**GENERAL DECENCY**

1. Last fall, the NBA Champion Golden State Warriors issued declared that, “In lieu of a visit to the White House, we have decided that we’ll constructively use our [post-win] trip to the nation’s capital in February to celebrate equality, diversity and inclusion—the values that we embrace as an organization.” While in DC, the team visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture with area school children.

**THANKS** for choosing to celebrate their accomplishment by promoting diversity and engaging with children to

• **The Golden State Warriors**, 1011 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 986-2200

2. Dolly Parton has just give away her 100 millionth book! Parton founded Imagination Library, which has grown from a one-county project to a one-million-books-a-month program. Families who sign up with the program receive a book every month from birth to Kindergarten (that’s almost 50 books per child!). Parton has explained that her father, who never attended school and could not read or write, is her inspiration for this program. Once she began the program, “He took so much pride that little kids called me the book lady,”

**THANKS** to a wonderful book lady who makes reading a multi-year experience and not just a one-off event

• **Dolly Parton**, Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, The Dollywood Foundation, 100 Dollywood Ln., Pigeon Forge, TN 37863, (865) 428-9606

3. HR 986, the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2017, would exempt Native American tribes and tribal businesses from the National Labor Relations Act. This change could expose tribal employees to unfair labor practices and could be used to prohibit them from unionizing. HR 986 is currently before the House Education and the Workforce Committee and its Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.

**CONDEMN** this misleadingly named piece of legislation to

• **Representative Virginia Foxx** (R-NC), Chair, Committee on Education and the Workforce, 2262 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2071

• **Representative Joe Wilson** (R-SC), Vice-Chair, Committee on Education and the Workforce, 1436 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2452

• **Representative Robert Scott** (D-VA), Ranking Member, Committee on Education and the Workforce, 1201 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-8351

• **Representative Tim Walberg** (R-MI), Chair, Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, 2436 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6276

• **Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan** (D-Northern Mariana Islands), Ranking Member, Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, 2411 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2646

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

4. President George H. W. Bush ended his lifetime membership in the NRA in 1995 after NRA leader Wayne LaPierre, referring to the Waco standoff and the Oklahoma City Bombing, claimed in a fundraising memo that, “if you have a badge, you have the government's go-ahead to harass, intimidate, even murder law-abiding citizens.” President Bush concluded his resignation letter to the-NRA President Thomas L. Washington with, “I am a gun owner and an avid hunter. Over the years I have agreed with most of N.R.A.'s objectives, particularly your educational and training efforts, and your fundamental stance in favor of owning guns. However, your broadside against Federal agents deeply offends my own sense of decency and honor; and it offends my concept of service to country. It indirectly slanders a wide array of government law enforcement officials, who are out there, day and night, laying their lives on the line for all of us. You have not repudiated Mr. LaPierre's unwarranted attack. Therefore, I resign as a Life Member of N.R.A., said resignation to be effective upon your receipt of this letter. Please remove my name from your membership list.”

Belated **THANKS** for an act of conscience that should serve as a model today

• **President George H. W. Bush**, c/o Bush Presidential Library and Museum, 1000 George Bush Dr. West, College Station, TX 77845, (979) 691-4000

5. Good deeds shouldn’t go unrecognized. Rapper Master P works with Vision to Learn, which provides free vision exams and eyeglasses to children in low-income communities. In late February, he was present to distribute glasses to 30 Oakland teenagers.

**THANKS** to

• **Master P**, Southfield Village Entertainment, 8228 Sunset Boulevard, Suite 190, West Hollywood, CA 90046

6. While John McCain has been able to come and go in the Senate as he fights brain cancer, Senator Tammy Duckworth is slated to have a very different experience when she becomes the first sitting Senator to give birth while holding office. Under current rules, if she takes time off for maternity leave, she will not be able to vote on or sponsor any legislation while on leave. If Senator Duckworth doesn’t take maternity leave, she will find her work more difficult to accomplish as breastfeeding is not allowed on the Senate floor.

