

# U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY



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

## Senator Casey Top Five Legislative Accomplishments – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term

- 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. The Campus SaVE Act was the most significant update to campus safety laws with respect to intimate partner violence in two decades. Regulations to fully implement the law took effect on July 1, 2015. The Campus SaVE Act requires uniform reporting standards for incidents of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking on college campuses, and requires schools to provide clear guidelines to students on their policies related to these crimes, including information about the resources available on and off campus to help victims. The new law also emphasizes steps schools can take to educate students and help prevent sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.
- 2. The Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act – S 313.** Since 2009, Senator Casey championed the ABLE Act, which allows individuals with disabilities to create tax-free savings accounts without losing Medicaid eligibility or risk their SSI benefits. 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 and signature by the President into law, millions of Americans gained the ability to save for their futures, creating peace of mind, long-term savings and financial security 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.
- 3. 2015 Education Reform Efforts –** In 2015, Congress reauthorized and reformed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) when it enacted into law the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) on December 10, 2015. As a senior member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senator Casey played a key role in the formulation of ESSA, and was successful in securing passage of several of his bills. Included in ESSA were Casey bills to 1) help students with disabilities and their families make informed decisions about their education and future career opportunities by increasing their access to information and assessment guidelines (S. 528), 2) to promote continuity and coordination between pre-K and elementary school (S. 643), 3) to promote STEM education by adding computer science as a core academic subject (S. 671), 4) to keep kids in school by reducing the use of exclusionary discipline like suspensions and expulsions (S. 672), and 5), to improve teacher professional development by requiring the use of evidence-based staff driven professional development strategies (S. 882). Senator Casey also led the fight during the reauthorization against efforts to change ESEA formula funding in a way that would have devastated Pennsylvania schools. Ultimately, Senator Casey prevailed in his quest

to defeat proposals that would have reduced funding to PA by \$126 million annually. Senator Casey was also successful in restoring the Ready to Learn (RTL) program, which was left out of the original reauthorization. RTL is a grant program that supports public broadcasting stations across the nation in developing high quality digital content for toddlers that improves early learning and parental engagement. Finally, Senator Casey also fought for and secured a vote on his proposal to expand pre-k to an additional 3 million children a year. Every Democrat in the Senate supported this proposal.

- 4. 2015 Business Tax and Growth Incentives** – As a member of the Senate tax-writing committee, the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Casey has played a leading role in promoting tax policies to grow the Pennsylvania economy and create jobs. Casey secured passage of several of his pro-growth and job creation bills by including them in the 2015 Path Act. Most notably, Senator Casey secured passage of the Depreciation Fairness Act, S. 394, a bill to make permanent the 15-year depreciation period for qualified leasehold improvement property, qualified restaurant property, and qualified retail improvement property. This legislation ensures the depreciation schedule permanently reflects the economic useful life of these types of investments; making it more economical for restaurant owners and small retailers owners to make necessary improvements. With Senator Collins of Maine, Senator Casey also secured passage of the Small Business Tax Certainty and Growth Act, S. 1141, legislation to extend bonus depreciation and to make permanent section 179 expensing, which allows small businesses to deduct the full price of qualifying equipment, up to \$500,000. Without The changes in law Senator Casey secured, the expensing allowance would have dropped to \$25,000 in 2015 and thereafter, meaning that instead of businesses being able to immediately write-off half a million dollars in asset purchases, they would have only been able to write off \$25,000. Making both of these measures permanent will give our small businesses the certainty they need to make long-term investments, grow, and create jobs. Both of these pieces of legislation were included in HR 2029, which became public law 114-113 on December 18, 2015.
  
- 5. Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act – S. 1887.** The terrorist group ISIS [profits](#) from illegal trafficking in antiquities and destroys what it cannot sell. The U.S. Special Forces Raid on the Abu Sayyaf compound indicates that ISIS charges a 20% tax on looting of cultural property and that transactions amounted to \$1.25 million over just a few months. This legislation restricts the import to the United States of antiquities and cultural property smuggled out of Syria since the beginning of the conflict in 2012. This law will help cut off a critical source of ISIS financing and send an important signal to our partners that the United States will not be a market for this trade. This bill was enacted into law as H.R. 1493, which became Public Law 114-151 on May 9, 2016.