

Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) — Congressional Activity Brief

TOP STORY

LABOR / TAX POLICY / WORKFORCE **NEW**

Coons Introduces S. 5010 to Expand Self-Employment Assistance Programs — New Bill Filed Yesterday as Senate Heads Into Recess Window

Sen. Coons introduced S. 5010 on July 16, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to modify rules governing state administration of self-employment assistance programs. The bill was read twice and referred to the Senate Finance Committee. Self-employment assistance (SEA) programs allow states to pay unemployment benefits to individuals starting their own businesses rather than requiring traditional job searches. The bill's specific modifications to the IRC have not yet been published in full text, but the referral to Finance rather than HELP suggests tax-code-level changes to employer/employee tax treatment or state reimbursement formulas.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports entrepreneurship and small business growth — per his economy platform, he advocates alleviating regulatory burdens on small businesses and start-ups to promote job creation. Staff should review the full text of S. 5010 to assess whether it genuinely reduces barriers for entrepreneurs or simply expands government benefit programs under a different name. Dr. Katz's platform calls for incentivizing private sector investment and reducing the corporate tax burden (per his Delaware State Senate bill SB 100 repealing Delaware's corporate income tax), a fundamentally different approach than modifying government assistance program administration.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons' approach to entrepreneurship is to modify government assistance programs — Dr. Katz's approach is to cut taxes and reduce regulations so entrepreneurs can succeed on their own terms
- Dr. Katz authored SB 100 in the Delaware State Senate to repeal Delaware's corporate income tax to attract businesses and create jobs — that's pro-growth policy, not program management
- Delaware's small business owners need less red tape and lower taxes, not another federal program tweak — Dr. Katz's platform prioritizes alleviating regulatory burdens on small businesses
- Staff should obtain full text of S. 5010 immediately to assess whether this bill creates new costs or expands federal oversight of state programs

DEFENSE & PENTAGON

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS / FY2027 BUDGET / DOGE

FY2027 Defense Appropriations — Mid-July Markup Period Active; Coons Expected to Push DOGE Oversight and AI Guardrail Amendments as Ranking Member

The Senate Appropriations Committee's Defense Subcommittee remains in its active July markup window for the FY2027 defense spending bill. As Ranking Member, Coons is expected to push amendments constraining DOGE-driven Pentagon efficiency initiatives and imposing additional oversight requirements on military AI deployment. No public markup date has been confirmed for this week, but the mid-July period is the traditional markup window. Staff should monitor for subcommittee markup announcements and any Coons amendment submissions or statements.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports strong defense spending and fiscal responsibility — per his platform, he advocates for a robust military force as essential to preserving global peace and international stability (veterans/defense platform). While Coons uses his Ranking Member seat to constrain Pentagon modernization through bureaucratic oversight layers, Dr. Katz believes the focus should be on ensuring our military has the resources and flexibility it needs to maintain American strength.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons' focus as Defense Appropriations Ranking Member is adding oversight layers and constraining Pentagon modernization — Dr. Katz believes our military needs resources and flexibility, not more red tape
- Dr. Katz supports strong defense as essential to preserving global peace and protecting American sovereignty — per his veterans and defense platform
- DOGE-driven efficiencies at the Pentagon should be welcomed, not blocked — taxpayers deserve accountability in defense spending
- Staff should track Coons' specific amendment submissions to the FY2027 defense bill for concrete contrast opportunities

