

New York's Teamsters Council 16 is forming a "Sanctuary Union" to fight Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. Teamsters is educating its members on their rights under U.S. law and on when and how to challenge federal immigration agents who show up to search their work sites. The training is complex and technical—focusing on different types of writs and ICE actions. This comes in response to the deportation of union member Eber Garcia Vasquez, father of three American-born children. Council 16 President George Miranda explained that as a result of Garcia Vasquez's arrest "we saw and felt that concern, and we are responding to it. And that includes all our members, from all backgrounds. When we're out on strike, we're all the same on the picket line—what matters is that you're a Teamster, and fighting with us."

THANKS to

• **Teamsters Joint Council 16**, 265 West 14th St. #1201, NY, NY, 10011, (202) 942-0002

Americans figure skater Adam Rippon and skier Gus Kenworthy are our nation's first openly gay winter Olympians.

CONGRATULATIONS for making the Olympic team and for having the integrity to be who they are to

• **Adam Rippon**, c/o U.S. Figure Skating Headquarters, 20 First St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906, (719) 635-5200

• **Gus Kenworthy**, c/o U.S. Ski & Snowboard, 1 Victory Lane, Box 100, Park City, UT 84060, (435) 639-9090

Reuters reports that the Department of Homeland Security is working on new rules that would allow the government to keep immigrants from settling in the US or extending their stays, if their families had used a broad swath of local, state, or federal social services to which they're legally entitled. These rules would include programs like Head Start, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). While the proposed rules would not make it illegal for immigrants to access these services, doing so would allow the government to deny their applications for a new type of green card or visa. The rules would apply to immigrant parents whose children are U.S. citizens, even if the services were provided solely to the family members with citizenship.

DEMANDS that this appalling proposal be scrapped immediately to

• **L. Francis Cissna**, Director, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, 111 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20539, (800) 375-5283

• **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 McKaskill** (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

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has issued a directive (1107.21) calling for arrests of non-citizen immigrants within courthouses (where immigrants must go as part of the process for obtaining citizenship). ICE is also stepping up actions in locations like hospitals, churches, and schools. HR 1815, the “Protecting Sensitive Locations Act,” would prohibit such actions within 1000 feet of, not just the types of locations listed above, but also at emergency shelters, public demonstrations, congressional offices, DMVs, and more. HR 1815 is currently before the House Judiciary Committee.

ASK for support and co-sponsorship of HR 1815 from

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

ASK for swift movement of this legislation through committee 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

Trey Gowdy, Chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (OGR), has written to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), Alex Azar, reminding him that “the Supreme Court established congressional requestors can compel the production... ‘to conduct investigations is inherent in the legislative process. The power is broad. It encompasses inquiries concerning the administration of existing laws as well as proposed or possibly needed statutes.’ More often than not, agency respondents choose to cooperate voluntarily, expeditiously, and in good faith with our requests for information. Of late, this is not the case with the Department of Health and Human Services. The letter goes on to list six different information requests OGR had made of HHS, none of which have received a response.

THANKS for pushing back in the face of HHS stone-walling to

- **Representative Trey Gowdy** (R-SC), Chair, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 2418 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6030

DEMANDS that HHS meet its Constitutional obligations from

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

Republicans and Democrats on the House Intelligence Committee voted to release the Democratic response to the “Nunes memo.” On February 9, Donald Trump blocked release of this Democratic response citing security concerns—and this after having released the Nunes memo over the objections of the FBI and CIA.

CASTIGATION for a clearly self-serving act not based on national security to

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

The Southern Poverty Law Center recently released “The Alt Right Is Killing People,” a scrupulously documented report on the 100 people killed or injured by alleged perpetrators

(“alleged” because some cases are still at trial) inspired by the “alt right.” This document provides insight into “alt right” strategies and aims.

