

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

TOP STORY

LEGISLATIVE EFFECTIVENESS / OVERSIGHT **UPDATED**

Senate Returns From Weekend — Coons' Entire March Legislative Portfolio Now 11+ Days Stalled With Zero Cosponsors, Zero Committee Movement

As the Senate reconvenes Monday, all four bills Sen. Coons introduced in March 2026 remain motionless in committee. S. 4144 (ES CRA Act, Banking Committee — Day 11), S. 4145 (Pro Codes Act, Judiciary — Day 11), S. 4089 (Blue Envelope Act, Judiciary — Day 18), and S. 4011 (Tropical Forest/Coral Reef Reauthorization, Foreign Relations — Day 25) have collectively attracted zero cosponsors, zero scheduled hearings, and zero markup activity. This pattern of legislative inertia is now a sustained, documentable trend heading into April — a full calendar month with no measurable progress on any Coons-introduced legislation.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz has a proven record of authoring and passing legislation as a Delaware State Senator — including the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway bill (SB 241), DHIN restructuring, and lobby reform (SB 141). Per his legislative record, Dr. Katz believes effective representation means building coalitions and moving bills, not introducing press-release legislation that dies in committee. After 16 years in office, Coons' inability to attract even a single cosponsor on four consecutive bills raises serious questions about his effectiveness.

• TALKING POINTS

- Four bills introduced in March — zero cosponsors, zero hearings, zero movement after 11-25 days each
- Dr. Katz passed real legislation in the Delaware State Senate, including scenic byway preservation (SB 241), lobby reform (SB 141), and live-streaming government proceedings (SR 14)
- After 16 years in Washington, Coons can't convince a single colleague to cosponsor his own bills
- Delawareans deserve a Senator who delivers results, not press releases
- Dr. Katz's 'Patients Over Politics' approach means focusing on outcomes, not performative bill introductions

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS / FY2027 BUDGET / DOGE **UPDATED**

FY2027 Defense Budget Hearing Series — Week Three Opens; Coons Expected to Resume Anti-DOGE Framing as Ranking Member

The Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee is expected to continue FY2027 budget hearings this week, entering the third week of testimony. As Ranking Member, Coons has consistently used these hearings to characterize DOGE-driven efficiency reviews as threats to military readiness, force structure, and defense-industrial base stability. Staff should monitor Monday's hearing schedule for specific witnesses and Coons' questioning lines, particularly on whether he raises DOGE-related workforce reductions at defense agencies or challenges the Administration's proposed topline defense number.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports strong defense spending and Commander-in-Chief authority, per his veterans and defense platform. He also supports fiscal responsibility and government restructuring — as demonstrated by his Delaware State Senate bill establishing an independent council to develop a five-year plan to restructure state government. Dr. Katz believes taxpayers deserve both a strong military AND an efficient Pentagon, and that opposing all efficiency reviews is not a defense strategy — it's a spending strategy.

• TALKING POINTS

- Dr. Katz supports strong defense AND fiscal accountability — these are not mutually exclusive
- Coons frames every efficiency review as a threat — Dr. Katz authored legislation (DE State Senate) to restructure government for better performance
- Dover AFB and Delaware's military community deserve a Senator who fights for funding AND ensures taxpayer dollars aren't wasted
- Opposing DOGE reviews wholesale protects bureaucracy, not warfighters
- Dr. Katz's platform calls for sustaining a robust military force as essential for global peace and national security

SOURCES: Senate Appropriations Committee · C-SPAN

[↑ INDEX](#)DEFENSE / BORDER SECURITY **UPDATED**

[STAFF VERIFY] Coons Statements on National Guard Border Deployment — No Confirmed Public Position Through Day 21 of Tracking

