√ Senators Lamar Alexander and Patty Murray are working together through the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP) to consider allowing prisoners to receive Pell Grants for higher education, something that has been prohibited since 1994. This move is being considered as part of a reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. If enacted, Pell Grants could be applied towards the cost of classes in prisons and/or online.

**THANKS** for raising this issue and **ASSURANCES** of support to

• **Senator Lamar** Alexander (R-TN), 455 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20501, (202) 224-4944

• **Senator Patty Murray** (D-WA), 154 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2621

**ASK** our Senators to keep an eye out for opportunities to support this change

• **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

√ From American United for Separation of Church and State: President Donald Trump has proposed a $4.4 trillion federal budget for next year that would slash the Department of Education’s budget by about 5 percent – all while diverting $1 billion of the remaining money to fund private school vouchers and related schemes. Advancing the misguided top priority set forth by Trump and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, this latest budget proposal would divert a billion dollars in desperately needed public funds to private, mostly religious schools. That’s four times the amount Trump proposed for vouchers in his last budget. Public money should fund public schools, which educate 90 percent of American schoolchildren. Taxpayers simply can’t afford to fund two education systems – a public one that serves everyone, and a private one that serves only a select few.

**NO, THANK YOU** to public funding of private schools and to weakened barriers between church and state to

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

• **Secretary Betsy DeVos**, U.S. Department of Education, 7W301 LBJ Building, Mail Number 0100, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington DC 20202, (202) 401-3000

√ California AB 453 calls on the California State University Trustees, the California Community College Board of Governors, and the University of California Regents to make their campuses huger-free. Each campus that is designated “hunger-free” would receive a “funding incentive.” To be designated hunger-free a campus would need to have an employee responsible for helping students apply for CalFresh food assistance, provide an on-campus food pantry ana a meal-sharing program.

**SUPPORT** for this excellent idea to

• **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

√ In mid-February, Serena Williams attended a Black Girls Code SF screening of *Black Panther*.

**THANKS** for her support of the education and empowerment of young Black women to

• **Serena Williams**, c/o William Morris Endeavor Entertainment, 961 Wiltshire Blvd., Third Floor, Beverley Hills, CA 90210-5213

√ Who knew there was something Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS)Alex Azar and we could agree on? He’s taken a stand supporting an end on the ban to use federal funds to research gun violence. One of the major barriers in advocacy for gun control has been the lack of such research which Congress regularly prohibits in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention appropriations bills.

• **Secretary Alex Azar**, Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue SW, Washington DC 20201, (202) 690-7000

√ Let’s tell the British Ambassador to the U.S. how much we appreciate Queen Elizabeth II’s decision to ban plastic straws and phase out single-use plastics from public cafes, royal residences, and staff dining rooms. And while we’re at it, we can ask Trump to follow her lead.

**ASK** that our **APPRECIATION** be communicated to Queen Elizabeth II by

• **Sir Kim Darroch**, British Ambassador to the USA, 3100 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20008, (202) 588 6500

**SUGGESTIONS** that the U.S. should follow British leadership on this issue to

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

√ The LendEDU website reports that the Federal Trade Commission is suing three student loan debt relief companies, as well as their majority owner, through a lawsuit in a federal district court in California. The Lawsuit was initiated because of perceived violations of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Act and the Telemarketing Sales Rule (TSR). Some of the alleged violations by the companies included mailing potentially misleading information to borrowers suggesting they were eligible for federal programs that would grant them loan forgiveness or permanently reduce their payments to a fixed and smaller amount, despite the fact that many borrowers aren’t eligible for such programs–and even then the programs don’t permanently reduce payments, according to the FTC. The lawsuit also alleges that, unbeknownst to borrowers, their full monthly payments were not necessarily applied to the balance of their loan and that unrelated monthly fees were also slapped on to their bills, according to the lawsuit. Finally, the lawsuit alleges an advance fee was tacked on bills for enrollment in a program that was supposedly for financial education, which is a violation of TSR.

