

Memorandum

To: [District 32 Republican Club](#)

Re: Legislation & Politics

From: Chuck Serio, Legislative Committee Chairman

Date: February 6, 2018



## **Federal**

### **H Res 705 Impeaching Donald John Trump**

Representative Al Green (D-TX) introduced a resolution impeaching President Trump on January 19. There was a motion to table (aka kill) the measure. The motion to table was passed ([355-66](#)). I am happy to report that no Republicans voted against killing the impeachment resolution. In the Maryland delegation, only Raskin (D-8) voted against the motion to table. The rest of the Democrats followed the orders of the leadership to hold their fire until the Democrats are in the majority. Many speculate that if the Democrats do take the House in November, those Democrats who voted against impeachment will change their positions. Let's hope that we do not have to find out.

### **HR 4760 – Securing America's Future Act of 2018**

Representative Bob Goodlatte (R-VA-6) introduced this bill on January 10, 2018. It has been mentioned in the news by conservatives as a much-preferred alternative to the proposal recently released by the White House. It is cosponsored by 77 Republicans; many are known to be solid conservatives such as Mark Meadows (R-NC-11), Dave Brat (R-VA-7) and Andy Harris (R-MD-1). According to a [press release from Goodlatte's office](#), it provides interior enforcement, border security, ends chain migration, ends the diversity lottery, requires employers to use E-Verify and a DACA fix. Not a single Democrat has signed on as a cosponsor – that's a good sign. The bill has been assigned to a number of committees, but there have been no hearings yet.

### **S 2311 – Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act**

The House passed its version of this measure on October 3, 2017. However, in the Senate, when this bill was introduced, a vote on cloture on the motion to proceed failed ([51-46](#)). That is how the Senate exercises its make-believe filibuster. Therefore, there will be no direct vote on the bill itself and, according to Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA), the United States will remain one of seven countries, including China and North Korea, that permit abortions that late in a pregnancy.<sup>1</sup> Three Democrats who are up for re-election in November, Casey (PA), Donnelly (IN) and Manchin (WV) voted in

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<sup>1</sup> Sheryl Gay Stolberg, *The New York Times*, January 29, 2018

favor of cloture while **Republicans Susan Collins (ME) and Lisa Murkowski (AK) voted against it.**<sup>2</sup>

### **PN 1423 – David Ryan Stras – The Judiciary**

David Ryan Stras, of Minnesota, was confirmed to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit on January 30 by the US Senate. The vote was [\(56-42\)](#). Thanks to Senator Harry Reid's rule change while he was Majority Leader, the Democrats' filibuster effort failed on a previous motion, and President Trump's nominee to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals was successful. I know little about this nominee, but he must be very good because former Senator Al Franken tried to stop the nomination by withholding his "blue slip" thereby not endorsing a judicial nominee from his home state.<sup>3</sup> [Lambda Legal](#) also opposed his nomination. That's another good sign. Maryland's Senators, Cardin and Van Hollen, voted against confirmation. All of the Republicans present were joined in confirming the nomination by seven Democrats, five of whom are up for re-election in states won by President Trump in 2016.

### **Maryland General Assembly**

#### **HB 1 – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act** (mandatory sick leave)

This bill was passed during the 2017 session and vetoed by Governor Hogan. It requires Maryland employers with more than 15 employees to provide paid sick leave for its employees. The veto was overridden by the House and the Senate on January 11 and January 12 respectively. Those who support this kind of intrusion into the labor market apparently believe that they should not allow the employees and employers decide by mutual agreement how employees are to be compensated. The Senate vote was [\(30-17\)](#). Senator DeGrange voted against overriding the veto. On the House side, the vote of override was [\(88-52\)](#). In both cases, the required 60% majority was met and the bill is now the law. Delegates Sophocleus, Beidle and Chang all voted to override the governor's veto and impose this requirement on Maryland's business.

#### **SB 2/HB 1 – Rape Survivor Family Protection Act**

The Rape Survivor Family Protection Act is active in both chambers. It is sponsored by Senators Feldman, Miller and Lee in the Senate and by Delegates Dumais, Busch, and Kipke in the House. Its purpose is to authorize the courts to terminate the parental rights and responsibilities of the rapist in the event that a pregnancy results from the rape. The bill was reported out of the relevant committees in both chambers as "Favorable" by unanimous votes. The only thing that I found curious in the proceedings was that an amendment proposed by Senator Gail Bates (R-9). Senator Bates proposed that while the courts be authorized to terminate the parental rights of a rapist, it should be able to retain the responsibility of providing child support. This amendment was proposed at the First Reading. It was defeated [\(21-26\)](#) by the Senate. Senator DeGrange voted against the Bates amendment.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Lydia Wheeler, *The Hill*, 9/13/2017