SOURCES: Appropriations.senate.gov · Congress.gov

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DEFENSE / AI / TECHNOLOGY

S. 4707 — Responsible AI Defense Act of 2026 Remains in Armed Services Committee; Day 39

S. 4707, the Responsible Artificial Intelligence Defense Act of 2026, introduced by Coons on June 8, remains in the Senate Armed Services Committee with no hearing scheduled, no reported cosponsors, and no committee action after 39 days. The bill would impose oversight requirements on Pentagon AI deployment. Its continued stasis in committee suggests limited appetite among Armed Services leadership for additional AI regulatory constraints during the current defense authorization cycle.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports strong defense and Commander-in-Chief authority. Imposing additional bureaucratic constraints on military AI deployment risks putting American forces at a technological disadvantage against adversaries like China. Dr. Katz believes in responsible innovation but opposes regulatory frameworks that prioritize process over warfighter advantage — consistent with his platform emphasis on a robust military force essential to national security.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- 39 days in committee with zero cosponsors — even Coons' own caucus isn't signing on to constrain Pentagon AI capabilities
- China is racing ahead on military AI — this is no time to add bureaucratic layers to American defense innovation
- Dr. Katz supports Commander-in-Chief authority and military readiness, not congressional micromanagement of Pentagon technology
- Responsible AI deployment is important, but it should be led by military professionals, not Senate oversight mandates

SOURCES: Congress.gov — S. 4707

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MILITARY CONSTRUCTION / DELAWARE

Dover AFB FY2027 Military Construction — Staff Should Monitor for Delaware-Specific Line Items in July Markups

Dover Air Force Base remains a critical Delaware equities item as FY2027 defense and military construction markups proceed through July. The base hosts the 436th and 512th Airlift Wings and the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs, the nation's only port mortuary. No new Delaware-specific military construction line items have been publicly announced this week. Staff should monitor both the defense and MilCon-VA appropriations subcommittee markups for Dover AFB funding.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz can acknowledge bipartisan support for Dover AFB as critical national defense infrastructure while pivoting to his broader defense platform. Per his

veterans platform, Dr. Katz supports sustaining a robust military force and honoring the service of military members — Dover AFB's mortuary mission is a direct expression of that commitment. This is an area for bipartisan alignment, not attack.

- **TALKING POINTS**

- Dover AFB is national defense infrastructure that deserves full bipartisan support — Dr. Katz is committed to ensuring it receives the funding and modernization it needs
- The Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs represents America's sacred obligation to our fallen — Dr. Katz's veterans platform prioritizes honoring military service and sacrifice
- Staff should verify whether Coons has secured any specific Dover AFB line items in FY2027 markups and be prepared to acknowledge bipartisan wins for Delaware
- Dr. Katz's commitment to strong defense starts with properly funding the bases and installations that serve as the backbone of American military power

SOURCES: [Appropriations.senate.gov](https://appropriations.senate.gov) · [Dover Air Force Base](#)

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RECENT LEGISLATION

LABOR / TAX POLICY **NEW**

S. 5010 — Self-Employment Assistance Program Modifications Filed July 16 — New Coons Bill Referred to Finance Committee

See TOP STORY for full analysis. S. 5010 was introduced yesterday and referred to the Senate Finance Committee. Full bill text is pending publication. The bill modifies Internal Revenue Code provisions governing state administration of self-employment assistance programs, which provide unemployment benefits to individuals starting businesses in lieu of traditional job search requirements.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** See TOP STORY. Dr. Katz's economy platform calls for reducing regulatory burdens and tax reform that spurs economic growth — the opposite of modifying government benefit program administration. Per his Delaware State Senate record, Dr. Katz authored SB 100 to repeal Delaware's corporate income tax to attract businesses and create jobs.

- **TALKING POINTS**

- Full bill text needed for detailed analysis — staff should obtain immediately
- Dr. Katz's approach to entrepreneurship: cut taxes and reduce regulation (per his economy platform and SB 100)
- Coons' approach: modify government assistance programs — a fundamental philosophical difference

- Delaware's entrepreneurs need tax relief, not another federal program adjustment

SOURCES: Congress.gov — S. 5010

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TECHNOLOGY / INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY / AI

NO FAKES Act (S. 4591) Remains on Senate Legislative Calendar — Calendar No. 446; Awaiting Floor Scheduling

S. 4591, the NO FAKES Act of 2026, remains on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders (Calendar No. 446) as of July 17. The bill, which Coons cosponsored, addresses AI-generated digital replicas and deepfakes. No floor vote has been scheduled. The bill's placement on the calendar since at least early July without floor action suggests it may be awaiting a scheduling agreement or may be bundled with other tech legislation.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz can engage on AI policy from a position of strength, given his platform's emphasis on leveraging technology and innovation. Per his energy/environment platform, Dr. Katz supports initiatives that drive technological advancements while maintaining practical oversight. The key question on the NO FAKES Act is whether it creates effective protections or imposes overly broad restrictions that chill legitimate AI innovation and free expression.

