

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

TOP STORY

LEGISLATIVE EFFECTIVENESS / OVERSIGHT **UPDATED**

Coons' March Legislative Output Enters Day 7+ With Zero Traction — Four Bills, Zero Cosponsors, Zero Committee Movement

As the Senate convenes Thursday, all four bills Sen. Coons introduced in March 2026 remain stalled in committee with no cosponsors, no hearings scheduled, and no markup activity. S. 4144 (ESCRA Act, Banking Committee — Day 7), S. 4145 (copyright/open access, Judiciary — Day 7), S. 4089 (Blue Envelope Act, Judiciary — Day 14), and S. 4011 (Tropical Forest/Coral Reef, Foreign Relations — Day 21) have collectively generated zero legislative momentum. For a senator in his 16th year who holds ranking member positions on key committees, this pattern of introducing bills that attract no bipartisan support and no committee interest raises fundamental questions about legislative effectiveness.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz believes effective legislating requires building coalitions, not issuing press releases. Per his Delaware State Senate record — including Katz SB 241 (Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway), Katz SB 100 (corporate tax repeal), and Katz SB 141 (lobby reform) — Dr. Katz has a track record of authoring substantive legislation and driving it through committee. Coons' pattern of introducing bills with zero cosponsors after 16 years in office suggests a senator more interested in positioning than results.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons has introduced four bills this month — none have a single cosponsor, not even from fellow Democrats
- After 16 years in the Senate with prime committee assignments, Coons still can't build coalitions for his own legislation
- Dr. Katz authored and passed real legislation in the Delaware State Senate, including the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway bill and comprehensive lobby reform
- Delawareans deserve a senator who delivers results, not press releases that die in committee

SOURCES: [Congress.gov — S. 4144](#) · [Congress.gov — S. 4145](#) · [Congress.gov — S. 4089](#) [↑](#) INDEX

FY2027 Defense Budget Hearing Series — Week Two Continues; Coons Expected to Sustain Anti-DOGE Messaging From Ranking Member Position

The Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee continues FY2027 budget hearings Thursday as week two progresses. Ranking Member Coons has used prior hearing sessions to build a sustained public narrative framing DOGE-driven efficiency initiatives as threats to military readiness and defense modernization. Staff should monitor Thursday's witness list and Coons' questioning for any new lines of attack on DOGE workforce reductions at DoD or defense contractor impacts. Coons' strategy appears aimed at positioning himself as a defense hawk while simultaneously opposing the administration's cost-reduction mandates.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports strong defense spending AND fiscal accountability — per his platform commitment to fiscal responsibility and his Delaware State Senate record of proposing a Five Year Plan to restructure and reorganize government (Katz SR establishing an Independent Council). Dr. Katz believes taxpayers deserve both a strong military and efficient use of every defense dollar, rejecting Coons' false choice between readiness and reform.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons frames any efficiency effort at the Pentagon as a threat — but waste in defense spending is real and costs taxpayers billions
- Dr. Katz supports strong defense AND fiscal accountability — these aren't mutually exclusive
- Dr. Katz proposed restructuring Delaware state government for efficiency; he believes the same discipline should apply to federal agencies, including DoD
- Coons uses his Ranking Member perch to generate headlines, not to find savings that could be reinvested in actual readiness

[STAFF VERIFY] Coons Statements on National Guard Border Deployment — No Confirmed Public Position Through Day 17 of Tracking

Staff has been tracking for over two and a half weeks whether Coons has issued any formal statement, floor remarks, committee questions, or social media posts regarding the Administration's expanded National Guard deployment to the southern border. As of Thursday morning, no confirmed public position from Coons has been identified. This silence is notable given Coons' role as Defense Appropriations Ranking Member, where National Guard funding

and readiness are directly within his jurisdiction. Staff should continue monitoring Coons' office output and hearing transcripts for any emerging position.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports the National Guard border deployment and strong ICE enforcement, per his platform commitment to secure borders. Coons' silence on a major military deployment within his own committee's jurisdiction suggests he is either unwilling to support border security or afraid to oppose it publicly. Either way, Delawareans deserve a senator who takes clear positions on national security.

