

BASIC DECENCY

On January 19, paramedics were called to the home of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor to treat her for symptoms of low blood sugar. She is fine now and back to work, but (trust me) severe low blood sugar events can be very frightening and physically exhausting.

TELL her that you're glad she's doing better again and that you deeply appreciate her work on the court

- **Justice Sonia Sotomayor**, Supreme Court, 1 First St. NE, Washington DC 20543, (202) 479-3000

Congress's \$36.5 billion disaster relief package for hurricane and wildfire damage included \$4.9 billion for Puerto Rico. The relief earmarked for Puerto Rico was, however, unique in that it would come in the form of a loan, rather than as a grant—which was the form of disbursement for all remaining relief recipients. The monies for Puerto Rico were to be distributed through the Community Disasters Loan Program. Now, however, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Treasury Department, which have responsibility for the loan disbursement, have concluded that Puerto Rico is not eligible for the loan because the nation has some \$1.7 billion for ongoing operations.

DEMAND fair treatment for Puerto Rico

- **Steve Mnuchin**, Secretary of the Treasury, Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20220, (202) 622-2000

- **William B. “Brock” Long**, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C St. SW, Washington DC 20472, (202) 646-2500

- **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323

- **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154

- **Senator Thad Cochran** (R-MS), Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee, 113 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5054

- **Senator Patrick Leahy** (D-VT), Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee, 437 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4242

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Member, Senate Appropriation Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

In a bold move, Senator Tim Scott put a hold on all of the GOP's trade nominees until U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer is more responsive to his concerns. Scott said he had agreed to support Lighthizer because the former Washington trade lawyer had promised to be “open, transparent and available.”

THANKS for his willingness to take a hard stand on openness, transparency, and availability of government officials.

- **Senator Tim Scott** (R-SC), 717 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 224-6121

Senator Tom Cotton (reportedly Trump's pick for CIA Director) is sending "cease and desist" letters to who have been contacting him frequently. We're not his constituents, but we can point out that he has an obligation to listen to the people who are.

REMIND him of the importance of listening to constituents "You work for us"

• **Senator Tom Cotton** (R-AZ), 124 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2353

Trump plans to appoint Tom Brunell, who literally wrote the book on Gerrymandering (Redistricting and Representation: Why Competitive Elections Are Bad for America), deputy director for the 2020 census. Redistricting, elections, distribution of House seats, the balance of power and social programs are all in jeopardy from this blatantly partisan pick. He had originally planned to nominate Brunell for Census director, but this position requires Senate Confirmation, which is not required for the deputy director.

SHARE your disgust with this partisan appointment

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154

Good news from the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC), which has ruled that any profits accruing to California utilities via the tax plan passed in December must be converted into lowered consumer payments, rather than dividends to shareholders. The Commission's spokesperson wrote in an email that "at the CPUC's direction, all of the electric and gas utilities in California are tracking the savings from the tax law changes and will be required to refund the savings to their customers."

THANKS for focusing on consumers, not shareholders

• **Michael Picker**, President, CPUC

• **Carla J. Peterman**, Commissioner, CPUC

• **Liane M. Randolph**, Commissioner, CPUC

• **Martha Guzman Aceves**, Commissioner, CPUC

• **Clifforn Rechtschaffen**, Commissioner, CPUC

ALL can be reached at

500 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 703-2782

"Food insecurity" (aka "hunger") afflicts an increasing portion of college students. These students do not have access to food stamps, administered by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program because of the difficulty of meeting federal work requirements for food stamp recipients.

DEMAND a plan for ending campus hunger

• Brandon Lipps, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302, (703) 305-2602

- **Senator Pat Roberts** (R-KS), Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4774
- **Senator Debbie Stabenow** (D-MI), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, 731 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4822
- **Representative Glenn Thompson** (R-PA), Chair, House Subcommittee on Nutrition, 124 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5121
- **Representative Jim McGovern** (D-MA), Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Nutrition, 438 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6101

Just when you think things can't get any weirder, the Trump administration has appointed Taylor Weyeneth deputy chief of staff for the National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), an office in charge of billions of dollars in spending to fight drug abuse and the opioid epidemic. With the resignation of the ONDCP's director, who had supported legislation increasing the powers of opioid manufacturers and limiting the power of the Drug Enforcement Agency, Weyeneth is now assistant to the acting U.S. Drug Czar. And who is Weyeneth? A twenty-four-year-old who left law school to work for the Trump campaign in 2016. He has no history of work in government. His only history with pharmaceuticals is working at his father's chia factory that was used to illegally process steroids from China. His qualifications? Trump officials explained that Weyeneth was qualified to combat the nation's opioid epidemic because he once lost a relative to an overdose and was "moved" by the incident.

INQUIRIES about what the hell is going on to

- **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

Remind our members of Congress that we want the following addressed and funded in any spending bill: A) CHIP, B) DACA, C) Federally Qualified Health Centers, and D) Puerto Rico **URGINGS** to stand firm to

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553
- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

Trump's reference to "shithole countries" was obscene (to say the least), but in general, I think we're better off pushing for a clean DACA than putting our energy into castigating Trump for his hateful remarks. The exception: Senator Lindsey Graham, who responded immediately to Trump's remarks, according to several people present at the meeting. Graham apparently told Trump that America is "an idea, not a race"; that diversity is a strength, not a weakness; and that

Graham himself was descended from immigrants who came to the United States from “shithole countries with no skills.”

