

Webb: Our congressman is frustrated. Let's see why.

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December 10, 2017

Larry Bucshon is “frustrated.”

“We haven’t been able to get ... common sense legislation onto the president’s desk and signed into law,” he wrote on a mailer that’s been crammed into Evansville mailboxes in recent weeks. “But I will continue working to advance the conservative policies Hoosiers in Southwest Indiana want to see.”

It’s not difficult to see the source of Larry’s frustration if you look at the mailer (and you should. If you can't find it, check the trash).

On the back, he lists 12 bills he's supported. All have died in the Senate or remain stalled there, like Han Solo in frozen carbonite – you know, if Han wanted to take away healthcare from poor people.

What are these “conservative policies” the Senate refuses to pass? Let’s take a look at each one.

1. HR 1628 – American Health Care Act

You know this one. If these bills formed a band, this baby would be the lead singer.

The AHCA would have ripped Medicaid to confetti and booted millions from the insurance rolls. The Senate changed it quite a bit, somehow making it even worse, before John McCain mercifully and hilariously voted no, killing healthcare overhaul on the Senate floor like a farmer putting a bullet through the head of a frothing hog.

2. HR 3003 – No Sanctuary for Criminals Act

According to the [Cato Institute](#), a think-tank run by the Koch Brothers, this immigration bill would “threaten and punish cities and states that fail to do the bidding of federal immigration agents. It would also make it more difficult to hold state and local officers accountable for violations of the Constitution committed pursuant to federal commands.”

So it strips away local power and makes it easier to commit crimes against immigrants: a natural choice for small government, tough-on-crime Republicans.

Dear Senate: keep stalling this one.

3. HR 36 – Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

This would make it a crime to perform an abortion on a fetus 20 weeks or older.

Cheryl Axelrod, an OB-GYN who was forced to end her own pregnancy at 13 weeks due to serious complications, argues such a bill could be deadly for women.

“About half of fetuses with serious anomalies won’t be detected until an ultrasound at 20 weeks. It’s also after this gestational age that other pregnancy complications can occur that endanger women’s lives, such as ruptured, infected membranes or severe preeclampsia,” she wrote for Vox. “Contrary to what the far-right claims, pregnancy does kill women.”

4. HR 7 – No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2017

Name pretty much sums it up.

5. HR 2857 – Supporting Families in Substance Abuse Treatment Act

Also self-explanatory. And it actually sounds like it could do some good.

Of course, the American Health Care Act Bucshon supported would have made it harder for families to afford substance abuse treatment, and that would have actually *endangered* families instead of supporting them, but hey, let's not get bogged down in particulars.

6. HR 2842 – Accelerating Individuals into the Workforce Act

This one seems pretty good! It would funnel \$100 million to low-income families to allow them to seek job training and apprenticeships.

7. HR 2792 – Control Unlawful Fugitive Felons Act of 2017

Are there lawful fugitive felons?

8. HR 2372 -- VETERAN Act

Standing for “Veterans Equal Treatment Ensures Relief and Access Now,” this bill would make official what the IRS already allows: letting veterans seek financial assistance for private plans instead of seeking coverage through the VA.

We love veterans in this country – so much so that we keep going to war to create more of them.

9. HR 1259 – VA Accountability First Act of 2017

Would punish any VA employee deemed incompetent; would make a lot of VA employees nervous.

10. HR 1973 – Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act of 2017

Sponsored by Indiana’s Susan Brooks, this bill grew out of the response to the horrific sexual assault perpetrated by former USA Gymnastics physician Larry Nassar.

Out of 418 representatives, three somehow voted against this, including Kentucky Rep. Thomas Massie, who also voted against providing hurricane relief to Houston residents.

11. HR 3697 – Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act

Self-explanatory. It is important to note, however, that the bill addresses illegal immigrants – not Martians with switchblades.

12. HR 115 – Thin Blue Line Act

You get the death penalty if you kill a police officer, firefighter or first-responder.

That's all there is to it. The problem of how states would carry out those death sentences, since none of them can get their hands on reliable, non-torturous lethal injection drugs, is not addressed.

But, according to the mailer, there are a lot of things being ignored right now.