• TALKING POINTS

- Coons is the top Democrat on Defense Appropriations — yet has said nothing about a major National Guard deployment for 17 days
- Dr. Katz supports secure borders and strong ICE enforcement — no ambiguity, no silence
- A senator who won't take a public position on border security isn't leading — he's hiding
- National Guard readiness is directly in Coons' committee lane; his silence is a dereliction of his oversight role

SOURCES: [Coons.senate.gov](https://coons.senate.gov) · Senate Appropriations Committee

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RECENT LEGISLATION

CONSUMER PROTECTION / BANKING **UPDATED**

S. 4144 — ESCRA Act (Credit Repair Organizations) — Day 7 in Banking Committee, No Cosponsors

Coons' S. 4144, the ESCRA Act, introduced March 19 to amend the Credit Repair Organizations Act with additional industry protections, enters its seventh day in the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee with no cosponsors and no committee action scheduled. The bill has not attracted support from either side of the aisle. Without at least one Republican cosponsor, the bill faces effectively zero chance of a hearing in the Republican-controlled committee.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports consumer protection but believes effective legislation requires bipartisan coalition-building. Per his platform emphasis on reducing regulatory burdens on small businesses, Dr. Katz opposes regulatory approaches that add compliance costs without demonstrably improving consumer outcomes. Coons' inability to find a single cosponsor for this bill speaks to its viability.

• TALKING POINTS

- Seven days, zero cosponsors — not a single Democrat or Republican has signed on
- Dr. Katz supports consumer protection that actually helps people, not messaging bills that die in committee
- Effective senators build bipartisan support before introducing bills, not after
- Dr. Katz's small business platform prioritizes reducing regulatory burden while protecting consumers — the two aren't incompatible

SOURCES: [Congress.gov](#) — S. 4144

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COPYRIGHT / GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY **UPDATED**

S. 4145 — Works Incorporated by Reference into Law (Copyright/Open Access) — Day 7 in Judiciary, No Cosponsors

Coons' S. 4145, introduced March 19 to amend Title 17 U.S. Code regarding copyrighted works incorporated by reference into federal law, enters its seventh day in the Senate Judiciary Committee with no cosponsors and no committee activity. The bill addresses a legitimate but narrow transparency concern — whether standards incorporated into binding federal regulations should be freely accessible. However, without cosponsor support, the bill appears destined for the same inaction as Coons' other March introductions.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports government transparency — as demonstrated by his Delaware State Senate legislation requiring live streaming of Senate proceedings (Katz SR 14) and open redistricting processes (Katz SR 9). Dr. Katz has a proven record of advancing transparency measures that actually became law, unlike Coons' messaging-only approach.

• TALKING POINTS

- Dr. Katz passed real transparency legislation in Delaware — live streaming of the State Senate and open redistricting
- Coons introduces a transparency bill but can't convince a single colleague to cosponsor it
- Government transparency shouldn't be a messaging exercise — it should produce results
- Dr. Katz's transparency record is one of action; Coons' is one of press releases

SOURCES: [Congress.gov](#) — S. 4145

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JUDICIARY / LAW ENFORCEMENT / DISABILITY RIGHTS **UPDATED**

S. 4089 — Blue Envelope Act — Day 14 in Judiciary, No Action

Coons' Blue Envelope Act (S. 4089), introduced March 12 to authorize DOJ grants for programs assisting law enforcement in identifying and safely interacting with individuals with autism and other disabilities during traffic stops, enters its fourteenth day in the Senate Judiciary Committee with no action, no hearing scheduled, and no publicly announced cosponsors. The underlying concept — blue envelopes placed in vehicle glove boxes to alert officers that a driver has a disability — has been adopted in some local jurisdictions. However, the federal grant mechanism Coons proposes has generated no visible support.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports law enforcement and first responders — per his dedicated first responders platform plank — and as a physician with pediatric critical care training, he understands the unique challenges of communicating with individuals with disabilities. Dr. Katz believes supporting police means giving them tools and training, not burying good ideas in bills that go nowhere because the sponsoring senator can't build a coalition.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- The Blue Envelope concept is good — but Coons' bill has zero cosponsors after two full weeks
- Dr. Katz supports equipping and training law enforcement, per his first responders platform
- As a physician trained in pediatric critical care, Dr. Katz has real-world experience communicating with patients and families with special needs
- Good policy ideas deserve effective advocates — not senators who introduce bills and walk away

