

U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY



FIGHTING *for a* **FAIR SHOT** *for* **FAMILIES, KIDS** *and* **SENIORS**

Promoting Economic Security for Middle Class Pennsylvanians

Senator Casey is a strong supporter of legislative initiatives to promote economic security for individuals and families. As a member of the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and the Joint Economic Committee, all of which have broad jurisdiction over programs and issues that impact Americans' financial security, Senator Casey has worked to implement policies and legislation to support job creation, income growth, small businesses, families and children.

- Senator Casey cosponsored the **Working Families Tax Relief Act**, which would help low-income individuals and families with children. Parts of this bill were passed in the **Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act** in December 2015, including permanent improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit.
- Senator Casey introduced the **Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit Enhancement Act**, which helps make child care more affordable by expanding and improving access to the tax credit for low- and middle-income families.
- Senator Casey introduced the **Foster EITC Act**, which would extend the EITC to foster youth at age 18. The bill provides assistance to youth exiting foster care, who often lack familial support in their transition to adulthood.
- Senator Casey supported a provision in the **PATH Act** to make college more affordable for low-to-middle income families by permanently extending and enhancing the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which provides up to a \$2,500 tax credit to offset the cost of college.
- Senator Casey cosponsored and voted for provisions to permanently extend the deduction for expenses of elementary and secondary school teachers, and to improve the **Mortgage Tax Relief Act**, which allows for the exclusion of mortgage debt forgiveness from income tax, through 2016.
- Senator Casey supports expanding options for employee ownership and profit sharing. He is a cosponsor of legislation to expand access to **Employee Stock Ownership Plans** or ESOPs. These types of businesses help promote retirement security by giving all employees equity in the business. This promotes stability in the labor force and also, in turn, leads to greater wage and schedule stability.
- Senator Casey championed a foreclosure mitigation provision in the Dodd-Frank Act that provided \$1 billion in funding for the **Emergency Homeowners Loan Program**, which provided interest free loans to unemployed and underemployed homeowners who were at least three months delinquent on their mortgage. More than \$100 million of this funding went to Pennsylvania, helping more than 3,000 homeowners.
- Senator Casey supported the creation of the **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)**, an independent agency that serves as a one-stop-shop for consumers to report abusive financial practices such as scams and predatory lending, promotes financial education, monitors financial markets for risks to consumers and unfair practices.

- Senator Casey cosponsored the **SAVE Benefits Act**, which would give seniors a one-time payment of about \$580 to make up for the lack of a Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in 2016.

Resources for Pennsylvanians:

- If you have a complaint about a financial product or service, such as a mortgage, loan or credit card, you can file a complaint with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau:
<http://www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint/>.
- If you have received a suspicious phone call allegedly from the IRS that you believe may be a scam, record the employee's name, badge number, call back number and caller ID if available. Call 1-800-366-4484 to determine if the caller is an IRS employee with a legitimate need to contact you.
- Please do not hesitate to call Senator Casey's Harrisburg office at (717) 231-7540 or visit <http://casey.senate.gov/constituents/casework/>.