• TALKING POINTS

- AI deepfake protections deserve serious consideration — but Congress must ensure legislation doesn't stifle American innovation or create speech restrictions
- Dr. Katz supports leveraging technology for American competitiveness — any AI regulation must be balanced and practical
- Staff should review NO FAKES Act provisions for potential overreach on small businesses and content creators
- Coons has positioned himself as an AI regulator — the question is whether his approach helps or hinders American technological leadership

SOURCES: Congress.gov — S. 4591

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ENVIRONMENT / CONSUMER SAFETY

S. 4664 — Safer Choice Program Authorization Act of 2026 Remains in EPW Committee; Day 45

S. 4664, introduced by Coons on June 2, remains in the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works with no hearing scheduled and no new cosponsors after 45 days. The bill would

authorize the EPA's Safer Choice labeling program, which certifies consumer products meeting safety criteria. The bill has shown no signs of advancing and appears likely to remain stalled.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports clean air and water protections and environmental stewardship — per his energy/environment platform, he advocates science-based health-focused approaches to environmental policy. As a physician, Dr. Katz understands consumer safety but believes in market-driven solutions and private sector innovation rather than expanding EPA certification bureaucracies.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- 45 days, zero cosponsors — another Coons bill going nowhere in committee
- Dr. Katz supports environmental stewardship through science-based approaches, not expanding EPA bureaucracy
- Consumer product safety is important — but the private sector and market transparency can deliver it more effectively than a government labeling program
- Coons' pattern: introduce bills that expand government programs, fail to build coalitions to pass them

SOURCES: Congress.gov — S. 4664

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LEGISLATIVE EFFECTIVENESS / OVERSIGHT

Previously Tracked Bills — Stasis Update: S. 3891 (ICE Accountability), S. 4011 (Tropical Forest), S. 4089 (Blue Envelope), S. 4144 (ESCRA), S. 4145 (Pro Codes) — All Remain Frozen

All five previously tracked Coons bills remain stalled with no new committee action, floor movement, or additional cosponsors. S. 3891 (ICE Accountability Act) is now at approximately Week 23 in Judiciary Committee. S. 4011 (Tropical Forest Reauthorization) is at approximately Day 134 in Foreign Relations. S. 4089 (Blue Envelope Act) is at approximately Day 127 in Judiciary. S. 4144 (ESCRA Act) is at approximately Day 120 in Banking Committee. S. 4145 (Pro Codes Act) is at approximately Day 120 in Judiciary. None have gained cosponsors.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Coons' legislative effectiveness remains a core vulnerability. Five bills stalled for months with zero cosponsors suggests a senator who introduces bills for messaging purposes rather than building coalitions to pass legislation. Dr. Katz's Delaware State Senate record demonstrates actual legislative results — including passing the DHIN restructuring, the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway legislation (SB 241), term limits legislation (SB 61), and comprehensive lobby reform (SB 141).

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Five Coons bills stalled for months with zero cosponsors — that's a messaging operation, not legislating
- Dr. Katz passed real legislation in Delaware's State Senate: DHIN restructuring, Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway (SB 241), lobby reform (SB 141), term limits (SB 61)
- After 16 years in the U.S. Senate, Coons can't find a single cosponsor for half his active legislative agenda
- Delaware needs a senator who gets things done, not one who introduces bills for press releases
- The ICE Accountability Act (S. 3891) has been stalled for 23 weeks — even Democrats won't cosponsor Coons' effort to hamstring immigration enforcement

SOURCES: [Congress.gov — S. 3891](#) · [Congress.gov — S. 4011](#) · [Congress.gov — S. 4089](#) [↑ INDEX](#)