SOURCES: [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) — S. 4089

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ENVIRONMENT / FOREIGN AID **UPDATED**

S. 4011 — Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization — Day 21, No Movement

Coons' reauthorization of the 1998 Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act (S. 4011), introduced March 5, remains in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee entering its twenty-first day — three full weeks — with no new cosponsors, no hearing scheduled, and no committee markup. The bill seeks to reauthorize a debt-for-nature swap program that has historically enjoyed some bipartisan support, but Coons has failed to secure even one cosponsor in this Congress. The bill's foreign aid component makes it a particularly difficult sell during an era of fiscal scrutiny and DOGE-driven spending reform.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports environmental stewardship — as demonstrated by his Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway legislation (Katz SB 241) — but

believes taxpayer dollars should prioritize American communities and infrastructure first, per his fiscal responsibility platform. Spending on foreign debt-for-nature swaps while Delaware's own environmental needs go unmet reflects misplaced priorities.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Three weeks, zero cosponsors — even on a bill with historically bipartisan appeal
- Dr. Katz authored and passed the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway bill — he leads on conservation that benefits Delawareans directly
- Foreign debt-for-nature swaps are a hard sell when American infrastructure and environmental needs are underfunded
- Coons prioritizes international environmental spending over Delaware's own beaches, waterways, and open spaces

SOURCES: [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) — S. 4011

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IMMIGRATION / OVERSIGHT

S. 3891 — ICE Accountability Act — Stalled in Judiciary Committee, Week 7

Coons' ICE Accountability Act (S. 3891), introduced February 12, enters its seventh week stalled in the Senate Judiciary Committee with no new cosponsors or committee action. The bill would impose additional oversight and reporting requirements on Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations, adding bureaucratic layers to an agency already facing resource constraints. The bill's continued inability to attract cosponsors — even from fellow Democrats — suggests the political environment has shifted decisively in favor of stronger, not weaker, immigration enforcement.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz opposes legislation that hamstring ICE enforcement, per his platform commitment to secure borders and strong ICE enforcement. While Coons seeks to add bureaucratic burdens to immigration officers, Dr. Katz believes ICE agents need more resources and support — not more paperwork. The bill's seven-week stall reflects how out of step Coons is with both the Senate and public opinion on immigration enforcement.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Seven weeks and counting — Coons' bill to hamstring ICE can't find a single cosponsor
- Dr. Katz supports strong ICE enforcement and secure borders — full stop
- Adding bureaucratic reporting requirements to immigration officers doesn't protect anyone — it protects illegal activity

- Even Senate Democrats won't sign onto Coons' effort to weaken ICE — that tells you everything

SOURCES: Congress.gov — S. 3891

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APPROPRIATIONS & DELAWARE FUNDING

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION / DELAWARE

Dover AFB FY2027 Military Construction — Budget Justification Document Review Continues

Military construction budget justification documents for Dover Air Force Base continue to be available for detailed staff review as FY2027 hearings proceed into their second week. Dover AFB, home to the 436th and 512th Airlift Wings and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System, is Delaware's most significant federal military installation. Staff should identify any specific MILCON line items for Dover AFB in the FY2027 request and flag any reductions from prior year levels that could create a constituent-facing issue for either Coons or Katz.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports robust funding for Dover AFB, per his strong defense and veterans platform. Dover AFB is critical to Delaware's economy and America's airlift capability. Dr. Katz believes supporting Dover AFB means supporting both the military mission and the surrounding community — and that any senator claiming credit for Dover funding should also be held accountable for ensuring those funds are spent efficiently.

• TALKING POINTS

- Dover AFB is the backbone of Delaware's federal economic footprint — its funding must be protected
- Dr. Katz supports strong defense spending and military readiness at Dover AFB
- Staff should review MILCON justification documents line-by-line for Dover AFB FY2027 requests
- Any reductions to Dover AFB funding from prior years should be flagged as a potential Coons accountability issue

SOURCES: Senate Appropriations Committee · Dover Air Force Base

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FEDERAL FUNDING / DELAWARE

[STAFF VERIFY] FY2026 Federal Funding Status — Continuing Resolution or Enacted Appropriations?