ASK our Congressional representatives if they have read this document and how they plan to respond to the extensive right-wing criminal violence it reports on

- **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 House has passed legislation reauthorizing funding for the Maternal, Infant, and Childhood Home Visiting Program, a voluntary, evidence-based program supporting family health. Now, the Senate is considering a similar move via S 1829, the Strong Families Act of 2017. Kamala Harris is one of the bill’s co-sponsors.

URGE our Senators to continue supporting this important program

- **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

It’s time to speak out against two additional nominees for US Court of appeals judgeships. Kyle Duncan has built his career around eradicating rights for LGBTQ people, immigrants, women, and voters. Howard Neilson has a history of working against LGBT rights; he has also supported US use of torture. Neither of these men belongs in a lifetime post where they will be deciding the fates of many Americans (including those who are GLBTQ, immigrants, women, suppressed voters, and/or opponents of torture).

ASK for assurances from our Senators that they will do everything possible to prevent these appointments

- **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

During the latest round of budget negotiations, Nancy Pelosi spent more than eight hours speaking on the House floor about the importance of DACA and demanding assurances the House would—finally—consider legislation to reinstate Dreamers’ path to citizenship. She not only spoke in defense of DACA, but also shared the personal stories of many DACA recipients who risk being exiled from their homeland.

THANKS to

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

Representative Devin Nunes has wasted enough of our time with his partisan, untruthful antics. He needs to be removed from his position as Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. (If he needs to be in charge of something, perhaps he could get a new position as chair of the Politburo, where his misrepresentations would be just what the administration wants).

INFORM the House leadership and our own Representative that we want someone with integrity chairing Intelligence

- **Representative Paul Ryan**, Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3031
- **Representative Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA), House Minority Leader, 233 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4965
- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has been sounding the alarm about probable Russian interference in upcoming midterm elections.

DEMAND to know *what* he's doing about this and *why* he continues to work for a President who refuses to take a genuine threat to our democracy seriously

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

It never gets old.

TELL Trump to show us his taxes

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

HR 4854 and S 2345, the "Justice Served Act," would reduce crime lab backlogs by providing funding to state and local law enforcement to analyze unprocessed rape kits, DNA swabs, and the like. This legislation has bipartisan support.

TELL our Congresspeople that we want to see justice served

- **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

Here on the Central Coast, we can take pride in the fact that none of our Congressional representatives voted in favor of the February 9th "compromise" budget deal that left DACA unaddressed.

THANKS 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

Courtesy of Rogan's list: now that the GOP has exhibited its staunch commitment to transparency with its four-page Nunes memo, let's join the New York Times in calling for the GOP to see to the release of Trump's tax returns; the White House visitor logs; as well as the names of all foreign governments and officials who have stayed in Trump's Washington hotel, Mar-a-Lago, golf courses, and other businesses since he became president; and the names of every foreign business with which the Trump Organization has a financial relationship

INSIST on further transparency from

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

ASK our representatives to keep up the pressure for government transparency

- **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 online site *The Intercept* reports that last May former Coal Industry lobbyist Andrew Wheeler, the current nominee for the position of Deputy Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, hosted campaign fundraisers for two members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Senators John Barrasso and Jim Inhofe. Environment and Public Works is, not coincidentally, the committee that would have to approve Wheeler's appointment. The event for Inhofe was held at Rosa Mexicano, a Mexican restaurant in downtown Washington, D.C., and the event for Barrasso took place at Wheeler's office on K Street in the capital. Federal Election Committee records show both senators received donations of Wheeler's law firm PAC last year. Barrasso received \$2,500 and Inhofe's leadership PAC received \$1,000. So, there you go, two parties and \$3,500 is the going rate for a deputy director position in the current administration.

POINT OUT that two Environment and Public Works Committee members might want to consider recusing themselves from the vote on Wheeler

- **Senator John Barrasso** (R-WY), Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 307 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6441
- **Senator Jim Inhofe** (R-OK), 205 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4721

- **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

Arizona, Kansas, Utah, Maine and Wisconsin have appealed to the Trump administration to seek permission to put lifetime limits on Medicaid coverage for recipients they deem able-bodied. These five states want to cap the total period of time an individual could receive Medicaid benefits over his or her lifetime. As Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator, Seema Verma has the power to approve or deny these proposals.