**INFORM** the leaders of both Houses, the leaders of the two House’s rules committees, and our Senators about the need for a workplace that accommodates mothers

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

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

• **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

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

• **Representative Tom Cole** (R-OK), Vice Chair, House Rules Committee, 2467 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20151, (202) 225-6165

• **Representative Louise McIntosh Slaughter** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Rules Committee, 2469 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3615

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Member, Senate Rules and Administration Committee, 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

7. 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

8. 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

9. 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

10. 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

11. 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

12. 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

13. 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

14. 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

15. 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

16. 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

17. 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

18. 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

19. 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

20. 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

21. Senators Cory Booker, Maria Cantwell, Kirsten Gilibrand, Bernie Sanders, and Elizabeth Warren have all pledged not to take donations from corporate PACs. Do we want to ask our Senators if they’ve considered this move?

**QUESTIONS** 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

22. 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

23. 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

24. 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 Contacting 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 furture 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

25. 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

26. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra is at work again to combat unjust proposals by the current administration. He and 22 other Attorneys General sent a letter to the U.S. Commerce Secretary, arguing that a citizenship question would undermine immigrant participation in the census, leading to unreliable census data, which would be used for the next decade to determine federal allotments to the states, as well as the number of Representatives each state has in the U.S. House. Becerra has stated that, “What the Trump Administration is requesting is not just alarming, it is illegal…. The California Department of Justice is putting President Trump on notice: if a citizenship question is added to the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau questionnaire, we are prepared to take any and all necessary legal action to protect a full and accurate Census. This is clearly an attempt to bully and discourage our immigrant communities from participating in the 2020 Census count.” The CDC and public health experts agree, pointing out that $600 billion is appropriated to state and local governments based on the census . In addition, the number of U.S. House Representatives each state has is determined by the census. The request for a citizenship question originated with the Justice Department, which claims that data is necessary in order to track possible voter fraud.

**JOIN** the “No citizenship questions” call by writing to

• **Wilbur Ross**, Secretary of Commerce, Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution NW, Washington DC 20230, (202) 482-2000

**THANKS** for once again being a stalwart of democracy to

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

27. Trump’s infrastructure plans include a sell-off of federal “assets” (think: airports, major parkways, aqueducts, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the like) to private corporations. Putting our public resources into the hands of private, profit-hungry, entities might result in transitory profits, but it also sets the stage for corporations to benefit by charging us more than the actual cost to use some of the most basic parts of our nation’s transportation, water, and energy systems.

**INFORM** our Congresspeople that we’re counting on the to fight this madness by all possible means

• **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

28. 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

**IMMIGRATION**

**1. The Supreme Court ruled that immigrants facing deportation are not entitled to periodic bond hearings.** The 5-3 decision reversed a Ninth Circuit ruling that immigrant detainees and asylum seekers can't be detained indefinitely and must be given a bond hearing every six months and that detention beyond the initial six-month period is permitted only if the government proved that further detention is justified. California Representatives Doug LaMalfa, Tom McClintock, Dana Rohrabacher signed an amicus brief in favor of holding immigrants without requiring bail hearings.

**INFORM** these Reps that you will remember their support of indefinite detention without bail hearings if they ever run for Senate or state-wide office

• **Representative Doug LaMalfa** (R-CA), 322 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3076

• **Representative Tom McClintock** (R-CA), 2312 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2511

• **Representative Dana Rohrabacher** (R-CA), 2300 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2415

2. Oakland’s Mayor, Libby Schaaf, took a courageous step on February 24th when she warned of imminent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids in the Bay Area. ICE, which did conduct raids with a total of 150 arrests, condemned Schaaf’s move, stating that it might have been able to make significantly more arrests without the Mayor’s tip-off to the area’s residents.

**THANKS** for looking out for **ALL** of us to

• **Mayor Libby Schaaf**, 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 3rd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612, (510) 238-3141

3. 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 681 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

4. 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

5. *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

6. 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

7. Trump claims he wants refugees to assimilate quickly, but the administration has announced plans to close 20 refugee resettlement offices and to sharply cut services at another 40 refugee resettlement offices. Services provided by these agencies include finding housing and jobs, and helping refugees learn to navigate a number of U.S. systems that may be unfamiliar, including public education, medical services, and banking systems.