Staff should confirm the current status of FY2026 federal funding as Thursday's session begins — whether the government is operating under a continuing resolution, an enacted omnibus, or individual minibus appropriations. The funding status directly affects Delaware's federal workforce, military installations, and grant-funded programs. If the government remains on a CR, this creates a line of attack: Coons' party leadership has failed to deliver full-year appropriations, creating uncertainty for Delaware federal employees and contractors.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz believes Congress has a fundamental obligation to pass appropriations bills on time, per his fiscal responsibility platform and his Delaware State Senate experience proposing a Five Year Plan for government restructuring. Budget dysfunction hurts Delaware families and federal workers who deserve certainty, not continuing resolutions.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Staff must confirm whether we're still on a CR — this affects messaging on fiscal competence
- Delaware's federal workers deserve budget certainty, not perpetual CRs
- Dr. Katz proposed a structured Five Year Plan for Delaware government — he believes the federal budget process needs the same discipline
- If Coons can't deliver timely appropriations after 16 years on the Appropriations Committee, what exactly has he accomplished?

SOURCES: Senate Appropriations Committee · Congress.gov

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DELAWARE

BUSINESS CLIMATE / CORPORATE GOVERNANCE / DELAWARE ECONOMY

ExxonMobil Texas Redomiciliation — Coons Enters Fourth Week Without Addressing Delaware's Eroding Business Climate

ExxonMobil's board-recommended redomiciliation from New Jersey to Texas — bypassing Delaware entirely — continues to resonate as a signal that Delaware's longstanding position as America's premier corporate domicile state is under threat. Major corporations choosing Texas over Delaware for incorporation should alarm the state's senior senator, yet Coons has entered a fourth week without any public statement addressing Delaware's competitive position, the Court of Chancery's value proposition, or what federal policies might stem the erosion. Staff should monitor for any corporate governance-related statements from Coons' office.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz understands that Delaware's corporate franchise is the foundation of its economy. Per his platform commitment to reducing corporate tax burden

and incentivizing business investment (and his Delaware State Senate bill Katz SB 100 to repeal Delaware's corporate income tax), Dr. Katz believes Delaware must compete aggressively for business. Coons' silence while corporations flee to Texas reflects complacency about Delaware's economic future.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- ExxonMobil chose Texas over Delaware — and Coons has said nothing for four weeks
- Dr. Katz introduced legislation to repeal Delaware's corporate income tax to make the state more competitive
- Delaware's corporate franchise generates billions in revenue — its erosion threatens every Delawarean
- A senator who won't fight for Delaware's business climate won't fight for Delaware's jobs

SOURCES: [Coons.senate.gov](https://coons.senate.gov) · [Delaware Division of Corporations](https://delaware.gov)

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DELAWARE ECONOMY / QUALITY OF LIFE

[STAFF VERIFY] Delaware Population and Outmigration Trends — 2025 Census Estimates

Staff should check whether updated Census Bureau population estimates or IRS migration data for Delaware have been released in March 2026. Recent trends have shown Delaware experiencing slower population growth and potential net domestic outmigration, particularly among working-age residents and retirees who previously found Delaware's tax and cost-of-living environment attractive. Any new data showing continued or accelerating outmigration would support the narrative that Delaware's quality of life and economic competitiveness are deteriorating under current leadership.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz believes Delaware's economic trajectory requires urgent course correction, per his economy and cost of living platform emphasizing tax reform, energy independence, and workforce development. If people are leaving Delaware, it's because career politicians like Coons haven't fought to make the state competitive. Dr. Katz's experience as a business owner gives him practical understanding of what drives economic decisions.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Staff should pull latest Census and IRS migration data for Delaware ASAP
- If Delawareans are leaving, it's a verdict on 16 years of Coons' leadership
- Dr. Katz's platform addresses cost of living, tax reform, and workforce development — the core drivers of migration decisions

- A physician and business owner understands why families and businesses make relocation decisions

SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau · IRS Statistics of Income

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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, IRS, and various agencies. Staff should verify current RIF numbers specific to Delaware, identify which agencies are most affected, and determine whether any Dover AFB civilian positions have been impacted. This data is essential for calibrating messaging — Dr. Katz must be able to support efficiency reform while demonstrating concern for Delaware workers affected by poorly executed cuts.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports government efficiency and fiscal responsibility — per his Delaware State Senate proposal for an Independent Council to restructure state government — but believes reform must be executed thoughtfully with clear transition plans for affected workers. Coons' blanket opposition to all efficiency measures protects government bloat, not government workers.