Staff has been tracking for three full 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. No confirmed public position has

been identified. Coons' silence on this issue — which directly intersects his Defense Appropriations portfolio — is increasingly notable given that border deployments affect military readiness, Guard unit availability, and defense budgets he oversees.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports secure borders and strong ICE enforcement, per his platform. His silence contrast is straightforward: Coons chairs no border hearings, introduces legislation to constrain ICE (S. 3891), yet says nothing about National Guard border deployments that fall squarely within his Defense Appropriations jurisdiction. Dr. Katz believes border security is national security — and that Delaware's Senator should say so publicly.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Three weeks of silence from Coons on National Guard border deployments — despite being Ranking Member on Defense Appropriations
- Dr. Katz supports secure borders and strong ICE enforcement as core national security priorities
- Coons finds time to introduce the ICE Accountability Act but can't comment on Guard troops securing the border
- Border security directly affects defense readiness and budgets Coons oversees — his silence is a choice
- Delawareans deserve a Senator who supports the men and women securing our borders

SOURCES: Coons Senate — Press · Senate Appropriations Committee

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RECENT LEGISLATION

CONSUMER PROTECTION / BANKING **UPDATED**

S. 4144 — ESCRA Act (Credit Repair Organizations) — Day 11 in Banking Committee, No Cosponsors

Coons' ESCRA Act, introduced March 19 to amend the Credit Repair Organizations Act, enters its eleventh day in the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee with no cosponsors and no committee activity scheduled. The bill's lack of any bipartisan or even Democratic cosponsor support raises questions about whether this was introduced with genuine legislative intent or simply to generate a press release on consumer protection.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports consumer protection through market-based solutions and reduced regulatory burdens on small businesses, per his economy and cost of living platform. He believes real consumer protection comes from economic policies that create

jobs, control inflation, and increase purchasing power — not from symbolic bills that never advance.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Day 11, zero cosponsors — even Senate Democrats haven't signed on
- Dr. Katz's economic platform focuses on real consumer relief: controlling inflation, reducing regulatory burdens, and increasing purchasing power
- Coons introduces consumer protection bills that go nowhere while Delaware families struggle with rising costs
- Legislative effectiveness matters — results beat press releases

SOURCES: [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) — S. 4144

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COPYRIGHT / GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY **UPDATED**

S. 4145 — Pro Codes Act of 2026 (Copyright/Open Access) — Day 11 in Judiciary, No Cosponsors

Coons' Pro Codes Act (S. 4145), introduced March 19 to amend Title 17 U.S. Code regarding copyrighted works incorporated by reference into federal law, enters its eleventh day in the Senate Judiciary Committee with no cosponsors and no action. While the concept of ensuring public access to legal standards referenced in federal law has some bipartisan appeal, Coons has failed to attract a single cosponsor from either party.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports government transparency — he authored Delaware's live-streaming legislation (SR 14, 146th General Assembly) and championed open redistricting (SR 9). Per his transparency record, Dr. Katz believes in making government accessible to citizens and has actually delivered results on this front, unlike symbolic bills that stall without support.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Dr. Katz delivered real government transparency in Delaware — live-streaming the State Senate (SR 14) and open redistricting (SR 9)
- Coons' transparency bill has zero cosponsors after 11 days
- Talk is cheap — Dr. Katz has a track record of actually passing open government legislation
- If Coons truly cared about public access, he'd build the coalitions needed to move the bill

SOURCES: [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) — S. 4145

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

S. 4089 — Blue Envelope Act — Day 18 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 eighteenth day in the Senate Judiciary Committee with no cosponsors and no committee activity. The bill addresses a legitimate public safety concern but continues to show no legislative momentum.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports first responders and law enforcement, per his first responders platform, which calls for comprehensive investment in training, staffing, equipment, and community support. As a physician who has cared for patients across the full spectrum of society, Dr. Katz believes law enforcement training programs should be robustly funded and implemented — but that requires a Senator who can actually move legislation, not just introduce it.

• TALKING POINTS

- The Blue Envelope concept has merit — but 18 days without a single cosponsor suggests Coons isn't working to build support
- Dr. Katz's first responders platform calls for comprehensive support including training, staffing, and community engagement
- As a physician, Dr. Katz has spent decades working with patients with disabilities and their families — he brings lived expertise to these issues
- Effective legislation requires coalition-building, not just bill introduction

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 25, 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-fifth day with no cosponsors and no committee activity. This bill — which authorizes U.S. funding for overseas tropical forest and coral reef conservation — now approaches a full month of inactivity, the oldest of Coons' March introductions with the least apparent legislative trajectory.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports environmental stewardship grounded in science and focused on American communities — as demonstrated by his Brandywine Valley

