



For Immediate Release

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RELEASE: On 125th Day of Obstruction of Judge Merrick Garland, Community Leaders Call on Sen. Toomey to “Do His Job”

PENNSYLVANIA – Today, Why Courts Matter - PA partners in Pittsburgh and Allentown marked 125 days of Senate obstruction of Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland—the longest in U.S. history—with two rallies in front of Senator Pat Toomey’s district offices to demand he and his colleagues do their jobs.

[Pittsburgh photos here.](#)

[Allentown photos here.](#)

“The Senate’s obstruction of the nomination process cannot continue. The Senate must do its constitutionally mandated job of offering advice and consent on Supreme Court nominees. The obstruction around Judge Garland’s nomination is unprecedented, and leaves a gap on our nation’s highest court that must be filled if the federal government is to continue to function as the Founders intended,” said Christine Stone, Co-Chair of the Why Courts Matter - PA coalition who spoke at the Pittsburgh rally.

“Senator Toomey has been negligent in his responsibilities to the people of Pennsylvania. Instead of moving forward laws to benefit our residents, and insure that our Country has a functioning Supreme Court, the Senator has instead resorted to obstructionism while promoting the same politics of hate as his Party’s presumptive nominee Donald Trump,” said Adanjesus Marin, Director of Make the Road Pennsylvania, who helped organize the Allentown Rally.

“The obstruction of Judge Garland is one of countless areas of concern to constituents where Senator Toomey has refused to take action. Pennsylvanians are genuinely concerned about the ability of the federal courts—from district courts on up to the Supreme Court—to hear cases in a timely manner and give ample consideration to each and every case. From the environment, to workers’ rights, to women’s health, to immigration, no matter what issue or issues you care about, federal court judges impact those issues every single day,” said Erin Kramer, Executive Director of One Pittsburgh, who also spoke at the Pittsburgh rally.

NARAL Pro-Choice America was on hand in Pittsburgh to deliver a trophy to Senator Toomey for being a part of the longest delayed Supreme Court nomination in U.S. history. NARAL Pro-Choice America today submitted an official petition for Republican Senators to be recognized as Guinness World Record-holders for the longest delay of Supreme Court confirmation process in history.

“Senate Republicans are in a league of their own when it comes to obstructing the constitutional process,” said Ilyse Hogue, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America. “Their refusal to even hold a hearing to fill the vacancy on our nation’s highest court sets a new standard in the petty politics of obstruction. Throughout this process, Senate Republicans have made clear that they have the wrong priorities. Instead of doing their job, Senate Republicans are obstructing the constitutional process so that Donald Trump can make the next appointment to the Supreme Court. It’s time for Senate Republicans to stop putting their party’s interests ahead of their constitutional duties.”

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