• TALKING POINTS

- Staff must get Delaware-specific federal RIF numbers — this is critical for calibrated messaging
- Dr. Katz supports efficient government but insists on fair treatment of affected workers
- Coons opposes ALL efficiency efforts — that's not leadership, that's protecting the status quo
- Dr. Katz proposed a structured Five Year Plan for Delaware government reform — he believes reform can be both responsible and effective

SOURCES: Coons.senate.gov · OPM.gov

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VETERANS / DELAWARE / HEALTHCARE

Veterans Affairs — Southern Delaware VA Facility Advocacy — Thursday Constituent Outreach Opportunity

Coons continues to advocate for expanded VA healthcare services in southern Delaware, including support for a new outpatient specialty care facility serving veterans in Kent and Sussex counties. Thursday presents an opportunity for Dr. Katz to engage with veterans'

organizations in downstate Delaware on this shared priority. Both candidates support the facility, but Dr. Katz's medical background and specific platform call for a VA Advanced Medical Facility in Southern Delaware give him unique credibility on the execution and clinical design of such a facility.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz has specifically called for a VA Advanced Medical Facility in Southern Delaware, per his veterans platform. As a physician with decades of clinical and health system management experience — including his work designing the Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN) — Dr. Katz brings operational healthcare expertise that Coons simply cannot match. Advocacy is easy; knowing how to design and run a medical facility is what veterans actually need.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Dr. Katz's veterans platform explicitly calls for a VA Advanced Medical Facility in Southern Delaware
- As a physician, Dr. Katz understands what veterans need from a clinical facility — not just a press release
- Dr. Katz designed Delaware's statewide Health Information Network — he knows health system implementation
- Coons can advocate; Dr. Katz can deliver because he's actually run healthcare operations

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

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FOREIGN POLICY & DIPLOMACY

WAR POWERS / IRAN / FOREIGN RELATIONS

Iran War Powers Debate — No Floor Vote Scheduled; Coons Continues Push to Constrain Commander-in-Chief Authority

Coons remains a vocal supporter of Sen. Tim Kaine's War Powers Resolution aimed at restraining the President's ability to take military action against Iran without prior congressional authorization. No floor vote is currently scheduled for Thursday or this week. Coons has consistently framed the issue as restoring congressional prerogative, while critics argue the resolution would telegraph weakness to Tehran and constrain time-sensitive military responses to Iranian provocations. Staff should monitor for any Coons floor statements or media appearances on the Iran situation Thursday.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports strong Commander-in-Chief authority on national security matters, per his defense platform. Dr. Katz believes telegraphing to Iran that the

President's hands are tied emboldens adversaries and endangers American troops and allies. Coons' push to constrain military flexibility against the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism reflects misplaced priorities.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Dr. Katz supports the President's authority to protect American troops and allies from Iranian threats
- Coons wants to telegraph to Tehran that the Commander-in-Chief's hands are tied — that's dangerous
- Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism — this is not the time to weaken America's deterrence posture
- The Constitution gives the President Commander-in-Chief authority for a reason — Coons' approach undermines national security

SOURCES: Senate Foreign Relations Committee · Congress.gov

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GOVERNMENT REFORM / FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DOGE Cuts to State Department / USAID — Coons Opposition Continues Into Week Three

Coons has continued his vocal opposition to DOGE-driven workforce reduction plans targeting the State Department and USAID, calling the reductions 'reckless' and arguing they undermine American diplomacy and development capacity. As a senior member of the Foreign Relations Committee, Coons has used hearings and media appearances to frame the cuts as endangering national security. Staff should verify whether any new USAID/State RIF announcements have been made this week that could fuel another round of Coons media activity.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports fiscal responsibility and efficient government, per his platform and his Delaware State Senate record of proposing government restructuring. Dr. Katz believes foreign aid and diplomatic spending must be regularly reviewed for effectiveness — and that reflexively defending every State Department and USAID dollar is not a foreign policy strategy. Coons' approach treats the bureaucracy as the mission rather than the tool.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Defending every bureaucratic dollar isn't diplomacy — it's protecting the status quo
- Dr. Katz supports effective diplomacy but believes taxpayers deserve accountability for foreign aid spending
- Coons has never met a foreign aid program he wouldn't fund — regardless of results

