Federal Judge Michael Baylson ruled that the Trump administration’s attempt to withhold $1.5 million in federal law-enforcement grant money from Philadelphia (because of its designation as a sanctuary city) “violates statutory and constitutional law.”

Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-8) has joined 22 other Republicans, including Charlie Dent (signed before he retired), and Ryan Costello (PA-6) in signing a discharge petition to force four immigration bills out of committee and to a vote before the full US House. The petition was originated by Democrats and requires 218 signatures.

Governor Wolf announced $900,000 in grants to help 200 schools make breakfast available for all students. Schools will use the grants to increase and sustain breakfast participation by 20 percent by implementing or expanding alternative breakfast options, such as grab-n-go breakfast, breakfast in the classroom, and second chance breakfast during study halls.

Fourteen governors, including PA Governor Tom Wolf, sent a letter to US Dept of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar threatening to sue if the proposed Title X rule that would defund Planned Parenthood by $60 million goes into effect.

Demands have forced double votes on 95 percent of Trump’s judicial nominees so far. That’s compared to 8 percent of President Barack Obama’s nominees at this point, and a flat zero for Presidents George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, etc., etc. Vacancies are now more than 30 percent higher than when Trump took office. More than half of the current vacancies are designated as “judicial emergencies.”

Illinois became the 37th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution – 36 years after the 1982 deadline! Proponents say it is intended to ensure women are treated the same as men under state and federal laws. However, opponents say it will take away the ability to recognize essential biological differences between men and women and abortion rights will be entrenched in our Constitution.

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