**THANKS** for action to protect students to

• **Thomas B. Pahl**, Acting Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20580, (202) 326-2180

• **David Shonka**, Acting General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20580, (202) 326-2180

√ In an absolutely delightful act of generosity and kindness, Seattle’s KIRO TV station worked with RIP Medical Debt (a charity that locates, buys, and forgives medical debt across the U.S.) to purchase $1 million of local medical debt for just $12,000, then forgave the entire amount. This is possible because unpaid medical debt is often sold to collection agencies, who then can attempt to collect the debt themselves or sell the debt to other organizations. This move follows a story the station reporter Jesse Jones on a woman unable to pay for her cancer treatment. Jones explains that, "I do well in my job and I have been on payment plans to pay my medical bills. When you have $200,000 in medical bills, even with insurance, you are on the hook for some of that. I started thinking about my story and the stories of the people I see at the cancer center who I talk to every day. I said 'Let's talk about the people who have issues, big issues with the bills that have forced them into bankruptcy, forcing them to make choices about whether to get treatment.' "

**THANKS** to

• **Jesse Jones**, KIRO 7 News, 2807 Third Ave. Seattle, WA 98121, (206) 728-7777

√ Representatives Joyce Beatty and Steve Stivers have created the Congressional Civility and Respect Congress designed to build bridges between parties to solve the challenges facing our nation. Congresspeople must join the caucus in pairs—with both a Democrat and a Republican.

**THANKS** to

• **Representative Joyce Beatty** (D-OH), 471 East Broad St., Suite 1100, Columbus, OH 43215, (202) 225-4324

• **Representative Steve Stivers** (R-OH), 3790 Municipal Way, Hilliard, OH 43026, (202) 225-2015

**ASK** our Representative if he’s considered finding a Republican partner and joining

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

√ S 1006, Currently before the Senate Judiciary Committee, 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. All 44 Democratic Senators have signed on as co-sponsors.

THANKS for cosponsoring this bill 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

**REQUEST** that the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee use his influence to see the bill through committee

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

√ HR 726 and 727 would prohibit federal funding for National Public Radio and the Public Broadcasting Service. Both play into the administration’s proposed budget that eliminates these two public resources. Both are currently before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

**TELL** Committee members we do not want to see this legislation make it to the House floor

• **Representative Greg Walden** (R-OR), Chair, House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, 2185 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6730

• **Representative Joe Barton** (R-TX), Vice-Chair, House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, 2107 Rayburn House Odffice Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2002

• **Representative Frank Pallone, Jr.** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, 237 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4671

**ASK** our Representative to fight against these bills fiercely, if they do make it to the House floor

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

√ Al Hoffman, Jr., a big money Republican donor, has demanded that the party pass legislation to restrict access to guns, and has vowed not to contribute to any candidates or electioneering groups that do not support a ban on the sale of military-style firearms to civilians. He is also encouraging other big Republican donors to do the same.

**THANKS** to

• **Al Hoffman, Jr.**, Principal and Director, Aston Care Systems, Inc., 1311 Aston Gardens Court, Sun City Center, FL 33573, (813) 642-8950

√ An extremely under-reported story is the number of civilian deaths resulting from U.S. airstrikes in Syria and Iraq, which has reached an all-time high under the current administration. In the past year, already high civilian casualties have increased by 215%. Part of the reason is underreporting of civilian casualties by the U.S. military in the countries in which it operates. An investigative report by The New York Times found that civilian casualties by U.S.-led coalition (yep—that’s us) airstrikes in Iraq and Syria between April 2016-June 2017 were 31 times higher than what had been revealed or acknowledged by coalition authorities, and that one in every five coalition airstrikes resulted in civilian casualties. In November, the released a report claiming 800 civilians had died over the three-year military campaign against ISIS in Syria and Iraq. Airwars, a human rights watchdog, put the number of civilians killed close to 6,000 during that same period. We need to express our outrage and insist on greater transparency and ask our Representative to support HR 700, the “Transparency in National Security Act,” which subjects the National Security Council, who are responsible for making decisions about drone strikes, to Freedom of Information Act requests. We also need to urge much closer monitoring of our government’s decisions to use drone strikes.