INSIST that these proposals be denied because illness and disability don't honor bureaucratic time limits

- **Seema Verma**, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Blvd., Blatimore, MD 21244-8013, comment line (800) 633-4227

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced new measures to combat sexual harassment. Institutions that receive NSF funding will be required to report when grantees are placed on administrative leave because of sexual harassment claims, which can result in a suspension of funding. If sexual harassment claims are confirmed, funding can be withdrawn. The policy is intended to ensure the safety of all grant personnel and recognizes the extensive records of sexual harassment in many scientific disciplines, which can often be ignored by administrators.

THANKS to

- **France Córdoba**, National Science Foundation Director, 2415 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria, VA 22314, (703) 292-5111

Contradicting claims about "clean coal," National Public Radio (NPR) has reported that "epidemiologists at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health say they've identified the largest cluster of advanced black lung disease ever reported.... [and that] we've gone from having nearly eradicated PMF [the worst form of black lung] in the mid-1990s to the highest concentration of cases that anyone has ever seen." Meanwhile, Trump is considering watering down current regulations protecting coal miners.

DEMAND more respect for the health of coal miners from

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

ENCOURAGE action to strengthen mine-worker protections through legislation by

- **Senator Mike Lee** (R-UT), Chair, Senate Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, 361A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5444
- **Senator Ron Wyden** (D-OR), Ranking Member, Senate Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, 221 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5244
- **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

The Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands Equitable Rebuild Act, HR 4782, would provide extensive funding for disaster relief and rebuilding in these U.S. territories. The legislation is now under consideration by nine House committees, including the Agriculture Committee on which our own Jimmy Panetta sits.

ENCOURAGE our rep to support this measure both in committee and on the House floor

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

Also from Rogan's List: Demonstrating that he can get things done, White House Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, now interim head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, has put on hold a rule that would regulate payday lenders; dropped a lawsuit against online lenders charging 900 percent interest rates; ended an investigation into the practices of World Acceptance Corporation, one of his campaign donors; and pulled back on the investigation of the Equifax data breach. Note that over his years in elected politics Mulvaney received nearly \$63,000 in support of his campaigns from payday lending groups. Perhaps he'll be invited to the industry's four-day networking event in April at the Trump National Doral Golf Club.

REMINDERS that he works for us, not for the lenders to

- **Mick Mulvaney**, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th St. NW, Washington DC 20510, (202) 395-3080

REQUESTS for close Congressional monitoring of Mulvaney by

- **Senator Patrick J. Toomey** (R-PA), Chair, Senate Subcommittee on Financial Affairs and Consumer Protection, 248 Russell Senate office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4254

- **Senator Elizabeth Warren** (D-MA), Ranking Member, Senate Subcommittee on Financial Affairs and Consumer Protection, 317 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4543

Senator Ben Cardin has proposed legislation that would prohibit federal funds from being used on a military parade.

THANKS for this necessary action to

- **Senator Ben Cardin** (D-MD), 509 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4524

REQUESTS for support of this legislation 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

California Assembly Member Marc Levine has introduced AB2055, an amendment to the Political Reform act of 1974, which would empower the state Fair Political Practices Commission authority to investigate claims of sexual harassment by lobbyists and the power to prohibit any lobbyist found guilty of sexual harassment from working as lobbyist for up to four years.

THANKS for proposing this legislation to

- **Assembly Member Marc Levine**, State Capitol, PO Box 942849, Room 5135, Sacramento, CA 94249-0010, (916) 319-2010

REQUEST support of this legislation by

- **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

Genocide of the Rohingya in Myanmar continues, with the AP reporting on the discovery of mass graves. Our Congresspeople have multiple opportunities to support legislation designed to draw attention to and end this ethnic cleansing. Legislation on this topic in the Senate includes S 2060 and S Res. 250—Feinstein is a co-sponsor of both. Legislation on this topic in the House on this topic includes HR 4223, H.Con.Res. 90, and H.Res. 528.