National Scenic Byway legislation (SB 241, 146th General Assembly). Per his energy and environment platform, Dr. Katz believes environmental policy should prioritize clean water and air for Americans and Delaware's own beaches and open spaces before sending conservation dollars overseas when the nation faces fiscal constraints.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- 25 days, zero cosponsors — Coons prioritizes overseas conservation while Delaware's own environmental needs go unaddressed
- Dr. Katz passed the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway bill (SB 241) — real, local environmental protection that became law
- With trillion-dollar deficits, foreign conservation reauthorization is a questionable priority
- Dr. Katz's environmental platform focuses on Delaware's beaches, open spaces, clean water, and clean air first

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

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IMMIGRATION / OVERSIGHT

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

Coons' ICE Accountability Act (S. 3891), introduced February 12, enters its eighth week stalled in the Senate Judiciary Committee with no new cosponsors or committee action. The bill would impose additional oversight requirements and restrictions on ICE operations. Its continued stagnation reflects both the Republican majority's opposition to constraining immigration enforcement and the absence of even intra-caucus Democratic enthusiasm for the measure.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports strong ICE enforcement and secure borders, per his platform. He opposes efforts to hamstring ICE with additional bureaucratic requirements at a time when border security demands maximum operational flexibility. Dr. Katz believes Coons' ICE Accountability Act sends exactly the wrong message — that Washington wants to constrain the agents protecting our communities rather than the criminals threatening them.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Seven weeks stalled, zero cosponsors — even Democrats won't sign onto Coons' anti-ICE bill
- Dr. Katz supports strong ICE enforcement and secure borders — full stop
- Coons wants to add red tape to immigration enforcement while the border remains a national security crisis
- The ICE Accountability Act is about constraining law enforcement, not protecting communities

- Delawareans want a Senator who backs the agents keeping us safe, not one who ties their hands

SOURCES: [Congress.gov](#) — S. 3891 (staff verify URL)

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APPROPRIATIONS & DELAWARE FUNDING

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION / DELAWARE **UPDATED**

Dover AFB FY2027 Military Construction — Week Three Hearing Cycle; Staff Review Continues

As FY2027 defense hearings enter their third week, Dover Air Force Base remains a key Delaware equities item. Dover AFB, home to the 436th and 512th Airlift Wings and the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs, is critical to strategic airlift and aerial port operations. Staff should continue reviewing military construction budget justification documents for any Dover-specific MILCON projects, recapitalization timelines, and infrastructure investments that Coons may highlight or that Dr. Katz should be prepared to address.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz's veterans and defense platform calls for sustaining a robust military force and recognizes Dover AFB's vital role. This is an area where Dr. Katz can acknowledge bipartisan Delaware military funding priorities while pivoting to his broader defense and fiscal responsibility message — supporting Dover AFB doesn't require supporting bloated Pentagon bureaucracy.

• TALKING POINTS

- Dover AFB is critical to national defense — Dr. Katz supports full funding for its missions and infrastructure
- Strong defense and fiscal responsibility go hand in hand — Dr. Katz supports both
- Staff should track specific MILCON requests for Dover to ensure Dr. Katz is prepared on Delaware-specific defense equities
- Dr. Katz's veterans platform explicitly calls for advanced VA medical facilities in southern Delaware to complement Dover-area military healthcare

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 at the start of the business week the current status of FY2026 federal funding — whether the government is operating under a continuing resolution, an enacted omnibus, or individual minibuss appropriations bills. This directly affects Delaware federal installations (Dover AFB, federal agencies in Wilmington) and the state's ability to plan around federal funding streams. If a CR is in place, staff should identify the expiration date and any upcoming funding cliffs that create campaign messaging opportunities.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz's fiscal responsibility platform calls for responsible budgeting and governance. Per his government restructuring legislation in the Delaware State Senate, Dr. Katz believes the federal government's chronic inability to pass appropriations on time reflects exactly the kind of dysfunction he has spent his career fighting — and that 16-year incumbents like Coons own this failure.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Congress can't pass a budget on time — after 16 years, Coons owns this dysfunction
- Dr. Katz authored a five-year government restructuring plan in the Delaware State Senate — he believes in planning, not governing by crisis
- Continuing resolutions hurt Delaware's military installations and federal workforce
- Fiscal responsibility means passing budgets, not kicking the can