THANK Graham for speaking truth to power, when others were appalled, but said nothing

• **Senator Lindsey Graham**, 290 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5972

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has been decrying the Democratic obstruction of Trump’s judicial nominees. Let’s get in touch with Senator McConnell to say: “Obstruction? We remember Merrick Garland.” Gee Senator, hypocrite much?

CHASTISE

• **Senator Mitch McConnell**, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541

Senator Mazie Hirono, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has stated on Twitter that she’s asking nominees to our courts, under oath, whether they have a history of sexual assault or harassment. We can’t compel honesty, but we can make the repercussions for lying as significant as possible.

THANK

• **Senator Mazie Hirono** (D-HI), 730 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6361

CIVIL RIGHTS

HR 2282 and S 1006 would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation in places of public accommodation. This legislation has many co-sponsors and is stuck in committees. In the House HR 2282 is before the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. S 1006 is with the Senate Judiciary Committee. All citizens deserve these protections.

URGE quick action on this legislation from

- **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553
- **Representative Steve King** (R-IA), Chair, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 2210 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4426
- **Representative Ron DeSantis** (R-FL), Vice Chair, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 1524 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2706
- **Representative Steve Cohen** (R-TN), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 2404 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3265

In what sounds more like the 1960s Civil Rights-era realities, “If an LGBTQ couple drove from Maine to California today, their legal rights and civil rights protections could change more than 20 times at state borders and city lines,” HRC President Chad Griffin said in a statement. Let’s **TELL** our federal legislators that civil rights protections need to be made country wide for everyone and not left to local discrimination.

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553
- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

The Trump administration has announced it is creating a new Conscience and Religious Freedom Division within Health and Human Services. Policy accompanying the Division’s creation will allow doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers to refuse services that violate their religious or moral beliefs. This not only puts at further risk basic health services like abortion, it will allow healthcare professionals to deny all treatment to any community not approved by their faith. This means LGBTQI people and non-Christians, among others, may find themselves at the mercy of ambulance drivers who refuse to transport them to hospitals, emergency room workers who refuse treatment of potentially fatal injuries and more.

CONDEMN this pandering to bigotry

- **Don Wright**, Acting Secretary of Health & Human Services HHS, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20201, (877) 696-6775

• **Roger Severino**, Director, Office for Civil Rights. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, D.C. 20201, (800) 368-1019

The Federal Intelligence Surveillance Act has been approved in both the House and Senate, despite provisions that blatantly violate American's right to privacy. Included among those voting for this legislation were a handful of California Democrats.

CHASTIZE these legislators for their willingness to expose Californians (and all of us) to government spying

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Representative Pete Aguilar** (D-CA), 1223 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3201

• **Representative Ami Bera** (D-CA), 1431 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5716

• **Representative Julia Brownley** (D-CA), 1019 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5811

• **Representative Jim Costa** (D-CA), 2081 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3341

• **Representative John Garamendi** (D-CA), 2438 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-1880

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

• **Representative Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA), 233 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4965

• **Representative Scott Peters** (D-CA), 1122 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-0508

• **Representative Raúl Ruiz** (D-CA), 1319 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5330

• **Representative Adam Schiff** (D-CA), 2372 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4176

• **Representative Eric Swalwell** (D-CA), 129 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5065

• **Representative Mike Thompson** (D-CA), 231 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3311

• **Representative Norma Torres** (D-CA), 1713 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6161

CYBERSECURITY

Consumer rights advocate Senator Elizabeth Warren has introduced S2289, which calls for the development of cyber security practices to be required of Consumer reporting agencies (the folks who give us all credit ratings) and that imposes penalties for practices that put the security of consumer information at risk. S2289 is currently before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

SHARE your enthusiasm for this proposed legislation

- **Senator Michael Crapo** (R-ID), Chair, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 239 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6142
- **Senator Sherrod Brown** (D-OH), Ranking Member, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 713 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2315
- **Senator Elizabeth Warren** (D-MA), Member, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 317 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4543

EDUCATION

Regulators from the Department of Education have determined that by setting caps on the percentage of students who could receive special education services Texas has illegally led the state's schools to deny thousands of students needed therapy, tutoring, and counselling. While previous state and national averages for students receiving these services had been approximately 12%, Texas limited these services to a maximum of 8.5%, penalizing districts that went over the cap. This policy resulted in some 150,000 students being denied educational support services to which they were entitled.

DEMAND a strong federal response to this outrage

- **Secretary Betsy DeVos**, U.S. Department of Education, 7W301 LBJ Building, Mail Number 0100, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington DC 20202, (202) 401-3000
- **Senator Lamar Alexander** (R-TN), Chair, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, 405 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4944
- **Senator Patty Murray** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, 154 Russell Senate Office Building. Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-262

ELECTIONS

Since July, the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2017, HR 2978, has been sitting with the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice. Among other things, HR 2978 tracks violations of voting rights within states, and states with multiple violations will be subject to remedies outlined in the Act.