**SHARE** our outrage about these deaths and **REQUEST** a commitment to seeing them end to

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

√ The key to stopping further slides in Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) effectiveness will be if Congress ceases to authorize this administration to “reshape” the “workforce” by including millions of dollars in incentives for retirement while continuing to allow the agency to maintain its effective hiring freeze. Congress needs to authorize funds to keep the EPA working for all of us and to stop the “workforce reshaping” that Pruitt and Trump want to use to destroy the EPA and our natural resources for business gains.

COMPLAINTS about deliberately destructive policies to

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

• **EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**, Mail Code 1101A, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460

**FERVENT URGINGS** for an end to retirement incentives and increased cuts to the EPA to

• **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

√ HR 3299, the misleadingly titled “Protecting Consumers’ Access to Credit Act,” has been passed by the House. HR 3299 would give the green light to payday lenders to charge debt trap-level interest rates to low-income. Consumer advocates and 20 state attorneys general have warned that this bill is dangerous.

**INFORM** our Senators that we want to see them fight similar legislation in the Senate

• **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

√ Trump is a huge (make that *yuge*) supporter of the Second Amendment, but at a recent Trump speech to the National Rifle Association no guns were allowed in the venue. Why wouldn’t he want to be surrounded by “good guys with guns?” Let’s let the White House know that the same standards should be followed for schools, movie theaters, shopping centers, and all other public places.

**WARNINGS** that we’ve noticed his hypocrisy to

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

√ Back in November, Scientific American identified four new laws that would cut down on the number of mass shootings: requiring permits to buy guns; banning anyone convicted of a violent crime from owning a gun; requiring anyone convicted of domestic violence to relinquish their guns; and banning anyone with two or more DUI convictions from owning guns.

SUGGEST to our Congresspeople that these would be good minimums for a healthy gun policy in the U.S.

• **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 study conducted by the National University of Ireland, Galway and published in *Frontiers of Marine Science* shows that 73% of fish sampled from the northwestern area of the Atlantic Ocean contained microplastic debris in their gut. Microplastics have been found to have a toxic-like deleterious effect on ocean life, causing inflammation, lower body weight and reduced feeding among afflicted animals, effects that can be spread up and down the food chain as they are consumed by subsequent organisms. Plastic textile fibers were found to be the most common culprit. The Senate Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard has jurisdiction in this area.

**QUERY** key subcommittee members about what they’re doing to address this threat

• **Senator Dan Sullivan** (R-AK), Chair, Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard, 702 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 224-3004

• **Senator Gary Peters** (D-MI), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard, 724 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 224-6221

√ A host of businesses have withdrawn support they used to give the NRA in the form of “member benefits.”

**THANKS** for putting human lives above pandering to our nation’s largest opponent of sensible gun control to

• **Andres Taylor**, Chairman and CEO Enterprise Holdings, 600 Corporate Park Drive, St. Louis, MO 63105, (314) 512-5000

• **Clark D. Lauritzen**, Chairman and President, First National Bank of Omaha, 1620 Dodge St., Omaha, NE 68197, (218) 346-5700

• **Greg Clark**, CEO, Symantec Worldwide Headquarters, 350 Ellis St., Mountain View, CA 94043, (650) 527-8000

• **Kathryn V. Marinello**, President and CEO, Hertz Corporation, 8501 Williams Rd, El Estero, FL 33928, (239) 301-6800

• **Larry D. DeShon**, CEO and COO, Avis Budget Group, 6 Sylvan Way, Parsippany, NJ 07054, (973) 496-3500

• **Frederick W. Smith**, Chairman, President, and CEO, FedEx, 3875 Airways, Module H3, 7900 Legacy Dr., Department 4634, Memphis, TN 38116, (800) 463-3339

• **Chad Laurens**, CEO, SimpliSafe, 249 Washington St., Floor 9, Boston, MA 02109, (888) 957-4675

• **Steven A. Kandarian**, President, Chairman, CEO, MetLife Corporate Headquarters, 200 Park Ave., New York, NY 10166, (212) 578-2211

• **Bill Ciron**, CEO and President, Allied Van Lines, One Parkview Plaza, Oakbrook Terr., IL 60181, (800) 470-2851

• **Lawrence A. Writt**, President, North American Van Lines, 5001 US Highway 30, Ft. Wayne, IN 46801, (260) 429-2511

