



## **For Immediate Release**

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## **STATEMENT: Why Courts Matter PA Coalition Pressure Forces Senator Toomey to Reverse Course, Agree to Meet Judge Garland**

PENNSYLVANIA – Following Why Courts Matter PA rallies this week in Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh, along with an activist protest in State College, Senator Pat Toomey has relented and agreed to meet with Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland. Previous to building pressure from the coalition, its allies, and citizens all across the state, Senator Toomey had vowed not to even meet with the nominee put forward by President Obama.

“We applaud Senator Toomey’s willingness to respect the building chorus of voices from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, State College to Harrisburg demanding that he do the job he was elected to do. Polls show that Pennsylvanians overwhelmingly feel it is Senator Toomey’s constitutional duty to fairly consider the President’s nominee, and the incredible interest we’ve had in rallies at Senator Toomey’s district offices throughout the state bear that polling out,” said Jodi Hirsh, Co-Chair of the Why Courts Matter - PA coalition.

“Pennsylvanians expect Senator Toomey to take this process and this nominee seriously, and we’re relieved to see he’s finally undertaking the first part of his responsibilities as our U.S. Senator. We look forward to the next steps in the confirmation process -- a fair hearing in the Judiciary Committee and full-Senate vote for Judge Garland,” continued Hirsh.

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*Why Courts Matter PA is a coalition of organizations and advocates who have come together to ensure that our federal courts work to the benefit of all Americans in keeping with the core constitutional values of liberty, equality and justice for all. WCM-PA supports an appointment and confirmation process that identifies and provides timely confirmation votes for well-qualified nominees for federal judgeships who are dedicated to fairness and impartiality. Learn more about WCM-PA [here](#).*