APPROPRIATIONS & DELAWARE FUNDING

FEDERAL FUNDING / DELAWARE

[STAFF VERIFY] FY2027 Appropriations Markup Status — Confirm Senate Appropriations Timeline and Delaware Earmark Submissions

Mid-July is the peak period for Senate Appropriations subcommittee markups. Staff should verify Friday the current markup schedule for all 12 appropriations subcommittees, with particular attention to Defense, MilCon-VA, Commerce-Justice-Science, and Transportation-HUD for Delaware equities. Confirm whether Coons has submitted or announced any Delaware-specific earmark requests for FY2027.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz should be prepared to acknowledge legitimate Delaware federal funding wins while emphasizing his platform commitment to fiscal responsibility and public-private partnerships (per his economy platform). The contrast is not opposing federal investment in Delaware but demanding accountability and efficiency — consistent with Dr. Katz's Delaware State Senate initiative to establish an independent council to restructure state government for fiscal responsibility.

• TALKING POINTS

- Delaware deserves its fair share of federal investment — but taxpayers deserve accountability for every dollar spent
- Dr. Katz's record: he established an independent council in the Delaware Senate to evaluate and restructure government spending for efficiency
- Staff should track Coons' FY2027 earmark submissions for both bipartisan acknowledgment opportunities and wasteful spending contrasts

- Dr. Katz supports public-private partnerships for infrastructure modernization — not just federal spending increases

SOURCES: [Appropriations.senate.gov](https://www.appropriations.senate.gov)

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FEDERAL FUNDING / DELAWARE

[STAFF VERIFY] FY2026 Federal Funding Status — Confirm Current Operating Authority

Staff should confirm Friday the current status of FY2026 federal funding. Determine whether the government is operating under a continuing resolution, enacted full-year appropriations, or some combination. This affects Delaware federal workforce stability, Dover AFB operations, and all federal grant programs in the state. Any government funding uncertainty creates contrast opportunities on fiscal responsibility.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports fiscal responsibility and opposes the governing-by-continuing-resolution pattern that has plagued Congress for years. Per his economy platform, Dr. Katz believes in comprehensive fiscal planning — consistent with his Delaware State Senate legislation establishing a five-year plan to restructure and reorganize state government. Coons has been in the Senate since 2010 and has presided over the deterioration of the regular appropriations process.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons has been in the Senate for 16 years — and Congress still can't pass appropriations bills on time
- Dr. Katz authored legislation in Delaware's State Senate to establish a five-year restructuring plan for state government — that's fiscal planning, not governing by crisis
- Delaware's federal workforce and military installations need funding certainty, not continuing resolution chaos
- Staff should confirm current FY2026 operating status and be prepared to contrast Coons' record on budget process

SOURCES: [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) · [Appropriations.senate.gov](https://www.appropriations.senate.gov)

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DELAWARE

BUSINESS CLIMATE / CORPORATE GOVERNANCE / DELAWARE ECONOMY

UPDATED

ExxonMobil Texas Redomiciliation — Coons Enters Week Twenty-Two Without Addressing Delaware's Eroding Corporate Franchise Position

ExxonMobil's board-recommended redomiciliation from New Jersey to Texas — bypassing Delaware entirely — now enters its twenty-second week as a data point in Delaware's eroding position as America's premier state for corporate incorporation. Coons has made no public statement addressing the broader trend of major corporations choosing Texas or Nevada over Delaware for incorporation or redomiciliation. Delaware's corporate franchise tax revenue, which funds a substantial portion of the state budget, depends on maintaining its competitive advantage in corporate law.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz's economy platform emphasizes reducing the corporate tax burden and incentivizing business investment in Delaware. His Delaware State Senate bill SB 100 to repeal the state corporate income tax demonstrates a concrete pro-business legislative record. Coons' silence on Delaware's declining competitiveness as a corporate domicile — now in its twenty-second week — reflects a senator more focused on national progressive priorities than Delaware's economic foundation.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Twenty-two weeks of silence from Coons on ExxonMobil choosing Texas over Delaware — that's Delaware's senior senator asleep at the wheel on the state's economic franchise
- Dr. Katz authored SB 100 to repeal Delaware's corporate income tax — he understands that business-friendly policy is what keeps Delaware competitive
- Delaware's corporate franchise revenue is the backbone of the state budget — if companies stop choosing Delaware, who pays the bill?
- Texas is eating Delaware's lunch on corporate domiciliation — and Coons hasn't said a word about it
- Dr. Katz's economy platform prioritizes reducing corporate tax burden and regulatory burdens to keep businesses in Delaware