PRESS for swift passage of HR 2978 in committee and its move to the full House

- **Representative Steve King** (R-IA), Chair, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 2210 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4426
- **Representative Ron DeSantis** (R-FL), Vice Chair, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 1524 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2706
- **Representative Steve Cohen** (R-TN), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 2404 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3265
- **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2309 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5431
- **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2109 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5635

The Secure Elections Act, S 2261, would allow states to assess the weaknesses of their voting systems and to implement proven measures that protect voting integrity. S 2261 will provide a line of defense against foreign interference in future elections. It is currently before the Senate Rules and Administration Committee.

ASK that this legislation be moved quickly through committee

- **Senator Richard Shelby** (R-AL), Chair, Rules and Administration Committee, 304 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5744
- **Senator Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN), Ranking Member, Rules and Administration Committee, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3244
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Member, Rules and Administration Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

THANK cosponsor

- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

The K.O.C.H. (Keep Our Campaigns Honest) Act, HR 1439, directs the FCC to require disclosure announcements that reveal the names of significant donors to the PACs paying for broadcast and cablecast matter of a political nature. This legislation is currently before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

URGE swift movement of this legislation through committee

- **Representative Marcia Blackburn** (R-TN), Chair, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, 2266 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 224-2811
- **Representative Michael Doyle** (D-PA), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, 239 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2135

ASK our representative to become a co-sponsor

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

S 1231 and HR 2669 would amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to allow all eligible voters to vote by mail in federal elections. S 1231 is currently before the Senate Rules and Administration Committee. HR 2669 is before the House Administration Committee and the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

URGE swift movement of these pieces of legislation through committee

• **Senator Richard Shelby** (R-AL), Chair, Rules and Administration Committee, 304 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5744

• **Senator Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN), Ranking Member, Rules and Administration Committee, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3244

• **Representative Gregg Harper** (R-MI), Chair, House Administration Committee, 2227 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5031

• **Representative Robert Brady** (D-PA), Ranking Member, House Administration Committee, 2004 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4731

• **Representative Trey Gowdy** (R-SC), Chair, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, 2418 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 224-6030

• **Representative Elijah Cummings** (D-MD), Ranking Member, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, 2163 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4741

THANK our Senators for cosponsoring S 1231

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

ASK our representative to become a co-sponsor

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

The Restore Democracy Resolution, HRes. 343, would express the sense of the House that the Citizens United ruling has opened the door to the corrupting influence of money in politics, asserts that regulation of the raising and spending of money and in-kind gifts in federal elections should be the purview of Congress, and that all political contributions should be publicly disclosed so voters know the sponsors of political advertising. It is currently before the House Administration Committee, the House Rules Committee, and the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice.

URGE swift movement of this resolution through committees

• **Representative Gregg Harper** (R-MI), Chair, House Administration Committee, 2227 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5031

• **Representative Robert Brady** (D-PA), Ranking Member, House Administration Committee, 2004 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4731

• **Representative Pete Sessions** (R-TX), Chair, House Rules Committee, 2233 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2231

- **Representative Louise McIntosh Slaughter** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Rules Committee, 2469 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3615
- **Representative Steve King** (R-IA), Chair, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 2210 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4426
- **Representative Ron DeSantis** (R-FL), Vice Chair, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 1524 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2706
- **Representative Steve Cohen** (R-TN), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 2404 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3265

A number of bills regarding redistricting reform with the aim of ending gerrymandering are currently before the House. These include HR 1102, HR 711/722, HR 713, and HR 151.

REMIND our Representative that we're deeply concerned about gerrymandering and want him to take every possible action to oppose it

- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

Senators Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) have introduced the “Defending Elections from Threats by Establishing Redlines (DETER) Act,” which names specific foreign actions against U.S. elections that warranting penalties from the federal government. The Hill reports that Van Hollen said that the bill would send “an unequivocal message to Russia and any other foreign actor who may follow its example: if you attack us, the consequences will be severe.”

ASK our members of Congress to support this bipartisan effort

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553
- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

A Senate Foreign Relations Committee report says the US is not prepared to defend against possible Russian meddling in the 2018 midterm elections or the 2020 presidential contest.

DEMAND immediate action from our elected representatives to protect the integrity of our elections from foreign interference (particularly the Russians)

- **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323
- **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154
- **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2401

- **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5876
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553
- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

In January, two Democratic Senators released key information on possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia and on Russian interference in European and American democracy. Senator Benjamin Cardin released a report, “Putin’s Asymmetric Assault on Democracy in Russia and Europe: Implications for U.S. National Security.” Senator Feinstein released a transcript of testimony by Glenn Simpson, founder of the investigation agency Fusion GPS, given before the Senate Judiciary Committee about possible Trump Campaign-Russia collusion in our most recent Presidential election.

THANK these Senators for keeping the American public informed

- **Senator Benjamin L. Cardin** (D-MD), 509 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4524
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

The dissolution of the Pence/Kobach Commission on Voter Integrity was good news, but it does not end Trump’s offensive. Kobach says he will now work with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to study “election integrity.” The DHS, however, has no statutory authority to investigate voter fraud; moreover, Kobach wants to use data from DHS’s Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) to raise allegations of non-citizens voting. Using this data could inaccurately flag thousands of people as illegal voters.

