable infrastructure and industry; to ensure everyone has access to clean air and water and healthy food; to ensure communities are resilient to the impacts of climate change; and to guarantee jobs with family-sustaining wages," according to Roll Call<sup>1</sup>. The plan could cost up to \$13.4 trillion. Moderate democrats are skeptical of the plan while Republicans have labeled it as extreme.

### William Barr confirmed as new Attorney General

On Thursday, Feb. 14, the Senate confirmed William Barr as Attorney General by a vote of 54-45. Barr, 68, previously held the same job for two years in the George Bush administration from 1991 to 1993. Barr replaces acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker who filled the position after Jeff Sessions's resignation in November.

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<sup>1</sup> Democrats Unveil Green New Deal that would push government to make radical changes, Elvina Nawaguna, Roll Call, Feb. 7, 2019.

## Business & Industry

### Fairness For Breastfeeding Mothers Act of 2019

On Jan. 30, Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton introduced H.R. 866, Fairness for Breastfeeding Mothers Act of 2019. This bill requires that certain public buildings that are open to the public and contain a public restroom provide a lactation room, other than a bathroom, that is hygienic and is available for use by members of the public to express milk. The lactation room must be shielded from public view, be free from intrusion, and contain a chair, a working surface, and (if the building is supplied with electricity) an electrical outlet.

A public building may be excluded from such requirement at the discretion of the official responsible for its operation if

- it does not contain a lactation room for employees and does not have a space that could be repurposed as one or that could be made private by using portable materials, at a reasonable cost; or
- the cost of new construction required to create a lactation room is not feasible.

The bill was passed by the House on February 6. It was received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Congressional Schedule  
February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Senate in Session	2
3	4 Senate in Session	5 House & Senate in Session	6 House & Senate in Session	7 House & Senate in Session	8 House & Senate in Session	9
10	11 House & Senate in Session	12 House & Senate in Session	13 House & Senate in Session	14 House & Senate in Session	15 Senate in Session	16
17	18 Presidents Day	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 House & Senate in Session	26 House & Senate in Session	27 House & Senate in Session	28 House & Senate in Session		

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Senate in Session	2
3	4 Senate in Session	5 House & Senate in Session	6 House & Senate in Session	7 House & Senate in Session	8 House & Senate in Session	9
10	11 House & Senate in Session	12 House & Senate in Session	13 House & Senate in Session	14 House & Senate in Session	15 Senate in Session	16

17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 House & Senate in Session	26 House & Senate in Session	27 House & Senate in Session	28 House & Senate in Session	29 Senate in Session	30