SOURCES: Delaware Division of Corporations · Reuters

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VETERANS / DELAWARE / HEALTHCARE

Veterans Affairs — Southern Delaware VA Advanced Medical Facility Advocacy Status

Veterans in Kent and Sussex counties continue to lack accessible advanced medical care services. No new federal action has been announced on establishing a VA advanced medical facility in southern Delaware this week. Coons has historically supported VA expansion but has not secured a concrete commitment or funding line item for a southern Delaware advanced

facility. This remains a significant gap in coverage for downstate veterans who must travel to Wilmington or out of state for advanced care.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Per his veterans platform, Dr. Katz has specifically called for a VA Advanced Medical Facility in southern Delaware, recognizing that veterans in Kent and Sussex counties urgently need accessible, advanced medical care tailored to their unique health challenges. As a physician who has spent over 40 years in healthcare, Dr. Katz brings unmatched credibility on delivering healthcare infrastructure — this is the intersection of his medical expertise and his commitment to veterans.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Dr. Katz's veterans platform specifically calls for a VA Advanced Medical Facility in southern Delaware — Coons has been in office 16 years and hasn't delivered one
- As a physician with 40+ years in healthcare, Dr. Katz understands what it takes to build and operate medical facilities — this is his expertise
- Kent and Sussex County veterans shouldn't have to drive to Wilmington or out of state for advanced medical care
- Dr. Katz's healthcare platform emphasizes access to care regardless of zip code — southern Delaware veterans are living proof that the current system fails that test
- Coons talks about supporting veterans — Dr. Katz has a specific plan to deliver advanced care where it's needed most

SOURCES: [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov) · [Coons.senate.gov](https://www.coons.senate.gov)

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DELAWARE ECONOMY / QUALITY OF LIFE

[STAFF VERIFY] Delaware Population and Outmigration Trends — July Data Check

Staff should check Friday whether updated Census Bureau population estimates, IRS migration data, or American Community Survey releases for Delaware have been published since the last check on Monday. Recent trends have shown Delaware experiencing slower population growth relative to southern and western states, with potential net domestic outmigration to lower-cost, lower-tax states. Updated data could provide concrete contrast points on quality of life and economic competitiveness.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz's economy platform addresses the root causes of outmigration — cost of living, housing affordability, and stagnant wages. Per his homeownership platform, Delaware's median home price surged 53% from \$221,100 in 2018 to \$339,400 in 2023, making homeownership increasingly unattainable. If outmigration data confirms people

are leaving Delaware, the question is what Coons has done in 16 years to make the state more affordable and competitive.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- If people are leaving Delaware, the question is simple: what has Chris Coons done in 16 years to make the state more affordable?
- Dr. Katz's homeownership platform documents the crisis: Delaware home prices surged 53% in five years
- Dr. Katz supports tax reforms, reduced regulatory burdens, and energy independence to lower costs for Delaware families
- Staff should obtain latest Census/IRS data to quantify any net domestic outmigration from Delaware

SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau · IRS SOI Migration Data

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GOVERNMENT REFORM / DELAWARE JOBS

[STAFF VERIFY] DOGE-Driven Federal Workforce Cuts — Delaware-Specific Impact Numbers