DECRY this unauthorized and potentially highly inaccurate investigation

- **Secretary Kris Kobach**, Kansas Secretary of State, Vice-Chair Presidential Advisory Committee on Election Integrity, Memorial Hall, 1st Floor, 120 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612

REQUEST careful monitoring of any actions taken by Kobach from

- **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

ENVIRONMENT

Albert Kelly, a senior adviser at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has a troubled history. The Intercept reports that “Before becoming an EPA senior adviser in May, Kelly was chair of SpiritBank, a community bank in Oklahoma that made loans to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. Though Kelly had no experience with environmental issues, Pruitt hired him and tasked him with oversight of the agency’s Superfund program – just two weeks after the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation fined him \$125,000 for making a loan not approved by the banking regulator. In July, he was banned from the banking industry for life.” This spring Kelly led the Superfund Task Force, producing a list of recommendations with no documentation whatsoever of the Task Force’s procedures or the materials it considered. Given shrinking EPA budgets and the need for highly qualified leadership, Kelly seems to be a particularly inappropriate choice. By the way, his annual salary at the EPA? \$172,100.

DENOUNCE the apparent cronyism that places an unqualified and morally questionable individual high up in the EPA

- **EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**, Mail Code 1101A, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460
- **Senator John Barrasso** (R-WY), Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 307 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6441
- **Senator Thomas Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 513 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2441
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

Our water system is under threat from the Farm Regulatory Certainty Act, HR 848, which amends the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, so that animal waste, manure, and fertilizer originating from or used by agricultural operations will be exempted from the requirements of the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act. HR 848 is currently before the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on Environment and the Economy.

URGE swift movement of this legislation through committee

- **Representative John Shimkus** (R-IL), Chair, Subcommittee on the Environment and the Economy, 2217 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5271
- **Representative Paul Tonko** (R-NY), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on the Environment and the Economy, 2463 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5076

ASK for support for HR 848 when it reaches the House floor

- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-286

The California State Water Board (CSWB) has prepared rules to be voted on this summer intended to protect California from the Trump administration’s rollback of Clean Water Act protections for seasonal streambeds, isolated pools, and other transitory wetlands.

THANKS for preparing these rules and **ENCOURAGEMENT** for swift passage

- **Felicia Marcus**, Chair, CSWB

- **Steven Moore**, Vice Chair, CSWB
- **Tam M. Doduc**, Member, SCWB
- **Dorene d’Adamo**, Member, SCWB
- **E. Joaquin Esquivel**, Member, SCWB

ALL can be reached at

California Water Board, State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100, (916) 341-5615

The Senate is currently considering a House-approved bill that would provide \$81 billion to aid recovery efforts related to our recent hurricanes and wildfires, but in typical GOP fashion, there are a couple of provisions that have little to do with disaster relief and a lot to do with gutting safeguards. One provision would make the National Flood Insurance Program, which enables development in areas prone to flooding (e.g. sensitive wetlands), exempt from the Endangered Species Act.

ASK for opposition to unrelated, environment-harming provisions

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra wrote a NYT opinion piece on proposed new coastal drilling that stated “We [Californians] don’t wake up in the morning looking to pick a fight with this administration. But we won’t sit back when our Constitution, our laws, our people or our 800 miles of pristine coastline in California are threatened.”

THANKS to

- **Attorney General Xavier Becerra**, 1300 “I” St., Sacramento, CA 95814-2919, (916) 445-9555

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), a branch of the Department of Interior, declared the Canadian lynx recovered last week and said the wild cats no longer need special protections. FWS said it will begin drafting a rule to revoke the lynx’s threatened listing across the lower 48 states under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This despite the fact that global warming is likely to put this species at further risk due to changes in its habitat.

DEMAND continued protection for the Canadian lynx from

- **Greg Sheehan**, Principle Deputy Director, FWS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240, (202) 208-6541
- **Senator John Barrasso** (R-WY), Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 307 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6441
- **Senator Thomas Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 513 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2441
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

- **Senator John Boozman** (R-AZ), Chair, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water and Wildlife, 141 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-4843
- **Senator Tammy Duckworth** (D-IL), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water and Wildlife, 524 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2854

In the 1980s, when the federal government last opened California Coastal waters to offshore drilling, the city of Santa Cruz came up with a clever way of hindering drilling that other cities and counties soon began following: Santa Cruz banned the building of any new onshore oil facilities, including pipelines, without a public vote. The logic was that offshore drill permits would be much less attractive to oil companies if they were unable to bring that oil to shore and to build facilities to process it. This ban was challenged by oil companies in court in the 1990s and upheld. Now the California Senate and Assembly both have before them bills that would institute such a policy statewide, SB 834 and AB 1775.

URGE your California Senator and Assemblyperson to support these bills

- **Senator Bill Monning**, 701 Ocean St., Suite 318A, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-5124
- **Assemblymember Anna Caballero** [Watsonville, Hollister, Salinas], 275 Main St., Suite 400, Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 768-3035
- **Assembly Member Mark Stone** [Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St., 318B, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-1503

Trump has re-nominated unqualified climate change denier Kathleen Hartnett to lead the White House Council on Environmental Quality after her nomination was returned to the President when the Senate closed the first session of the 115th Congress. We may recall that Hartnett White had a disastrous hearing last year. As Moyers & Co. reported in November “[Hartnett] falsely claims that climate science is ‘highly uncertain,’ characterizes it as the ‘dark side of a kind of paganism, the secular elite’s religion,’ and argues that the ‘climate crusade,’ if unchecked, would essentially destroy democracy.” Hartnett also promotes benefits of carbon emissions, claiming carbon dioxide “has none of the characteristics of a pollutant that could harm human health.” Hartnett wasn’t an appropriate choice in 2017. She’s an equally inappropriate choice in 2018.

