

Casey Bills Enacted into Public Law in his Second Senate Term (2012-2015)

Casey Lead

- 1. The Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (Casey Lead).** The Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (Campus SaVE Act) was signed into law as Section 304 of Public Law 113-4, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) on March 7, 2013. Regulations to fully implement the law took effect on July 1, 2015. The Campus SaVE Act requires uniform reporting standards for sexual assaults on college campuses and requires schools to provide clear guidelines to students on their sexual assault policies. The new law also emphasizes steps schools can take to educate students and help prevent sexual assault.
- 2. The Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act – S 242.** Senator Casey was the lead Senate Democrat (with Richard Burr of North Carolina as the lead Republican) in the effort to reauthorize the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA). As a result of the passage of PAHPA in 2006, the federal government, in partnership with state and local governments, took significant steps to strengthen our nation's medical and public health preparedness and response capabilities. The bipartisan reauthorization in 2013 built on these efforts by enhancing existing programs and authorities using lessons learned since 2006 to maximize our nation's resilience to threats to public health, whether naturally occurring or deliberate. The Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act was signed into law as Public Law 113-5 on March 13, 2013.
- 3. Growing Opportunities for Agriculture and Responding to Markets Act – S 678.** The Growing Opportunities for Agriculture and Responding to Markets Act was enacted as section 5106 as part of 2014 Farm Bill (Public Law 113-79), which was signed into law on February 7, 2014. This act addresses needs of a growing sector of American agriculture by establishing at USDA a pilot program for competitive third-party lending to support local agricultural production. Lenders provide microloans to qualified farmers – along with technical support, business education and financial management expertise.
- 4. Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act – S 1557.** Casey led the reauthorization of the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education bill that became law on April 7, 2014. This program provides funding to over fifty free standing children's hospitals to train residents. There are three hospitals in Pennsylvania – the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC and St. Christopher Hospital for Children. These three hospitals together received over \$35 million in funding of almost \$250 million. CHOP has one of the largest, if not the largest,

program in the country. The Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Bill was enacted into law as Public Law 113-98 on April 7, 2014.

5. **The Emergency Medical Services for Children Reauthorization Act (Casey Lead)** The Emergency Medical Services for Children Reauthorization Act of 2014, Public Law, 113-180, was signed into law on September 26, 2014. This bill reauthorized an important program that helps improve emergency medical care for children and teens. Some of the program's accomplishments since its creation include the creation of guidelines for the care of children in hospital emergency departments, which were endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Emergency Physicians, and the Emergency Nurses Association.
6. **Starting Early Starting Right Act – S 1155.** This legislation was incorporated into the larger Child Care Development Block Grant reauthorization. It helps families maintain access to child care, creates a strong baseline of health and safety standards for child care providers and facilities, promotes quality and accountability among providers, and requires states to work with their early learning advisory councils when developing their state plans for child care. Major portions of this bill were incorporated into Sections 5 and 6 of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 which became law on November 19, 2014.
7. **The Gettysburg National Military Park Expansion Act – S 782.** The Gettysburg National Military Park Expansion Act expands the boundary of Gettysburg National Military Park to include 45 acres of land at the southern end of the battlefield where cavalry skirmishes occurred during the Battle of Gettysburg in July of 1863. Adds the Lincoln Train Station, located in downtown Gettysburg, which was built in 1858 and is currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Gettysburg National Military Park Expansion Act was passed as part of a 2014 Public Lands omnibus package in that was included in the FY15 National Defense Authorization Act, HR 3979, PL 113-291, which was signed into law on December 29, 2014.
8. **A Bill to Reauthorize the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area, the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, and the Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Area – S 1157.** The National Heritage Areas reauthorization bill was passed as part of a 2014 Public Lands omnibus package in that was included in the FY15 National Defense Authorization Act, HR 3979, PL 113-291, which was signed into law on December 19, 2014.
9. **The Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act – S 313.** Since 2009, Senator Casey championed the ABLE Act, which creates tax-free savings accounts for individuals with disabilities. On December 16, 2014, the Senate passed the ABLE Act (76-16) into law, following action by the House of Representatives (404-17) earlier in the month. With its passage, millions of Americans will be able to save for their futures, creating peace of mind for individuals and families across the Nation. Major portions of

the ABLE Act were incorporated into Title I of Division B of H.R.5771, the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014, which became Public Law 113-295 on December 19, 2014.