Coons has been among the most vocal Senate Democrats opposing DOGE-driven reductions-in-force across federal agencies. Delaware has a significant federal workforce presence, including at Dover AFB, the VA Wilmington Medical Center, IRS offices, and various federal installations. Staff should verify whether updated federal workforce reduction numbers specific to Delaware have been released, including any RIF notices, buyout offers, or position eliminations affecting Delaware-based federal employees.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports fiscal responsibility and government efficiency — per his Delaware State Senate legislation establishing an independent council to restructure and reorganize state government. He can acknowledge the real impact of workforce changes on Delaware families while maintaining that government must operate efficiently. The contrast is approach: Coons reflexively opposes all efficiency measures; Dr. Katz supports smart, responsible reform that protects essential services while eliminating waste.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Government efficiency isn't the enemy — waste and bloat are the enemy. Dr. Katz authored legislation in Delaware to restructure state government for efficiency
- Dr. Katz supports protecting essential services and federal employees who serve critical functions — but opposes protecting bureaucratic waste
- Coons' blanket opposition to all DOGE reforms is a defense of the status quo, not a defense of Delaware workers

- Staff should quantify Delaware-specific federal workforce changes for informed, credible messaging

SOURCES: OPM.gov · Coons.senate.gov

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FOREIGN POLICY & DIPLOMACY

WAR POWERS / IRAN / FOREIGN RELATIONS

S.J.Res. 191 — Iran War Powers Resolution Remains in Foreign Relations Committee; Day 78

S.J.Res. 191, the joint resolution directing removal of U.S. Armed Forces from hostilities against Iran not authorized by Congress, remains stalled in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee after 78 days. Coons cosponsored this resolution, which challenges the President's Commander-in-Chief authority to respond to Iranian threats. No hearing has been scheduled and no markup is anticipated in the current period. The resolution's continued stasis suggests insufficient support to advance it past committee.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports strong defense and Commander-in-Chief authority. Per his defense/veterans platform, sustaining a robust military force is essential for America's ability to preserve global peace, maintain international stability, and protect human rights. Coons' cosponsorship of S.J.Res. 191 signals a willingness to constrain the President's ability to respond swiftly to Iranian aggression — a dangerous position given Iran's active nuclear program and proxy warfare across the Middle East.

• TALKING POINTS

- 78 days stalled — even the Senate Foreign Relations Committee recognizes that hamstringing the Commander-in-Chief on Iran is reckless
- Dr. Katz supports Commander-in-Chief authority to respond to threats — Iran's nuclear program and proxy warfare demand flexibility, not congressional micromanagement
- Coons cosponsored a resolution to pull U.S. forces away from countering Iranian aggression — Dr. Katz believes in peace through strength
- Per Dr. Katz's defense platform: a robust military force is essential for preserving global peace and protecting American interests

SOURCES: Congress.gov — S.J.Res. 191 · Foreign Relations Committee

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FOREIGN POLICY / CHINA

S.Res. 716 — China Policy Resolution Remains in Foreign Relations Committee; Day 78

S.Res. 716, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding critical elements of U.S. policy toward the People's Republic of China, was introduced April 30 and remains in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee after 78 days with no hearing or markup action. The resolution's specific policy elements address U.S.-China competition across economic, military, and diplomatic dimensions. Coons' involvement reflects his Foreign Relations Committee role but the resolution's stasis suggests it lacks priority.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports a strong, competitive posture toward China — per his economy platform, he advocates for American energy independence, investing in innovation, and maintaining economic competitiveness. The broader question is whether Coons' China resolution amounts to substantive policy or performative messaging. After 78 days without action, it appears to be the latter. Dr. Katz believes America's response to China must be action-oriented: energy independence, manufacturing resilience, and military strength.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- 78 days with no action on Coons' China resolution — if China policy is a priority, why can't Coons move it through his own committee?
- Dr. Katz's approach to China competition: energy independence, manufacturing resilience, and military strength — not symbolic resolutions
- Dr. Katz supports American energy independence as a strategic asset against Chinese economic coercion — per his energy platform
- Actions matter more than resolutions — Coons should be focused on concrete legislation to counter China, not sense-of-the-Senate statements