TELL the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and your Senators to stand by their objections to this inappropriate appointment

- **Senator John Barrasso** (R-WY), Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 307 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6441
- **Senator Thomas Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 513 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2441
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

ETHICS

Daniel Craig, senior vice-president of the disaster recovery firm Adjusters' International was very briefly a nominee for a top Federal Emergency Management Agency post until NBC News revealed he had been under federal investigation for falsifying government travel and timekeeping records in 2005, when he worked for the Bush administration. He has remained working for Adjusters' which—surprise, surprise—has just been awarded a \$133 million contract for hurricane clean-up in Puerto Rico. The contract is funded by FEMA.

DECRY this conflict of interest

- **William B. “Brock” Long**, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C St. SW, Washington DC 20472, (202) 646-2500
- **John Kelly**, Acting Inspector General, Department of the Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security, Mailstop 0305, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0305, (800) 323-8603 (false claims reporting number)
- **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323
- **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154
- **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2401
- **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5876

A photo shows Secretary of Energy Rick Perry embracing coal company executive Robert E. Murray at the end of a meeting. Additional photos from the same meeting show Perry holding a document on Murray Energy Corporation letterhead titled “Action Plan.” The photographer, Simon Edelman, has been fired from his position as a Department of Energy photographer since these images have surfaced in the press. He is currently challenging his dismissal under regulations protecting “whistle blowers.”

REMINDERS that he works for us and **DEMANDS** for reinstatement of Edelman

- **Rick Perry**, Secretary of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20585, (202) 586-5000

Over the winter holiday week, the Trump administration quietly waved fines owed by five banks for manipulating global interest rates. One of these was Deutsche Bank, which just happens to be owed \$130+ million by Trump and his business empire and has been fined in the past for its role in Russian money laundering.

REMIND Trump we see what he's up to

- **Donald Trump**, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111
- URGE** your members of Congress to ask for an investigation of this unethical-appearing move by the administration

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553
- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

HEALTH

The RAISE (Recognize, Assist, Include, Support and Engage) Family Caregivers Act would direct Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop a national family caregiving strategy and establish a National Family Caregiving Council to advise HHS on family caregiving policy. The Act has been passed in the Senate and the House and awaits Trump's signature.

THANKS to the bipartisan group responsible for this legislation

- **Senator Susan Collins** (R-ME), 413 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2523
- **Senator Tammy Baldwin** (D-WI), 709 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5653
- **Representative Gregg Harper** (R-MS), 2227 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5031
- **Representative Kathy Castor** (D-FL), 2052 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3376

URGE immediate signing

- **Donald Trump**, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

The Senate Finance Committee has moved the confirmation of Alex Azar as head of Health and Human Services to a vote of the full Senate. Azar is a former Eli Lilly executive, who opposes the Affordable Care Act and supports converting Medicaid from an entitlement program covering everyone who is eligible into block grants.

TELL our Senators to reject this nominee who will probably be more concerned about industry profits than the health of

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

In a move that defies logic (though there's been a lot of that going around lately), the Trump Administration has halted a program that evaluates the effectiveness of substance abuse and behavioral health therapies. The National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs (NREPP) and Practices has been operated by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration since 1997. NREPP maintained a database of 400+ programs treating substance abuse, teen depression, and parenting that have been validated by rigorous outcomes measures. No new body has been suggested to replace the NREPP or carry on its essential work.

ADVOCATE for the continued existence of this program

- **Senator Lamar Alexander** (R-TN), Chair, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, 405 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4944
- **Senator Patty Murray** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, 154 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2621
- **Senator Patrick J. Toomey** (R-PA), Chair, Finance Subcommittee on Healthcare, 248 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4254

• **Senator Debbie Stabenow** (D-MI), Ranking Member, Finance Subcommittee on Healthcare, 731 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4822

Remind your members of Congress that we still need full funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). When we fail to provide children with necessary medical treatment, we weaken ourselves as nation both ethically and economically.

CALL for vigorous defense of CHIP

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

The Trump administration is beginning to grant waivers to states that want to require that Medicaid recipients work in order to receive benefits. Healthcare is a basic right; people shouldn't have to prove they "deserve" it. While California will likely not be requesting a waiver, we can still let our officials know how we feel.

ASSERT a commitment to support access to healthcare by NOT requesting a waiver to add work rules

• **Mari Cantwell**, Chief Deputy Director, Health Care Programs, California Department of Healthcare Services, 1501 Capitol Ave., 6th floor, MS 0000, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 440-7418

• **Governor Edmund G. Brown**, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 558-3160

• **Senator Bill Monning**, 701 Ocean St., Suite 318A, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-5124

• **Assembly Member Anna Caballero** [Watsonville, Hollister, Salinas], 275 Main St., Suite 400, Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 768-3035

• **Assembly Member Mark Stone** [Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St., 318B, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-1503

IMMIGRATION

Border Patrol agents are supposed to ask a series of questions to ascertain whether an undocumented person is in danger. Supposed to. But often they don't, resulting in deaths of individuals who had a right to asylum in the U.S. A team of a New Yorker writer and 12 graduate students have identified over sixty cases in which deportees were killed after being returned to their country of origin.

