



## This Past Week in Washington

By U.S. Senator Dave McCormick

Owning a home shouldn't feel out of reach. That's why I spoke on the Senate floor in support of the ROAD to Housing Act, bipartisan legislation aimed at tackling the growing housing shortage facing families across Pennsylvania.

Right now, our Commonwealth is short about 100,000 homes, home prices have climbed to \$325,000, and the median age of a first-time homebuyer has risen from 29 to 40—putting the dream of homeownership further out of reach for many young families.

The ROAD to Housing Act takes important steps to address this crisis by cutting red tape to build more homes, helping homeowners repair aging houses, and empowering local communities instead of Washington bureaucrats. I'm proud the bill passed the Senate Banking Committee unanimously, 24–0.

I also worked with my colleague, Senator Fetterman on several provisions within the legislative package to support Pennsylvania workers, homeowners, and our 800,000 veterans. Restoring the path to homeownership is critical to strengthening communities across our Commonwealth and ensuring the American Dream remains within reach.

Also this past week, I joined Senator Fetterman in writing a joint opinion piece in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* about the housing challenges across Pennsylvania. When we were teenagers growing up in rural Pennsylvania, Americans typically bought their first home around age 29. Today, first-time homebuyers are often in their 40s.

At the same time, Pennsylvania is already 100,000 homes short, home prices have risen 75% in the last five years, and more than one million households spend over 30% of their income on housing.

That's exactly why we're working together to support the ROAD to Housing Act, a bipartisan bill that will help build more homes, reduce delays that drive up construction costs, and preserve and repair the homes we already have. Housing affordability isn't a Republican or Democratic problem—it's an American one, and it demands bipartisan action.

## Voting to Fund the Department of Homeland Security

With the current situation in the Middle East, it is more important than ever that we fully fund the United States Department of Homeland Security, which plays a critical role in protecting our homeland and supporting the law enforcement and intelligence agencies that keep Americans safe.

Just this past week, we saw how real the threat remains. Two young men from Pennsylvania were arrested after allegedly attempting an ISIS-inspired bombing in New York City, using improvised explosive devices packed with nails and shrapnel.

Fortunately, the New York City Police Department and federal law enforcement acted quickly and prevented what could have been a devastating attack.

At a time when threats from terrorism and hostile regimes persist, shutting down the Department of Homeland Security is not an option. Congress should come together to ensure our homeland security professionals have the resources they need to keep Americans safe.

We are also seeing extensive security lines in our nation's airports during a busy spring break period. TSA agents deserve their full paychecks for the work they are doing everyday to keep our country safe and secure.

Democrats refuse to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security because of ICE; however, ICE is already funded through the Working Families Tax Cut Act and reforms have already been decided, including implementing body cameras.



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