• **John D. Finnegan**, Chairman, President and CEO, Chubb Corp., 15 Mountain View Road, Warren, NJ 07059, (908) 903-2000

• **Stephen P. Holmes**, Chairman and CEO, Wyndham Hotel Group, 22 Sylvan Way, Parsippany, NJ 07054, (973) 753-6000

• **Thomas E. Bennett III**, President and co-CEO, First Oklahoma Bank, 100 S. Riverfront Dr., Jenks, OK 74037, (918) 392-2500

• **Oscar Munoz**, President and CEO, United Airlines, PO Box 06649, Chicago, IL 60606-0649, (877) 624-2660

• **Ed Bastian**, CEO, Delta Airlines Inc., PO Box 20706, Atlanta, GA 30320-6001, (404) 715-2600

√ Republican members of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations ALL have received NRA money (eleven gun regulation bills are currently languishing in this subcommittee with little hope of moving to the committee level, let alone to the House floor). The most recent one-year amounts (not career totals) are at the end of the address and phone information for each individual.

**CASTIGATION** for valuing arms (and campaign contributions) over human lives to

• **Representative Jim Sensembrenner** (R-WI), Chair, Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, 2449 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5101 **$20,468**

• **Representative Ted Poe** (R-TX), Member, Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, 2132 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6565, **$14,436**

• **Representative Steve Chabot** (R-OH), Member, Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, 2371 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2216, **$114,548**

• **Representative John Ratcliffe** (R-TX), Member, Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, 325 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6673, **$4500**

• **Representative Martha Roby** (R-AL), Member, Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, 442 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2901, **$5000**

• **Representative John Rutherford** (R-FL), Member, Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, 230 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2501, **$1000**

• **Representative Mike Johnson** (R-LA), Member, Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, 327 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2777, **$6223**

• **Representative Trey Gowdy** (R-SC), Member, Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, 2418 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6030, **$7150**

• **Representative Louie Gohmert** (R-TX), Vice-Chair, Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, 2243 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3035, **$13,386**

√ Now that Twitter has started eliminating bots, will Facebook take proactive measures to protect free and fair elections in the U.S.

**ASK** what Facebook is doing to protect our elections from Russian interference

• **Mark Zuckerberg**, Chairman and CEO, Facebook Headquarters, 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025

√ While NRA-friendly politicians may warn against acting rashly and claim that new gun legislation will take time, these are outright falsehoods. At the present, there are 21 pieces of gun control legislation live in the Senate and another 59 in the House. Rather than acting rashly, Republican Congressional leaders have been doing all they can to leave this legislation unaddressed in committee. In the Senate, sensible gun regulation proposals include S.2009, S.2044, S.1915, S.1916, S.553, S.834, S.1185, S.2150, S.1324, S.2135, S.2045, and S.2095. In the House, sensible gun regulation proposals include HR.4186, HR.3947, HR.445, HR.57, HR.2033, HR.1278, HR.1475, HR.1612, HR.1478, HR.1982, HR.2841, HR.3464, HR.163, HR.1832, HR.4142, HR.4018, HR.4192, HR.4186, HR.4240, HR.4268, HR.4477, HR.4573, HR.4343, HRes.370, HRes.367, and HRes.60.

REMIND Congressional leadership of the multiple opportunities before the to sensibly address issues of gun access and gun violence (it might not hurt just to write out all the numbers)

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

• **Representative Paul Ryan**, Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3031

√ From the *Fortune* web site: Our electronic world continues to raise issues we might never have anticipated—and these go far beyond the Russian bots we hear about most often. A *Gizmodo* investigation revealed. Pro-life groups offering “abortion alternatives” have been using Google Maps to reach women who plan to terminate a pregnancy by classifying themselves as “women’s health centers” and ranking high for search terms like “abortion clinics near me.” Many of the health centers on will find on such a search are actually faith-based, pro-life crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs) that do not provide abortions or accurate information about patients’ options. There are many more CPCs across the country than there are abortion clinics—an estimated 3,000 CPCs versus 800 abortion clinics. CPCs often advertise with vague phrases like “Think you are pregnant? Get answers,” or “Considering abortion?” Many of these have no medical staff on site, though they may have staff dressed in medical uniforms to imply they have medical credentials despite a lack of any qualifications. Using Google Maps to search for abortion clinics led users to CPCs about 79% of the time, according to research from NARAL Pro-Choice, an abortion rights group. Yes, search engines are complex, but the people designing and running them are among our nation’s brightest.