DEMAND adherence to practice that protects immigrants deserving asylum

- **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495
- **Thomas D. Homan**, Acting Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20536, organization public affairs (202) 732-4242
- **Derek Banner**, Acting Executive Associate Director, Homeland Security Investigations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20536, organization public affairs (202) 732-4242
- **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323
- **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154
- **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2401
- **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5876

Recently Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raided 98 Seven-11 stores in 17 states, resulting in the arrests of 21 workers suspected of illegal employment.

OBJECT to this use of our taxes while vital federal functions languish for lack of funding

- **Thomas Homan**, Acting Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St. SW, Washington DC 20536, (888) 351-4024
- **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323
- **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154
- **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2401
- **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5876

Two bills are currently before the California Senate that would strengthen protections for undocumented Californians. SB 183 prohibits actions by immigration agents in buildings owned

or operated by the State of California. SB 691 requires that California educational institutions do not discriminate on the basis of immigration status.

ENCOURAGE support for this crucial legislation

• **Senator Bill Monning**, State Capitol, Room 313, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4917

Several recent news reports have highlighted border patrol agent's routine vandalization of water, blankets, and supplies left in the desert for migrants, putting those attempting to cross the border in increased mortal risk. Daytime desert temperatures put migrants at risk of death due to dehydration. Nighttime deserts temperatures put migrants at risk of fatal hypothermia. Enforcing immigration law is one thing; deliberately exposing other to risk of death is another.

TELL the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Custom Enforcement that the American people do not want blood on their hands

• **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495

• **Thomas D. Homan**, Deputy Director and Senior Official, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20536, organization public affairs (202) 732-4242

• **Michael E. Horowitz**, Inspector General, Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 4706, Washington DC 20530

• **John V. Kelly**, Acting Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security, Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495

ASK our members of Congress to investigate this vandalism by border patrol agents, which is funded by our tax dollars

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

Representative. Debbie Dingell has invited Cindy Garcia, the wife of a 39-year-old Lincoln Park man deported to Mexico, as her guest at President Donald Trump's State of the Union speech.

THANKS for keeping America's immigrants in the public eye to

• **Representative Debbie Dingell** (D-MI), 116 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4071

Trump's Department of Homeland Security has removed—or is considering removing—Temporary Protection Status (TPS) from Haitians, Hondurans, Nicaraguans, Salvadorans, and Sudanese. TPS is granted to nationals from countries badly hit by natural disasters or violent conflict and is considered a form of humanitarian aid. The TPS program was initiated by the Reagan administration. Since then, Presidents have consistently allowed those who qualify for TPS to remain in the U.S., so many recipients of TPS have been living in the U.S. for decades. They are productive members of our communities; many of their children have known no home

other than the United States. While the granting of status may be tied to a particular event—say, an earthquake or a civil war—the fact is that many of these countries are unable to recover from disaster or are caught in violence due to U.S. interference. Countries in Central America in particular have suffered generations of mistreatment at U.S. hands in the form of U.S.-backed puppet governments and authoritarian regimes, of “aid” from the U.S.-run School of the Americas that often goes to keeping dictators in place, and of U.S. seizure of or underpayment for natural resources. To end TPS and to force people to return to homelands (which they may never have set foot in) that have been decimated by U.S. abuses exacerbates our already destructive role in this hemisphere.

DEMAND that the U.S. continue to welcome individuals qualifying for TPS

- **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495
- **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323
- **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154
- **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2401
- **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5876

On January 10, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) executed a nationwide raid at ninety-eight 7-11 stores, in an attempt to round up undocumented workers, under Acting Director Thomas Homan's authority (currently under consideration as Director of ICE). Acting head of ICE's Homeland Security Investigations Derek Banner threatened that “This is what we’re gearing up for this year and what you’re going to see more and more of is these large-scale compliance inspections, just for starters.”

DEMAND an end to raids like this and (in the case of the Senators) opposition to Thomas Homans’ appointment

- **Thomas D. Homan**, Acting Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20536, organization public affairs (202) 732-4242
- **Derek Banner**, Acting Executive Associate Director, Homeland Security Investigations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20536, organization public affairs (202) 732-4242
- **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323
- **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154
- **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2401
- **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5876

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

Representatives. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and Ruben Gallego (D-AZ) have called on the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) to enact standards to prevent the sort of abuses that led to Motel 6 allegedly profiling immigrants in Washington and Arizona and providing their names to Immigration and Customs Enforcement in violation of consumer rights and basic decency. Tell the AHLA that you share these Congressmembers' concerns.