SOURCES: Senate Appropriations Committee · Congress.gov — Appropriations ↑ INDEX

DELAWARE

BUSINESS CLIMATE / CORPORATE GOVERNANCE / DELAWARE ECONOMY **UPDATED**

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

ExxonMobil's board-recommended redomiciliation from New Jersey to Texas — bypassing Delaware entirely — now enters its fifth week as a data point in Delaware's eroding position as America's premier corporate domicile state. Coons has not issued any public statement, convened any hearing, or proposed any legislative response addressing why major corporations are choosing Texas over Delaware for incorporation. Delaware's franchise tax revenue and Chancery Court prestige are directly at stake, yet the state's senior U.S. Senator remains silent.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz's economy platform emphasizes reducing corporate tax burdens (he authored SB 100 to repeal Delaware's corporate income tax), incentivizing business investment, and making Delaware competitive for job creation. Per his economic

platform, Dr. Katz believes Delaware's eroding business climate demands action — not silence — from its elected officials, and that corporate flight to Texas is a symptom of policies that make Delaware less competitive.

• TALKING POINTS

- Five weeks of silence from Coons while corporations choose Texas over Delaware
- Dr. Katz authored legislation to repeal Delaware's corporate income tax (SB 100) — he understands what it takes to attract business
- Delaware's franchise tax revenue and Chancery Court reputation are at risk — where is our Senator?
- Dr. Katz's economic platform prioritizes reducing regulatory burdens and incentivizing business investment in Delaware
- If Delaware's senior Senator won't fight for Delaware's business climate, Dr. Katz will

SOURCES: Reuters · Delaware Division of Corporations

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DELAWARE ECONOMY / QUALITY OF LIFE

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

Staff should check Monday morning whether updated Census Bureau population estimates or IRS migration data for Delaware have been released. Recent trends have shown Delaware experiencing slower population growth and net outmigration of higher-income residents to lower-tax states. Updated data would provide fresh ammunition for the affordability and quality-of-life messaging track. Staff should also check for any new Delaware housing market data — median home prices surged 53% from \$221,100 in 2018 to \$339,400 in 2023.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz's homeownership platform specifically cites the 53% surge in Delaware median home prices and calls for tax incentives for first-time homebuyers, increased affordable housing supply, and zoning reforms. Per his platform, Dr. Katz believes outmigration and unaffordable housing are symptoms of failed economic leadership — and that 16 years of Coons in Washington have coincided with Delaware becoming less affordable for working families.

• TALKING POINTS

- Delaware home prices up 53% from 2018-2023 — where is Coons' housing affordability plan?
- Dr. Katz's homeownership platform calls for first-time homebuyer tax incentives and zoning reform to increase supply

- High-income residents are leaving Delaware — that means a shrinking tax base and declining services
- Dr. Katz believes homeownership is central to the American Dream and is committed to making it attainable again for Delaware families

SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau · DrMikeKatz.com — Homeownership

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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 Wilmington VA Medical Center, IRS facilities, and other federal installations. Staff should verify Monday whether any new RIF notices, buyout figures, or Delaware-specific workforce impact numbers have been released over the weekend. This data is essential for calibrating the campaign's response — supporting efficiency while defending Delaware jobs.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports government restructuring and efficiency — he authored Delaware State Senate legislation establishing an independent council to evaluate state services and develop a five-year restructuring plan. Per his government reform record, Dr. Katz believes efficiency reviews and workforce right-sizing are essential to fiscal responsibility, but that affected Delaware workers deserve transparent transition support and retraining opportunities.