ASK Google what they’re doing to limit the spread of disinformation to women who are—as they have a right to—seeking a safe abortion.

• **Larry Page**, CEO and Director, Google Inc., 1600 Amphitheater Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, (650) 253-0000

√ According to Federal Judicial Court nominee Gordon Giampietro, criminals come from public schools, birth control is an assault on nature and gay marriage opens the doors to polygamy. **REGISTER** your **OPPOSITION** to this kind of bigotry in a person being considered for a lifetime appointment on the federal bench

• **Senator Chuck Grassley**, 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 Judicial Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

√ *Pro Publica* reports that “Hundreds of federal political ads—including those from major players such as the Democratic National Committee and the Donald Trump 2020 campaign—are running on Facebook without adequate disclaimer language, likely violating Federal Election Commission rules. S.1989, the “Honest Ads Act” would address this problem, but it’s been sitting in the Senate Rules and Administration Committee since October.

**HIGHLIGHT** your support for this legislation (and the free and fair elections it’s designed to support)

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

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

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

**ASK** why Facebook is allowing these ads to run in possible violation of Federal Election Commission rules

• **Mark Zuckerberg**, Chairman and CEO, Facebook Headquarters, 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025

√ The Trump administration is flagrantly disobeying Congress by refusing to implement sanctions intended to punish Russia for its election meddling. The message that the administration is sending to foreign powers–including Russia–is anti-American and encourages future election interference. It suggests that America is weak on security and willing to conspire with foreign nations that wish to do us harm.

**EXPLAIN** that Congress’s willingness to allow the executive branch to disregard its responsibilities as outlined in legislation (and the Constitution) is appalling and **ASK** our Congresspeople to speak to this very real Constitutional crisis on the floor of their house of Congress

• **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

√ Our own Jimmy Panetta and Representative Parmila Jayapal have introduced HR 5058, the “Immigrant Witness and Victim Protection Act.” The bill lifts arbitrary caps on the number of “U" visas available for undocumented immigrant witnesses and victims of violent crimes who cooperate with law enforcement. The bill also prevents “U” visa applicants and “T” visa human trafficking victim applicants, from being detained or deported prior to obtaining visas via Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) protections. Finally, the bill allows applicants to receive work authorization permits within limited timelines.

**THANK** these two for a much-needed piece of legislation

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

• **Representative Parmila Jayapal** (D-WA), 319 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3106

√ Trump's budget proposal includes the elimination of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Project (LIHEAP), which helps low-income families, individuals with disabilities, and older individuals pay their heating bills. The program has already seen a decrease in funding, even while the price of utilities has increased.

**ASK** our Congresspeople to support full funding for LIHEAP.

• **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 NRA has been accused of illegally conducting political spending while reaping the tax benefits of being a non-profit and Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington filed a complaint with the IRS in 2015 and updated its findings in 2016 that "the NRA has failed to disclose $60 million in political spending since 2008

**DEMAND** the IRS Commissioner to launch investigations into the NRA’s fraudulent activities immediately

• **John Koskinen**, IRS Commissioner, 1111 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington DC 20224, (202) 622-9511

√ Trump and Congressional leaders are once again targeting our only nationwide library programs for elimination. The Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS) serves public and state libraries, providing grants, policy development, and research funding. The Innovative Approaches to Literacy Program (IAL) promotes early literacy, offers programs to motivate older children to read, and distributes books to children who might not otherwise have them.

**DECLARE** your support for a national-level fostering of libraries and literacy to

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

• **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 Intercept reports that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services intends to remove the phrase “nation of immigrants” from its mission statement.

**REGISTER** your **DISMAY** at this change that threatens our long-standing identity as a nation to

• **L. Francis Cissna**, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director, USCIS, 20 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20529, (800) 375-5283

√ *Politico* reports that “State Department officials have been ordered to pare back passages in a soon-to-be-released annual report on global human rights that traditionally discuss women’s reproductive rights and discrimination, according to five former and current department officials. The directive calls for stripping passages that describe societal viewson family planning, including how much access women have to contraceptives andabortion. A broader section that chronicles racial, ethnic and sexual discrimination has also been ordered pared down.” The move reflectsthe Trump administration’s rightward turn from the Obama administration on family planning issues. It also appears to highlight the stated desire of Tillerson and President Donald Trump to make human rights a lower priority in U.S. foreign policy.