DEMAND immediate development and implementation of appropriate privacy standards from

- **American Hotel and Lodging Association**, 1250 Eye St.m NW, Suite 1100, Washington DC 20005, (202) 289-3100

Representative Nydia Velazquez's HR4253, the American Promise Act of 2017, would allow most U.S. residents with Temporary Protection Status with a process to become permanent residents. Those who seek permanent status would be issued work permits while their requests were pending. The change in status would also apply to parents, children, and spouses of those granted permanent residency. HR4253 is currently before the Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee

ADVOCATE support for HR4253 from

- **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2309 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5431
 - **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2109 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5635
 - **Representative Raúl Labrador** (R-ID), Chair, House Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, 1523 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6611
 - **Representative Zoe Lofgren** (D-CA), Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, 1401 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3072
- THANKS** to our Representative for cosponsoring HR 4253
- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

The Trump administration has approved a plan to separate parents from their children when families are caught entering the country illegally. The move is meant to discourage border crossings, but immigrant groups have denounced it as inhumane. Currently, families are kept intact while awaiting a decision on whether they will be deported. The policy under discussion would send parents to adult detention facilities, while their children would be placed in shelters designed for juveniles or with a "sponsor." In November, 7,000 "family units" were apprehended, as well as 4,000 "unaccompanied minors," or children traveling without an adult relative. This fall, the White House convened a group of officials from two of its own offices —

the National Security Council and the Domestic Policy Council — as well as from Homeland Security, the Department of Justice and the State Department, to look into ways to curtail border crossings, particularly those of children.

COMPLAINTS to

- **H. R. McMaster**, National Security Adviser, White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, comment line (202) 353-1555
- **Andrew P. Bremberg**, Director, Domestic Policy Council, Room 469, Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20502, 202-456-5594
- **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495
- **Attorney General Jeff Sessions**, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20530, comment line (202) 353-1555
- **Secretary Rex Tillerson**, US Department of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520, (202) 647-4000

INTERNATIONAL

Trump's reference to a number of countries as "shitholes" is deeply irresponsible and embarrassing to our country

TELL these countries that we don't share Trump's hateful views of them and **APOLOGIZE** for his ignorance and incivility

- **Her Excellency Ambassador Claudia Ivette Canjura**, Salvadoran Embassy, 1400 16th St., Washington DC 20036
- **His Excellency Ambassador Paul G. Altidor**, Embassy of Haiti, 2311 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20008
- **His Excellency Ambassador Babacar Diagne**, Senegalese Embassy, 2215 M St. NW, Washington DC 20037
- **His Excellency Ambassador David John Newman**, Embassy of the Republic of Botswana, 1531-1533 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington DC 20036
- **His Excellency Ambassador Ahmed Isse Awad**, Embassy of Somalia, 1705 DeSales St. NW, Ste. 300, Washington DC 20036-4421
- **His Excellency Dr. Barfuor Adjei-Barwuah Ghana**, Embassy of Ghana, 3512 International Dr. NW, Washington DC 20008
- **The Honorable Sylvanus Adiewere Nsofor**, Ambassador, Embassy of Nigeria, 3519 International Ct. NW, Washington DC 20008
- **His Excellency Ambassador Martin Andjaba**, Namibian Embassy, 1605 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington DC 20009
- **His Excellency Mninwa Johannes Mahlangu**, Ambassador to America, Embassy of South Africa, 3051 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20008
- **His Excellency Ambassador Oliver Wonekha**, Embassy of the Republic of Uganda, 5911 16th St. NW, Washington DC 20011
- **His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat**, Chairperson, African Union Commission, Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations, 305 East 47 st., 5th Floor, New York, New York 10017

The New York Times has reported that the Pentagon has offered for the President's signature a policy "that would allow the launch of nuclear weapons to respond to a wide range of devastating but non-nuclear attacks on American infrastructure, including what current and former government officials described as the most crippling kind of cyberattacks."

OBJECT to this insanity and insist that the "button" must not be pushed, no matter how big it is

- **Senator John McCain** (R-AZ), Chair, Senate Armed Services Committee, 218 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2235
- **Senator Jack Reed** (D-RI), Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, 728 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4642
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553
- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

The bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Freedom of the Press has written to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson requesting that the State Department urge Burma to drop charges against and to release Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Seo Oo, who have been reporting on the plight of the Rohingya. Their letter reads in part” [The] arrest shows that the Burmese military is attempting to silence the atrocities it cannot deny. [J]ournalists have helped keep international pressure on Burma to end its violence. That is why we believe press freedom is essential to end this crisis.”

GIVE SOME BACKUP to the Caucus for the Freedom of the Press and ask Secretary Tillerson to take action

• **Secretary** Rex Tillerson, US Department of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520, (202) 647-4000

INTERNET

In the wake of the repeal of net neutrality, California is considering its own net neutrality legislation. Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León on Thursday introduced his own bill (SB 460) to force Internet service companies operating within the state to adhere to net neutrality rules that were overturned nationally last month by the Federal Communications Commission. Senator Scott Wiener introduced a similar bill co-authored by a dozen state Senate and Assembly members.