• TALKING POINTS

- Dr. Katz supports smart government reform — he authored restructuring legislation in the Delaware State Senate
- Opposing all efficiency reviews protects bureaucracy, not workers
- Delaware federal workers deserve honest leadership about government modernization, not political fearmongering
- Dr. Katz believes fiscal responsibility requires difficult choices — but those choices should be transparent and fair

SOURCES: Coons Senate — Press · OPM.gov

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VETERANS / DELAWARE / HEALTHCARE **UPDATED**

Veterans Affairs — Southern Delaware VA Facility Advocacy — Monday Constituent Engagement 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. Monday's return to session provides an opportunity for Dr. Katz to engage directly with veterans' organizations in southern Delaware, reinforcing his own detailed platform calling for an advanced VA medical facility in the region. This is a rare area of potential bipartisan overlap that Dr. Katz can acknowledge while drawing a sharper contrast on healthcare expertise.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz's veterans platform explicitly calls for a VA Advanced Medical Facility in southern Delaware to serve veterans in Kent and Sussex counties with specialized care including mental health services. As a physician with over 40 years of healthcare experience — including pediatric critical care at Nemours/AI duPont — Dr. Katz brings clinical expertise that Coons simply cannot match on veterans' healthcare issues. Per his veterans platform, Dr. Katz believes effective veterans' healthcare advocacy requires both policy knowledge and clinical understanding.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Dr. Katz's veterans platform specifically calls for an advanced VA medical facility in southern Delaware
- As a physician, Dr. Katz brings 40+ years of clinical expertise to veterans' healthcare advocacy — Coons brings talking points
- Kent and Sussex County veterans shouldn't have to drive to Wilmington or Philadelphia for specialty care
- Dr. Katz can acknowledge bipartisan common ground on southern Delaware VA needs while drawing a clear expertise contrast

SOURCES: DrMikeKatz.com - Veterans · VA.gov

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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 this week. Coons has repeatedly argued that the executive branch must seek explicit congressional approval before any military engagement with Iran, framing this as a constitutional prerogative rather than a

constraint on national defense. Staff should monitor Monday's Foreign Relations Committee schedule for any war powers hearing activity.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports strong Commander-in-Chief authority and believes that constraining the President's ability to respond rapidly to Iranian threats endangers American servicemembers and allies. Per his defense platform, Dr. Katz believes a robust military posture — including credible deterrence — requires executive flexibility, not congressional micromanagement of military operations.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Dr. Katz supports Commander-in-Chief authority to protect American lives and deter adversaries
- Coons wants to give Iran advance notice of what America won't do — that's not deterrence, it's weakness
- Congressional war powers debates shouldn't become tools to hamstring national defense
- Dr. Katz believes credible deterrence requires speed, decisiveness, and executive flexibility

SOURCES: Senate Foreign Relations Committee · Congress.gov

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GOVERNMENT REFORM / FOREIGN AFFAIRS **UPDATED**

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

Coons has continued his vocal opposition to DOGE-driven workforce reduction plans targeting the State Department and USAID, now entering a fifth week of sustained public messaging. Coons has characterized these reductions as gutting American diplomacy and foreign aid capacity. Staff should monitor Monday for any new Coons statements, floor speeches, or Foreign Relations Committee letters on this topic as the Senate returns to session.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports fiscal responsibility and government efficiency across all agencies, including the State Department and USAID, per his economy platform and government restructuring record (Delaware State Senate independent council legislation). Dr. Katz believes foreign affairs agencies should be held to the same efficiency and accountability standards as domestic agencies, and that bloated bureaucracies don't advance American interests abroad.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Five weeks of Coons opposing any efficiency review at State and USAID — is any agency immune from accountability?

- Dr. Katz supports smart diplomacy backed by efficient, accountable institutions
- Dr. Katz's government restructuring record shows he believes every agency — foreign and domestic — should justify its spending
- Defending bureaucratic bloat is not the same as defending American diplomacy

SOURCES: Coons Senate — Press · Senate Foreign Relations Committee † INDEX

UKRAINE / FOREIGN AID

[STAFF VERIFY] Ukraine Supplemental Aid — Monday Status Check

Coons has been one of the Senate's most vocal advocates for continued military and economic assistance to Ukraine. Staff should verify Monday whether any new supplemental aid package language has been circulated, whether the Administration has submitted a new request, or whether Senate leadership has scheduled any related floor action this week. Any movement on Ukraine aid provides a foreign policy messaging opportunity.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports fiscal responsibility and believes all foreign aid — including Ukraine assistance — must be weighed against domestic priorities and subject to rigorous oversight. Per his economy platform, Dr. Katz believes American taxpayer dollars sent overseas deserve the same accountability and transparency he demanded in Delaware state government.