- Efficiency in government doesn't stop at the water's edge; State and USAID should be accountable too

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

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

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UKRAINE / FOREIGN AID

[STAFF VERIFY] Ukraine Supplemental Aid — Thursday Status Check

Coons has been one of the Senate's most vocal advocates for continued military and economic assistance to Ukraine. Staff should verify whether any new supplemental aid package language has been circulated, whether any bipartisan negotiations are underway, and whether Coons has made any new statements this week. The political dynamic around Ukraine aid continues to evolve, with increasing Republican skepticism about open-ended commitments and growing public attention to the war's cost.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports American strength and leadership abroad but believes any foreign aid commitment must be paired with clear accountability, defined objectives, and fiscal responsibility — per his platform. Dr. Katz opposes open-ended financial commitments that lack transparency about outcomes and burden American taxpayers.

• TALKING POINTS

- Staff should verify any new Ukraine aid language circulating in the Senate this week
- Dr. Katz supports American strength but demands accountability for every taxpayer dollar sent overseas
- Open-ended commitments without defined objectives aren't strategy — they're a blank check
- Coons has never publicly articulated what 'success' in Ukraine looks like or what the total cost to taxpayers will be

SOURCES: [Senate Foreign Relations Committee](https://www.senate.gov/committees/committees_a-z/foreign_relations)

[Coons.senate.gov](https://coons.senate.gov)

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SENATE DEMOCRAT CAUCUS WATCH

ELECTION INTEGRITY / IMMIGRATION

SAVE America Act — House-Passed Voter Citizenship Verification Bill Awaits Senate Action; Democrats Expected to Block

The SAVE Act (H.R. 22), requiring documentary proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote in federal elections, passed the House in April 2025 (220-208, largely party-line) and remains pending in the Senate. Senate Democrats are expected to filibuster or otherwise block the bill, framing it as voter suppression targeting minority communities. No Senate Democrat has

publicly indicated support for the measure. Coons has not made a specific public statement on the SAVE Act but is expected to vote with his caucus against it, consistent with his broader pattern of opposing voter ID and verification measures.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz strongly supports the SAVE Act and believes only U.S. citizens should vote in U.S. elections — a position supported by overwhelming majorities of Americans across party lines. 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. Coons' expected opposition aligns him with the far-left fringe of his party on an issue where common sense and public opinion are firmly on the other side.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- The SAVE Act is simple: prove you're a citizen to vote in U.S. elections — polls show 80%+ of Americans agree
- Senate Democrats plan to block a bill supported by the vast majority of voters — that's not leadership, it's obstruction
- Dr. Katz strongly supports the SAVE Act and believes election integrity is foundational to democracy
- Coons won't even take a public position on requiring citizenship verification to vote — ask him why
- If Coons opposes proving citizenship to vote, he should explain that to Delaware voters directly

SOURCES: [Congress.gov](#) — H.R. 22 · [GovTrack](#) — H.R. 22

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2026 RACE CONTEXT

CAMPAIGN INTELLIGENCE

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), Delaware business climate

erosion (ExxonMobil redomiciliation silence now in its fourth week), and a March legislative record of four bills with zero cosponsors after 16 years in office. The legislative effectiveness narrative is becoming a sustained theme — continue building it.

- **TALKING POINTS**

- Coons has been in the Senate 16 years — his March 2026 record is four bills, zero cosponsors, zero results
- Dr. Katz brings healthcare expertise, business experience, and a state legislative record of real accomplishments
- Key vulnerabilities to develop: ICE bill, Iran war powers, Delaware business climate, legislative ineffectiveness
- Delaware primary is September 15 — continue building contrast case while engaging primary voters

SOURCES: GovTrack — Sen. Coons Profile · Coons.senate.gov

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

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