URGE our state Assemblymembers and Senators to support net neutrality legislation

- **Senator Bill Monning**, State Capitol, Room 313, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4017
- **Assemblymember Anna Caballero** [Watsonville, Salinas, Hollister], State Capitol, PO Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0300, (916) 319-2030
- **Assemblymember Mark Stone** [Santa Cruz], State Capitol, PO Box 982049, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 319-2029

While many in Congress—and many of us ordinary Americans—fight to restore net neutrality, Representative Marsha Blackburn has introduced HR4682, the deceptively titled “Open Internet Preservation Act.” This legislation would prohibit net neutrality laws from being enacted, thereby relying on internet providers to self-regulate. HR4682 currently has 21 Republican cosponsors; no Democratic Representatives have signed on as cosponsors. The legislation is currently before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

DENOUNCE this business giveaway that will wind up costing almost every American

- **Representative Greg Walden** (R-OR), Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2185 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6730
- **Representative Joe Barton** (R-TX), Vice Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2107 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2002
- **Representative Frank Pallone, Jr.** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 237 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4671

CHASTISE the one California cosponsor (who should know better, given the role of the state in the development of the internet)

- **Representative Stephen Knight** (R-CA), 1023 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-1956

Following up on its repeal of net neutrality, the Federal Communications Commission is proposing changes to the definition of “broadband” that are both misleading and potentially expensive for consumers. As Motherboard explains, “Currently, the FCC defines broadband connection as 25Mbps download speeds and 3Mbps upload speeds minimum. The new proposal would keep these minimums in place for fixed wireline broadband but also expand the definition to include cell phone data coverage. This would not only camouflage many of the communities in the US with no access to the internet, but could prevent them from getting necessary funding to build that access. Cell service is often slower, more expensive, and comes with data caps, and even tethering a computer to a phone for internet isn’t a long-term solution, especially for families with multiple people trying to log on at once to do homework, or work, or watch Netflix.”

TELL the FCC Commissioners what you think of this proposal

- **FCC Chair Ajit Pai**
- **Commissioner Michael O’Rielly**
- **Commissioner Brendan Carr**
- **Commissioner Mignon Clyburn**
- **Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel**

ALL of the above can be contacted at

Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th St. NW, Washington DC 20554

ALERT your members of Congress that if this rule change goes through, you want formal Congressional Review Act resolution to overturn the new definitions

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553
- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

JUDICIARY

Jeff Sessions is preparing to enforce federal marijuana laws in state that have approved the use of marijuana for medical and/or recreational use through votes of the people.

TELL him to focus on something that's a real threat (maybe Civic Rights violations?)

• **Attorney General Jeff Sessions**, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20530, comment line (202) 353-1555

In an attempt to rush through less-than-ideal nominees for federal judge positions around the country before a possible government shutdown, Sen. Grassley is getting some heat. The fact that so many of these nominees are anti-civil rights is also alarming.

TELL Senate Judiciary Committee to tell them we do not want any more judicial confirmations until resolution of Mueller investigation.

• **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

Anti-gay, pro-torture Howard C. Nielson, Jr., has fought efforts to ensure equality in education for people of color; has advocated against regulating greenhouse gases; has frequently litigated against the Affordable Care Act; and has defended severe burdens on women's exercise of their reproductive rights. Now he's Trump's nominee for a federal judgeship in the Utah district. His nomination is currently before the Senate Judiciary Committee

OPPOSE the appointment of this bigot to a lifetime position as a Federal Judge

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• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

Democratic vacancies on the Senate Judiciary Committee have finally been filled. The appointees, Senators Harris and Booker, are the first African Americans to serve on this Committee since the 1990s.

WELCOME new Judiciary Committee members

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Senator Cory A. Booker** (D-NJ), 359 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3224

Ruth Bader-Ginsburg gave us all a lift when she announced she's hired law clerks through 2020, letting both her fans and the Trump administration know that they can continue counting on her to defend both our Constitution and our basic human dignity.

THANKS to

• **Justice Ruth Bader-Ginsburg**, Supreme Court of the United States, 1 First St. NE, Washington DC 20543, (202) 479-3000

Trump is asking Congress to once again consider one of his most controversial nominees for a federal judgeship. Thomas Alvin Farr, was nominated to serve on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. Farr is a former protégé of Jesse Helms with strong ties to white supremacists. As counsel for Mr. Helms's Senate campaigns, Farr participated in racist tactics to intimidate African-American voters. A New York Times op-ed notes that "Mr. Farr has carried on Mr. Helms's legacy by helping North Carolina's Republican-led Legislature create and defend in court discriminatory voting restrictions and electoral districts, which were eventually struck down by numerous federal courts that found them to be motivated by intentional racism. In fact, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit found that the state's 2013 voter suppression law was aimed at blacks with 'almost surgical precision.'" In 2017 Farr's nomination passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on a party-line vote, but was not approved by the full Senate. Now, his nomination is once more before the Judiciary Committee.

ARGUE that bigotry of this kind has no place on the federal bench

- **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

Donald Trump has resubmitted 21 judicial nominees to the Senate whose nominations expired in 2017 — including two rated "not qualified" to be federal judges by the American Bar Association (ABA). Charles Goodwin and Holly Teeter are among those in the president's re-nominations. The ABA has rated Goodwin, Trump's nominee to a lifetime seat on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, unqualified to fulfill the demands of a federal judge given his "work habits." The ABA also rated Teeter, Trump's nominee to a lifetime seat on the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, not qualified based on her lack of trial court experience.

DEMAND that the Senate Judiciary Committee reject these unqualified nominees

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- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Kamala Harris, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