SOURCES: [Congress.gov](#) — S.Res. 716 · [Foreign Relations Committee](#)

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GOVERNMENT REFORM / FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DOGE Cuts to State Department / USAID — Coons Opposition Continues Into Week Twenty-Two

Coons has continued his opposition to DOGE-driven workforce reductions at the State Department and USAID, now approaching a twenty-second week of sustained messaging. Coons has characterized these reductions as threats to American diplomatic capacity and foreign aid delivery. No new legislative action or floor statements have been identified this week, but Coons remains among the most vocal Senate opponents of these efficiency measures.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports fiscal responsibility and government efficiency — per his economy platform and his Delaware State Senate record of authoring government restructuring legislation. Foreign aid and diplomatic operations should be effective

and accountable, not bloated. While Coons spends 22 weeks defending USAID bureaucracy, Dr. Katz believes taxpayer dollars for foreign assistance should be subject to the same accountability standards as any other government spending.

- **TALKING POINTS**

- Twenty-two weeks defending USAID bureaucracy — Coons is more focused on protecting government programs than ensuring they work
- Dr. Katz supports effective foreign aid and diplomacy — but accountability and efficiency aren't optional
- Dr. Katz authored government restructuring legislation in Delaware's State Senate — he believes in making government work better, not just bigger
- Taxpayers deserve to know their foreign aid dollars are achieving results — Coons opposes the accountability measures that would tell them

SOURCES: [Coons.senate.gov](https://coons.senate.gov) · [State.gov](https://state.gov)

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UKRAINE / FOREIGN AID

[STAFF VERIFY] Ukraine Supplemental Aid — July Status Check

Coons has been one of the Senate's most vocal advocates for continued military and economic assistance to Ukraine. Staff should verify Friday whether any new supplemental aid package language has been introduced, whether committee markups have included Ukraine-related provisions, or whether the Administration has requested additional Ukraine funding in the FY2027 cycle. Any new Ukraine aid developments provide contrast opportunities on fiscal responsibility and foreign policy priorities.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports strong defense and American global leadership but believes foreign aid must be balanced against domestic priorities — per his economy platform, investing in American infrastructure, workforce development, and energy independence must come first. Any Ukraine aid must include robust accountability measures and should not come at the expense of American military readiness or domestic needs like the southern Delaware VA facility.

- **TALKING POINTS**

- Aid to Ukraine must include accountability — Dr. Katz supports responsible foreign engagement, not blank checks
- Every dollar sent abroad is a dollar not invested in American infrastructure, veterans care, or border security
- Dr. Katz's platform prioritizes American energy independence and domestic investment — foreign aid must be balanced against those needs

- Staff should track any new Ukraine supplemental language and its impact on defense and domestic spending

SOURCES: Foreign Relations Committee · Congress.gov

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SENATE DEMOCRAT CAUCUS WATCH

HOMELAND SECURITY / FISCAL POLICY

DHS and TSA Funding — Senate Democrats Continue Positioning to Leverage Funding Debate for Anti-Enforcement Messaging

Senate Democrats, including Coons, are expected to use FY2027 DHS and TSA funding debates to push for restrictions on interior immigration enforcement, oppose expanded ICE detention capacity, and resist increases in border patrol funding. As FY2027 appropriations markups proceed through mid-July, the Democrat caucus position remains focused on constraining enforcement mechanisms. Coons' ICE Accountability Act (S. 3891), though stalled, signals his alignment with the caucus position of imposing oversight burdens on immigration enforcement agencies. No new floor action or amendment submissions have been identified this week.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports secure borders and strong ICE enforcement. Per his platform, he believes in robust immigration enforcement as essential to national security and the rule of law. Coons' introduction of the ICE Accountability Act (S. 3891) and his caucus' broader effort to defund or constrain ICE through the appropriations process represent a fundamental disagreement — Dr. Katz supports funding the agencies that protect American communities, not burdening them with bureaucratic oversight designed to slow enforcement.