THANKS for co-sponsoring both pieces of Senate legislation to

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

ENCOURAGE our second California Senator to do all she can to end this ethnic cleansing, including supporting S 2060 and S Res. 250

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

ENCOURAGE our Representative to do all he can to end this ethnic cleansing, including supporting HR 4223, H.Con.Res. 90, and H.Res. 528

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

In an effort to prevent increased drilling of the California coast, a goal of the current administration, the State Lands Commission has reportedly told the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management that it will not approve new pipelines nor will it allow oil from new drill sites to travel through existing pipelines. This policy would make drilling off the California a much less desirable prospect than it otherwise might be.

THANKS for this proactive move to

- **Gavin Newsom**, Chair, California State Lands Commission
- **Betty T. Yee**, Member, California State Lands Commission
- **Michael Cohen**, Member, California State Lands Commission
- **Jennifer Lucchesi**, Executive Officer, California State Lands Commission

ALL can be reached at

100 Howe Ave., Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916) 574-1900

In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded a \$156 million contract to Tribute Contracting, LLC, a one-person operation run by Tiffany Brown, an entrepreneur with no experience in disaster relief (though clearly highly qualified at disaster creation). By the time the first 18.5 million meals were due, Tribute Contracting had delivered only 50,000—and that food had been packaged separately from the pouches used to heat it, despite FEMA's having ordered "self-heating meals." At that point, FEMA cancelled its contract with Tribute Contracting. Democrats on the House Oversight Committee, which has been investigating the contract, asked Representative Trey Gowdy, the committee chairman, to subpoena FEMA for all documents relating to the agreement. Lawmakers fear the agency is not lining up potential contractors in advance of natural disasters, leading it to scramble to award multimillion-dollar agreements in the middle of a crisis. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, a bipartisan congressional investigation found that a failure to secure advance contracts led to chaos and potential for waste and fraud. Democrats asserted that FEMA was similarly inept preparing for this storm. Meanwhile, Brown is seeking a settlement of at least \$70 million for the cancellation as she now faces legal action by many of the businesses with which she subcontracted.

INFORM FEMA and the House Oversight Committee that we expect our nation to do better than this during times of emergency and **ASK** what actions are being taken to prevent future incidents of the same kind

- **William "Brock" Long**, Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, Washington DC 20472, (202) 646-2500
- **Representative Trey Gowdy** (R-SC), Chair, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 2418 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6030
- **Representative Elijah Cummings** (D-MD), Ranking Member, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 2163 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4741

Scott Lloyd, a Trump HHS appointee, has personally tried to block undocumented immigrant women from having abortions, including a 17-year-old who was raped. He's been sued numerous times—each time, the court has ruled against him. But just this week, we learned that Lloyd considered having a woman injected with drugs against her will to stop an abortion—an experimental procedure they're calling "abortion reversal." It's a gross violation of human rights to inject someone with drugs they don't want to try to stop them from having an abortion they decided to have. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists rightfully called it "unethical." We can't allow extreme officials in Trump's government to continue violating people's rights and the rule of law.

CALL for Scott Lloyd's new boss, Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, to fire him immediately.

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

There have been reports of an FBI investigation into whether a Russian central banker funneled money to the National Rifle Association (NRA) during the 2016 presidential campaign, which the NRA then passed on to the Trump campaign. Senator Ron Wyden, a member of the Senate

Intelligence Committee, has sent letters to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and NRA Treasurer Wilson Phillips, Jr., requesting any documents showing financial links between Russia and the gun lobbying organization. Because Wyden is a Democrat and in the minority on the committee, Wyden's power to require information is limited.

INFORM other Intelligence committee members that we want an investigation into the addition possibility of Russian interference in the 2016 election

- **Senator Richard Burr** (R-NC), Chair, Senate Intelligence Committee, 217 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3154
- **Senator Mark Warner** (R-VA), Vice-Chair, Senate Intelligence Committee, 703 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2023
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Intelligence Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841