- 10. River Act - S. 407.** Major aspects of Senator Casey's bill were included in sections 2002 and 2006 of WRRDA, which became PL 113-121; on June 10, 2014. An additional provision to increase the inland waterways user fee from 20 cents to 29 cents per gallon was included Title I of Division B of H.R.5771, the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014, which became Public Law 113-295 on December 19, 2014. Combined these projects have helped allocate \$134 million additional funding to the Lower Mon project over the past three years.
- 11. Clean Vehicle Corridors Act - S 1581.** The principles and goals of the Clean Vehicle Corridors Act were included in section 1413 of HR 22, the DRIVE Act. Under this section, the Secretary of Transportation would designate transportation corridors to encourage fueling infrastructure for natural gas, electric, hydrogen and propane vehicles. HR 22, the DRIVE Act, the surface transportation reauthorization bill, which was signed into Public Law 114-94 on December 4, 2015.
- 12. Empowering Parents and Students Through Information Act – S 528.** This legislation helps ensure that America's six million K-12 students with disabilities and their families have access to necessary information to make informed decisions on their child's education and future opportunities for pursuing college and career goals. This is accomplished by clarifying clear guidelines for the use of alternate academic assessments, providing greater access to the standard academic curriculum for all students, and requiring additional data transparency on the use of assessments. Major portions of this bill were incorporated into Title IA of the Every Student Succeeds Act, S. 1177, which became Public Law 114-95 on December 10, 2015.
- 13. Continuum of Learning Act – S 643.** This legislation updates ESEA to strengthen connections between existing early learning programs and elementary grades. This bill helps educators from Head Start, child care, other early childhood education programs, and elementary schools work together so young children have successful continuity of learning and development that sets a strong foundation throughout the K-12 school years and beyond. Major portions of this bill were incorporated into Sections 4624 and 9212 of the Every Student Succeeds Act, S. 1177, which became Public Law 114-95 on December 10, 2015.
- 14. Computer Science Education and Jobs Act – S 671.** Adds computer science as a core academic subject within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and adds supports for teachers who specialize in this subject area. These key provisions, included in the ESSA ESEA reauthorization as part of a definition of "well rounded education," will provide support and clarity to states and school districts to expand this discipline, ultimately helping to keep the nation competitive in the global high-tech market. Major portions of this bill were incorporated into Title IIA, Section 4107, and Title VIII of the

Every Student Succeeds Act, S. 1177, which became Public Law 114-95 on December 10, 2015.

- 15. Keep Kids in School Act – S 672.** This legislation requires states and school districts to report on the use of exclusionary discipline and create plans to reduce its use. The bill also provides funding to implement activities that have been proven to create a more positive school climate. Major portions of this bill were incorporated into Sections 1005 and 4304 of the Every Student Succeeds Act, S. 1177, which became Public Law 114-95 on December 10, 2015.
- 16. Better Educator Support and Training (BEST) Act – S 882.** This bill reforms the educator professional development pieces within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. With the passage of the Every Student Achieves Act (ESSA) ESEA reauthorization, states and districts are now required to implement evidence-based activities that help keep teachers in the classroom, strengthen the teaching profession, and ensure principals have the skills they need to be effective by setting aside specific resources for their professional development. Major portions of this bill were incorporated into Title IIA of the Every Student Succeeds Act, S. 1177, which became Public Law 114-95 on December 10, 2015.
- 17. Depreciation Fairness Act – S 394.** The bill makes permanent the 15-year depreciation period for qualified leasehold improvement property, qualified restaurant property, and qualified retail improvement property. It ensures the depreciation schedule permanently reflects the economic useful life of these types of investments. This change will provide businesses with the certainty they need to undertake capital expenditures, which will fuel economic activity and create jobs. Major portions of this bill were incorporated into Section 123 of the PATH Act, which was enacted into law as division Q of H.R. 2029, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, which became Public Law 114-113 on December 18, 2015.