**TELL** the State Department that we want these crucial agencies protected

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

8. Because the fight isn’t over yet

**REMIND** our legislators that we want a clean Dream act and support for Family Migration

• **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

9. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, aka ICE, aka Border Patrol has outdone itself with its new policies regarding “Friendship Park.” The park straddles San Diego and Tijuana, is divided by a metal mesh fence, and has long been a meeting place for families separated by immigration, a spot where they could talk to one another and exchange “pinky kisses.” Under the Border Patrol’s new policies visits are now limited to 30 minutes, no more than ten people are allowed in the area at one time, photos and videotaping are prohibited, and the public is no longer allowed in the binational garden within the park. Even before these new rules went into effect visitors were only allowed in the park from 10a.m. to 2p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

**CASTIGATION** for a policy that reeks of deliberate cruelty to

• **Rodney S. Scott**, Chief Patrol Agent, San Diego Sector, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2411 Boswell Rd., Chula Vista, CA 91914, (619) 216-4000

• **Ronald D. Vitiello**, Acting Deputy Commissioner, San Diego Sector, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2411 Boswell Rd., Chula Vista, CA 91914, (619) 216-4000

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

**ETHICS**

1. The *New York Times* reports that early last year Jared Kushner, Trump’s son-in-law and “senior adviser” met multiple times with Joshua Harris, a founder of Apollo Global Management; among other things, the two men discussed a possible White House job for Mr. Harris. Mr. Harris never got that job, but in November Apollo lent $184 million to Kushner’s family real estate firm, Kushner Companies. Interestingly enough, one month later the Securities Exchange Commission dropped an investigation of Apollo. Kushner had even greater success with Citigroup. In the spring of 2017, Kushner met in the White House with Citigroup’s chief executive, Michael L. Corbat, according to people briefed on the meeting. The two men talked about financial and trade policy and did not discuss Mr. Kushner’s family business, one person said. Shortly after that meeting, Citigroup a $325 million loan to Kushner Properties.

DEMAND an investigation of what clearly appears to be an unethical exchange of political access for personal profit

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

• **David J. Apol**, Acting Director and General Counsel, US Office of Government Ethics, 1201 New York NW, Suite 500, Washington DC 20005, (202) 482-9300

• **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 Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **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

2. In late February, Equifax announced that it had discovered an additional 2.4 million consumers affected by the cyber-attack on their data base, bringing the total number of consumers affected to over 147 million. (If I’m doing my math right, that could mean one out of every two U.S. consumers.) As we consider this, we might want to remind ourselves that when Mick Mulvaney took over the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) he ended the agency’s investigation of Equifax.

**REMINDERS** that we expect real protection from the CFPB to

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

3. The *Guardian* web site reports that Helen Foster, a senior career official at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), alleges that she was demoted and replaced after refusing to break the law by funding an expensive redecoration of HUD Secretary Ben Carson’s office. The legal limit for improvements to the Secretary’s office suite is $5,00. (The final remodel included a $31,000 dining table and chairs.) Foster, 47, claimed that she also faced retaliation for exposing a $10 million budget shortfall, and for protesting when she was barred from handling a pair of sensitive freedom of information act (FOIA) requests relating to Trump apparently because she was perceived to be a Democrat.

**TELL** HUD to quit focusing on décor and to keep track of the Department’s finances

• **Secretary Ben Carson**, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th St. SW, Washington DC 20410, (202) 708-1112

4. FCC Chair has been caught in another bit of ethically questionable behavior. In recognition of Pai’s courage (?) in facing public criticism while bringing net neutrality to an end, the NRA gave him their “Charlton Heston Courage Under Fire Award” and a custom-made long gun. Under existing law, federal employees can only receive gifts if they won’t benefit the interests of the givers. Since the NRA was a strong proponent of ending net neutrality, Pai’s acceptance of the award and gun certainly doesn’t seem appropriate. Pai has also not produced the written analysis required when a member of the FCC receives a gift with a value over $200.