**INSIST** on continued attention to global women’s rights and family planning by the State Department

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

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

√ One of the nastier aspects of the current Draft Appropriations Bill is that it would repeal the Johnson Amendment and would churches to spend money in support of specific political candidates. The administration tried to sneak this repeal into the Tax Bill, but it was removed before the final vote. We need to keep it out of the Appropriations Bill as well.

**REMIND** our representatives of the deeply American value of separation of church and state and **INSIST** that it be protected

• **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

√ Help support the United Farm Workers fight against the use of chlorpyrifos, which a team of independent California scientists have labeled a “developmental toxicant,” and which can severely harm children’s brains and nervous systems, even when found in only trace amounts in foods. A national drive to ban this chemical was unsuccessful, so a new drive is being launched on the state level.

**CALL** for **ACTION** from

• **Brian Leahy**, Director, California Department of Pesticide Regulations, 1011 I St., PO Box 4015, Sacramento, CA 95812-4015, (916) 445-4300

• **Matthew Rodriguez**, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency, 1011 I St., PO Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812, (916) 323-2514

√ Tahera Rahman, a reporter for WHBF-TV is the first hijabi-wearing reporter on American television. Counter some of the hateful messages she’s receiving.

**TELL** her that we appreciate and respect her presence as a living example of the diversity of our nation

• **Tahera Rahman**, WHBF-TV, 231 18th St., Rock Island, IL 61201, (309) 786-5441

√ Dallas mayor Pro Tem and City Councilman Dwaine R. Caraway has taken the bold step of asking the NRA to cancel its plans to hold its national meeting in Dallas. Since then, he’s been receiving death threats.

**THANK** him for his leadership in the face of threats and hatred

• **Dwaine R. Caraway**, Mayor Pro Tem, 1500 Marilla St., 5th Floor, Dallas, TX 75201-6390, (214) 670-3111

√ Now that Congress has passed the budget deal, they are in the process of writing appropriations bills, and it is speculated that these bills will include a number of environmentally harmful riders that would kill the Clean Water Act, repeal methane emissions regulations, and endanger protected flora and fauna. These bills would never pass the Senate on their own, which is why the Republicans are trying to attach them to must-pass legislation.

**TELL** our Senators that we do not want to see controversial environmental legislation tied into budget appropriations and **ASK** them to vote no on any legislation that includes these environmentally destructive riders.

• **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

√ A group of television writers, directors, and producers headed by Warren Leight (from Law & Order: SVU) approached Amazon.com to ask that it stop streaming NRAtv, the public entertainment mouthpiece of the National Rifle Association. The channel is available for free and exists to spread pro-gun content from the likes of Dana Loesch and Oliver North. Applt TV and Roku also carry NRAtv.

**EXPLAIN** to these coproations how we feel about their dissemination of pro-gun propaganda and **DEMAND** that they desist

• **Jeff Bezos**, CEO, Amazon, 1200 12th Ave. South, Suite 1200, Seattle, WA 98144-2734, (206) 622-2335

• **Tim Cook**, CEO, Apple, 1 Apple Parkway, Cupertino, CA 95104, (408) 996-1010

• **Stephen Kay**, Vice-President, Roku, 150 Winchester Circle, Los Gatos, CA 95032, (408) 556-9391

√ California’s Senate has passed SB 183, which prohibits federal immigration enforcement agents from entering buildings owned by the state or a public school or campus of a California Community College without a valid federal warrant. The issue has now moved to the California Assembly. SB 691 provides that it is the policy of the State of California to afford all persons, regardless of immigration status, equal rights and opportunities in the postsecondary educational institutions of the state.

**ASK** our Assemblymember to support the Assembly’s equivalent of SB 183

• **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

**ASK** our California Senator to support SB 881

• **Senator Bill Monning**, 701 Ocean St. #318A, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-0401