• TALKING POINTS

- Every dollar sent overseas is a dollar not invested in Delaware's infrastructure, veterans, or schools
- Dr. Katz supports oversight and accountability for all foreign aid, including Ukraine assistance
- Coons has been a blank-check advocate for Ukraine aid without adequate accountability measures
- Fiscal responsibility applies globally — Dr. Katz believes in transparency for all government spending

SOURCES: Senate Foreign Relations Committee · Coons Senate — Press † INDEX

SENATE DEMOCRAT CAUCUS WATCH

HOMELAND SECURITY / FISCAL POLICY

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

Senate Democrats are expected to use upcoming DHS and TSA funding debates to push for restrictions on interior immigration enforcement, oppose expanded ICE detention capacity, and resist increases in border security funding. As the Senate returns Monday, staff should monitor whether Schumer or caucus leadership files any amendments or procedural motions on DHS funding. Coons, as a reliable caucus vote and Appropriations Committee member, is expected to align with the Democratic position of redirecting DHS funds away from enforcement toward processing and humanitarian programs.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz supports secure borders, strong ICE enforcement, and full funding for DHS border security operations, per his platform. He opposes efforts by Senate Democrats to use appropriations riders to weaken immigration enforcement. Dr. Katz believes funding debates should strengthen border security, not undermine it — and that Coons' alignment with his caucus on constraining DHS enforcement funding reveals his true priorities.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Senate Democrats want to defund enforcement while funding processing — that's an open-borders spending strategy
- Dr. Katz supports full funding for ICE, CBP, and border security operations
- Coons votes with Schumer on DHS funding — every time, against enforcement
- Delawareans expect their Senator to fund the agencies keeping America safe, not gut them through appropriations tricks

SOURCES: Senate Appropriations Committee · DHS.gov

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ELECTION INTEGRITY / IMMIGRATION

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

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). No Senate Democrat has indicated support. Coons has not made a specific public statement on the bill but is expected to vote with his caucus against it or support a filibuster. Senate Democratic leadership continues to frame the bill as voter suppression targeting minority and low-income communities. No floor vote is currently scheduled for this week.

⚡ **KATZ CONTRAST POINT:** Dr. Katz strongly supports the SAVE Act and believes only U.S. citizens should vote in U.S. elections — a position shared by the overwhelming majority of

Americans. Per his platform, 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 to simple citizenship verification tells Delawareans everything they need to know about his priorities.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Dr. Katz strongly supports the SAVE Act — only citizens should vote in American elections
- Polls consistently show 75%+ of Americans support proof-of-citizenship requirements for voter registration
- Coons won't even state his position publicly — but his caucus vote is predictable
- Calling citizenship verification 'voter suppression' insults every legal voter in Delaware
- Dr. Katz opposes Senate Democrat filibuster efforts that block common-sense election integrity measures

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). This week's priority: Capitalize on the sustained zero-cosponsor trend across all four March bills to drive a legislative effectiveness narrative. Secondary opportunity: ExxonMobil redomiciliation entering week five with Coons' silence — strong Delaware business climate contrast. Staff should prepare a comprehensive 'Month of March' legislative effectiveness comparison document for April 1 release.

• **TALKING POINTS**

- Coons' March legislative record: four bills, zero cosponsors, zero hearings, zero results
- Dr. Katz brings a physician's problem-solving approach — diagnose the problem, develop a treatment plan, deliver results

- Delaware needs a Senator who builds coalitions, not one who introduces bills for press releases
- September 15 primary — team should maintain aggressive earned media pace through April
- Healthcare contrast remains Dr. Katz's strongest differentiator — 40+ years of clinical experience vs. career politician

SOURCES: DrMikeKatz.com · [GovTrack](#) — [Sen. Coons](#)

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Sources: Congress.gov · [GovTrack](#) · [NPR](#) · Coons.senate.gov · [Ballotpedia](#) · [C-SPAN](#)

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