**SHARE** your disgust over this unethical behavior with

• **Ajit Pai**, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th St. SW, Washington DC 20554, 888-CALL-FCC

5. *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

6. 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

7. 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

8. 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

9. 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

10. At the request of Representatives Frank Pallone, Jr., and Elijah Cummings, the Federal Communication Commission’s (FCC) Inspector General has launched an investigation into ties between FCC Chair Ajit Pai and Sinclair Broadcasting. It appears that Pai may have improperly coordinated with and pushed for rules benefitting Sinclair Broadcasting.

**THANKS** for requesting the investigation to

• **Representative Frank Pallone**, Jr., Ranking Member, House Oversight and Commerce Committee, 237 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4671

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

**THANKS** for undertaking the investigation

• **David Hunt**, FCC Inspector General, 445 12th St. SW, Washington DC 20554, (202) 418-2811

**CRITICISM** for ethically questionable practices to

• **Ajit Pai**, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th St. SW, Washington DC 20554, 888-CALL-FCC

**RUSSIA AND ELECTION INTERFERENCE**

1. Sweden has been taking multiple steps to prevent Russian interference in its elections. The Washington Post reports that hundreds of local election workers have been trained to spot and resist foreign influence; the country’s biggest media outlets have teamed up to combat false news; and political parties scour their email systems to close hacker-friendly holes.

Strongly **SUGGEST** that the U.S. follow Sweden’s example and try some of these strategies to protect our own elections

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

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

• **Director Christopher Wray**, Federal Bureau of Investigations, FBI Headquarters, 935 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20535-0001, (202) 324-3000

2. The PAPER Act, HR 3715, would provide federal assistance and financial support for states to modernize the security and protect the integrity of their election systems. The Secure Elections Act, S 2261, would provide grants to states and establish an advisory panel of independent experts to share information about election cybersecurity incidents, threats and vulnerabilities.

**TELL** our Senators you’d like to see our election system protected by S2261

• **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

**TELL** our Representative that you’d like to see our election system protect ted by HR 3751

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

3. 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

4. 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

5. 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

6. 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

7. 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 and **REQUEST** attention to possible political spending by the three 501(c)(3)s the NRA runs

• **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

8. FBI Director Christopher Wray has reported that he’s received no direction from the White House to try to stop Russian efforts to interfere in 2018 elections. If Trump won’t act, we need to push Congress to act. S 2313 and HR 4884, “Defending Elections from Threats by Establishing Redlines,” lays out penalties for specific foreign actions to interfere with U.S. elections.

**REQUEST** support for S 2313 and HR 4884 from

• **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

9. From Rogan’s List: Republicans on the House Intelligence Committee have delayed scheduling this year’s annual hearings from the Directors of the FBI and CIA on global threats. Perhaps they fear that Democrats might ask FBI Director Christopher Wray about key provisions that were left out of the Nunes memo. Even Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has claimed that Russia is poised to hack the 2018 election.

**TELL** our representative that learning about global threats to our elections and other aspects of our national security is important and **ASK** them to pressure the House Intelligence Committee to schedule these hearings ASAP

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

**ADVISE** Republican members of the committee that you’re watching their actions and that you want these committee hearings scheduled immediately

• **Representative Devin Nunes** (R-CA), Chair, House Intelligence Committee, 1013 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2523

• **Representative Mike Conaway** (R-TX), Member, House Intelligence Committee, 2430 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3605

• **Representative Peter King** (R-NY), Member, House Intelligence Committee, 339 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-7896

• **Representative Frank LoBiondo** (R-NJ), Member, House Intelligence Committee, 2427 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6572

• **Representative Tom Rooney** (R-FL), Member, House Intelligence Committee, 2160 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5792

• **Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen** (R-FL), Member, House Intelligence Committee, 2206 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3931

• **Representative Michael Turner** (R-OH), Member, House Intelligence Committee, 2368 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6465

• **Representative Brad Wenstrup** (R-OH), Member, House Intelligence Committee, 2419 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3164

• **Representative Chris Stewart** (R-UT), Member, House Intelligence Committee, 323 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9730

• **Representative Rick Crawford** (R-AR) Member, House Intelligence Committee, 2422 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4076