• TALKING POINTS

- Senate Democrats want to use DHS funding to handcuff ICE — Dr. Katz supports fully funding immigration enforcement agencies
- Coons introduced the ICE Accountability Act (S. 3891) to add oversight burdens on ICE — it's been stalled for 23 weeks because even this Congress recognizes it's the wrong approach
- Dr. Katz supports secure borders and strong ICE enforcement — not congressional efforts to slow-walk deportations through appropriations riders
- Delaware communities deserve to be safe — that means funding border patrol and ICE, not constraining them
- The Senate Democrat caucus is unified in opposing enforcement — Dr. Katz stands with the Americans who want secure borders

SOURCES: Congress.gov — S. 3891 · Appropriations.senate.gov

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SAVE America Act — Senate Democrats Continue to Block Voter Citizenship Verification; Coons Expected to Vote With Caucus Against

The SAVE Act (H.R. 22), requiring documentary proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote in federal elections, remains pending in the Senate after passing the House in April 2025 (220-208, largely party-line). Senate Democrats are expected to oppose or filibuster the bill, framing it as voter suppression. No Senate Democrat has indicated support. Coons has not made a specific public statement on the SAVE Act but is expected to vote with his caucus against it. No new floor scheduling action has been taken this week.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz strongly supports the SAVE Act. He believes only U.S. citizens should vote in U.S. elections — a position most Americans share. Dr. Katz opposes Senate Democrat efforts to block or filibuster the bill, calling their resistance a choice to protect a broken system over basic election integrity. The contrast is stark: Dr. Katz supports commonsense citizenship verification for voter registration; Coons and the Senate Democrat caucus are blocking it.

• TALKING POINTS

- Dr. Katz strongly supports the SAVE Act — only U.S. citizens should vote in U.S. elections, period
- Most Americans agree: proving citizenship to register to vote is basic election integrity, not voter suppression
- Coons and Senate Democrats are blocking commonsense citizenship verification — what are they afraid of?
- The SAVE Act passed the House with bipartisan support — Senate Democrats are the only obstacle to protecting election integrity
- Dr. Katz opposes Senate Democrat efforts to filibuster the SAVE Act — protecting a broken system is not a valid excuse

SOURCES: Congress.gov — H.R. 22 · GovTrack — H.R. 22

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2026 RACE CONTEXT

Race Snapshot: Coons vs. Katz (General: Nov. 3, 2026)

Sen. Coons (D) is running for a third full term. Republican primary: Dr. Mike Katz vs. John Shulli — primary set for September 15, 2026. Delaware is historically Solid Democratic. Coons has missed 3.0% of Senate roll call votes since 2010. His legislative profile focuses on

International Affairs (27%), Commerce (21%), and Labor (10%). Committees: Appropriations (Defense Subcommittee Ranking Member), Foreign Relations, Judiciary.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Strategic note for Katz: Coons is well-funded and active on national security. Key vulnerabilities: Iran war posture, DOGE/government spending debate, ICE oversight bill, healthcare policy (Katz's home turf as a physician). This week's new bill (S. 5010 on self-employment assistance) opens a small business/entrepreneurship contrast opportunity. The legislative stasis pattern (five bills frozen, zero cosponsors) remains the strongest effectiveness contrast. Staff should continue building the 'all talk, no results' narrative with specific bill numbers and day counts.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Coons has been in the Senate 16 years — Dr. Katz brings 40+ years of healthcare leadership, business ownership, and Delaware State Senate legislative results
- Key vulnerabilities to develop: Iran war powers posture, ICE Accountability Act, legislative effectiveness, Delaware corporate franchise erosion
- Dr. Katz's physician background gives him unique credibility on healthcare, veterans care, and the southern Delaware VA facility — press this advantage
- Monitor September 15 primary dynamics — maintain unified Republican messaging against Coons regardless of primary outcome

SOURCES: GovTrack — Sen. Coons · Dr. Mike Katz Campaign

↑ INDEX

Sources: Congress.gov · GovTrack · NPR · Coons.senate.gov · Ballotpedia · C-SPAN

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