Sen. Chris Coons was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2010 as Delaware’s junior member, behind the more senior Sen. Tom Carper. Coons, who eventually took Joe Biden’s seat when he became vice president, is running for re-election this year. The first-term senator faces a controversy over his vote on President Barack Obama’s choice to run the Justice Department’s Office of Civil Rights. Some advocacy groups, including the Delaware NAACP, are taking aim at Coons after he voted against Debo Adegbile, a leading civil rights attorney.

On this day, Feb. 25, Coons keeps busy in his Washington, D.C., job. Like every day, Coons leaves his Delaware home for the 7 a.m. commuter train to Washington, arriving with minutes to spare.

His day includes speaking at an energy conference, participating in a Senate committee meeting, attending a daily caucus meeting with fellow Senate Democrats, interviewing a job candidate for a position on his staff, and sharing lunch with Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J. The day also featured a meeting with U.S. Ambassador to China Max Baucus and a quick interview with WDEL radio.

As the day ends, Coons hops on the Acela Express train to return home. He uses his time commuting to review notes for the following day in between conversations with passengers. One passenger asked him why he makes the commute every day, instead of living in D.C. Coons brought up his children, saying at their age, they need their father around.

PHOTOS BY KYLE GRANTHAM