• **Representative Trey Gowdy** (R-SC), Member, House Intelligence Committee, 2418 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6030

• **Representative Elise Stefanik** (R-NY), Member, House Intelligence Committee, 318 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4611

• **Representative Will Hurd** (R-TX), Member, House Intelligence Committee, 317 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4511

**HEALTH**

1. The president’s latest attack on Obamacare is a proposal that would loosen restrictions on short-term health insurance plans, allowing many to buy “skinny plans” with less coverage for up to a year. (The current limit is 3 months These less-regulated plans can exempt people for pre-existing conditions and charge high deductibles and out of pocket costs; yet, since they are cheaper, they are likely to attract healthier people, which would drive up the premium costs of Obamacare plans for everyone else.

**EXPRESS** opposition to this change 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

**2. Mother Jones reports that a federal environmental program that distributes grants to test the effects of chemical exposure on adults and children is being shuttered** amidst a major organization consolidation at the Environmental Protection Agency. The National Center for Environmental Research (NCER) will no longer exist following plans to combine three EPA offices. The NCER is largely known for the funding it provides through its premiere program, Science to Achieve Results (STAR). Under the STAR program, grants are given to the Children’s Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers, which were established in 1988 to discover methods to reduce children’s health risks from environmental factors

**CONDEMN** this abandonment of valuable research to protect the health of our children and INSIST on the continuation of NCER and STAR

• **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

3. Having health insurance (for those of us who do) is great, but “gag clauses” demanded by pharmaceutical giants can result in those with insurance paying more than necessary for their medications. These clauses prohibit pharmacists from revealing to clients with insurance that they may be paying more than is necessary for prescriptions. For example, if one’s health plan requires a $20 copay for a medication, but that medication can be bought outright for $15, a consumer would want to send $15—but with a gag clause that consumer will not hear about the cheaper alternative. Alex Azar, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, was quoted in the *New York Times* as saying, “this shouldn’t be happening.”

**INFORM** the secretary and key committee members that you share this viewpoint and ask what they are doing to end pharmaceutical gag orders

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

• **Senator Lamar** Alexander (R-TN), Chair, Health, Education Labor and Pensions Committee, 455 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20501, (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

4. 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

5. 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

6. 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., Baltimore, MD 21244-8013, comment line (800) 633-4227

7. 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

8. After the revelation that Aetna Insurance’s former medical director, Dr. J. Ken Iinuma stated under oath that he never looked at patients’ medical records when deciding to approve or deny care, California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones announced that he has launched an investigation into the insurer’s practices. Aetna used a tiered system for reviewing healthcare for individual patients that included an early review by a nurse that was then sent up to Iinuma for confirmation. This system isn’t necessarily the problem. Nurses are highly-trained professionals with a wealth of medical knowledge and are an appropriate choice to do an initial review. However, for the highest-ranking individual in a system that is making life-or-death decisions for people *who have already paid for their insurance coverage* to make a consistent practice of not reviewing medical records himself is unconscionable.

**THANKS** for undertaking this investigation to

• **Commissioner Dave Jones**, California Department of Insurance, 300 Capitol Mall, Suite 1700, Sacramento, CA 95814, ombudsman phone number (916) 492-3545

**CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM** to

• **Mark T. Bertolini**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Aetna, Inc., 151 Farmington Ave., Hartford, CT 06516, (800) 872-3862

9. The House has passed HR 620, a major blow to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). According to the ACLU, “Under Title III of the ADA, private businesses must ensure new buildings are accessible and remove barriers in older buildings where it is “readily achievable”—a standard that considers the cost of the change and the resources of the business….This legislation would require people with disabilities who encounter access barriers at a business or facility to become legal experts on the code, to provide “notice” to the business of what code they are violating, and to wait six months or longer. And this isn’t even for the business to actually fix the problem—just for the business to make ‘substantial progress’ towards accessibility.” The Senate is now considering the issue.