Casey Lead Democrat

- 1. The Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act (with Senator Hatch) – S 2539.** Senator Casey was the lead Senate Democrat in the effort to reauthorize the Prevention of Traumatic Brain Injury program and the National Program for Traumatic Brain Injury Surveillance and Registries. The prevention program funds educational programs and materials for health departments, community-based organizations, parents, teachers and coaches; and research into effective prevention strategies. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also conducts surveillance work to identify TBI rates of death and rates of hospitalization, and is working to develop pediatric mild TBI guidelines. S. 2539 also required HHS to develop a Traumatic Brain Injury Coordination Plan, for federal activities with respect to TBI, which shall review existing interagency

coordination and identify areas for improvement. Finally, the law requires CDC to conduct a review of the scientific evidence relating to brain injury management in children, identifying ongoing and potential further opportunities for research, and provide to Congress the results of this review within two years. The Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act was signed into law as Public Law 113-196 on November 26, 2014.

2. **The Protecting Our Infants Act (w/ Senator McConnell) – S 799.** The Protecting Our Infants Act, which was signed into Public Law 114-91 on November 25, 2015. This bill addresses the rise of prenatal opioid abuse and infants suffering from opioid withdrawal. The bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct a departmental review to identify gaps in research and any duplication, overlap or gaps in prevention and treatment programs related to prenatal opioid abuse and infants born with opioid withdrawal. It also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to work with stakeholders to develop recommendations both for preventing prenatal opioid abuse, and for treating infants born dependent on opioids. Finally, this measure encourages the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to work with states and help improve their public health response to this epidemic.

Small Business Fairness Act (w/ Senator Enzi) – S 958. This bill was included in section 867 of S. 1356, the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which was signed into Public Law 114-92 on November 25, 2015. This bill allows federal agencies to enter into contracts with small businesses that are service disabled veteran owned, economically disadvantaged, women-owned or a qualified HUBZone small business, even if they are part of a teaming agreement. Current law does not allow these designated small businesses to be part of a teaming agreement and also claim a socioeconomic designation.

3. **Support for Bridges Act/FAST Act (w/ Senator Blunt) – S 1370.** The goals of the Support for Bridges Act were included in the FAST Act. The Fast Act continues to provide \$73,796,694 annually for off-system bridges in Pennsylvania which adds up to \$369 million over 5 years. The bill makes an additional \$4.9 billion (FY 16-20 total) available for highway bridges nationwide that lost predictable funding under MAP-21. Incorporated into Section 1106 of the FAST Act, H.R. 22, which became Public Law 114-94 on December 4, 2015.
4. **529 Enhancement Act (w/ Senator Grassley) – S 335.** The provision expands the definition of qualified higher education expenses for which 529 accounts are eligible to include computer equipment and technology, modifies 529 account rules to treat any distribution from a 529 account as coming only from that account. It also treats a refund of tuition paid with amounts distributed from a 529 account as a qualified expense if such amounts are re-contributed to a 529 account within 60 days. This legislation was

incorporated into Section 302 of the PATH Act, which was enacted into law as division Q of H.R. 2029, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, which became Public Law 114-113 on December 18, 2015.

5. **Small Business Tax Certainty and Growth Act of 2015 (w/ Senator Collins) - S.1141.**

Legislation includes 15-year recovery period for qualified leasehold improvement property, qualified restaurant property, and qualified retail improvement property (Depreciation Fairness Act –S.394). Provisions extending bonus depreciation, and a provision making permanent section 179 expensing (\$500,000 expensing with \$2,000,000 phase out) indexed for inflation. Major portions of this bill were incorporated into Sections 123, 124, and 143 of the PATH Act, which was enacted into law as division Q of H.R. 2029, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, which became Public Law 114-113 on December 18, 2015.

6. **Patient Protection and Medicare Protection Act (w/ Senator Portman) – S 2425.** This bill does three key things. It implements a one year delay of the CMS proposal to apply competitive bid pricing to complex rehab accessories. It freezes the current payment rates for certain radiation therapy services for 2017 and 2018. This provision would ensure that cancer patients have the option to receive care in their preferred setting. It gives CMS the ability to process physician and hospital applications for a hardship exemption from complying electronic health record meaningful use requirements more efficiently. An increase in the submission of hardship applications from requirements in effect for 2015 is expected for reasons beyond provider’s control. This bill was passed in the Senate and the House on December 18, 2015 and became P.L. 114-115 on December 28, 2015