**URGE** strong opposition to this legislation by

• **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

**THANK** our Representative for being one of the “nay” votes when this legislation was before the House

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

**CASTIGATE** the Democratic House members who voted in favor of HR 620

• **Representative Pete Aguilar** (D-CA), 1223 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 224-3201

• **Representative Ami Bera** (D-CA), 1431 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 224-5716

• **Representative Luis Correa** (D-CA), 1039 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 224-2965

• **Representative Scott Peters** (D-CA), 1122 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 224-0508

• **Representative Jackie Speier** (D-CA), 2465 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 224-3531

• **Representative Norma Torres** (D-CA), 1713 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 224-6161

10. The Center for Disease Control is cutting global disease prevention programs by 80% and dramatically downsizing its efforts in 39 out of 49 countries. As the goal of this work is to stop future outbreaks of disease at the source before they become global pandemics, the results of this decision could be potentially devastating.

**TELL** our Congresspeople and Health and Human Services that funding for global disease prevention should be a budget priority that transcends partisan politics

• **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

• **Secretary Alex Azar**, Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue SW, Washington DC 20201, (202) 205-5445

**JUDICIAL**

1. 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

2. 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

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT**

1. Forced arbitration of sexual harassment claims often works again the complainant, who has no recourse but to accept the decision of the arbitrator. In a piece published in *The Hill*, Representative Cheri Bustos (D-Illinois) laid out the case for ending forced arbitration of sexual harassment in the workplace, calling Speaker of the House Paul Ryan to bring HR 4570, the “Ending of Forced Arbitration of Sexual Harassment Act,” to the floor for a vote. This legislation has the support of every state Attorney General. The accompanying Senate legislation is S 2203.

**PRESSURE** to bring this bill to the House floor to

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

**URGE** our Representative to speak up in support of HR 4570

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

**URGE** our Senators to speak up on behalf of S2203

• **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

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

3. 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 a 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

4. A bill sponsored by our Senator Dianne Feinstein and intended to protect amateur athletes from sexual abuse has now been signed into law. The Extending Justice for Sex Crime Victims Act of 2017 (S 30) requires amateur athletic governing agencies to report sexual abuse allegations to local or federal law enforcement or a Justice Department-designated child welfare agency within 24 hours of the allegations being made. The bill also extends the statute of limitations on suing these sex offenders, since children may not realize that what they’ve experienced is abuse until some time after it occurs.

**THANKS** for sponsoring this legislation to

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

**INTERNATIONAL**

1. Another from Rogan’s List: Saudi Arabia’s campaign in Yemen has killed thousands of civilians, and Human Rights Watch has found that they’ve committed war crimes that have worsened the humanitarian crisis. Trump has not only continued to back Saudi Arabia, he’s expanded American support for the war, despite the fact that Congress has never authorized our involvement in the conflict in the first place.  Senator Bernie Sanders, Mike Lee, and Chris Murphy have introduced SJ Res. 54, a bipartisan resolution that calls for an end to U.S. military assistance to the Saudi-led war in Yemen, where nearly 8.4 million people are "a step away from famine." In the House, HCR 81 would end all U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen.

**CONDEMN** the US role in exacerbating this humanitarian crisis to

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

• **Secretary James Mattis**, Department of Defense, 1000 Defense Pentagon, Washington DC 20301-1000, (703) 571-3343

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

**URGE** our Senators to support SJ Res. 54

• **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

**URGE** our Representative to support HCR 81

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

2. 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 US 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. The Syrian American Medical Society reports that in East Ghouta, more than 400,000 people (including 95,000 children) are under a siege that is restricting the inflow of food and medical supplies, and 13,000 children are in urgent need of medical care. We also 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 **CALL** for an end to the siege and an immediate humanitarian convoy to bring essential food and medical relief to the people of Syria

• **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

**SHARE** our outrage about these deaths and **CALL** for an end to the siege and an immediate humanitarian convoy to bring essential food and medical relief to the people of Syria, and ENCOURAGE support of HR 700 from

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

3. 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

**ENVIRONMENT**

1. A judge has ordered the California Department of Food and Agriculture to stop using chemical pesticides in its statewide program until the agency complies with state environmental laws. Despite thousands of comment letters urging the department to take a safer approach, officials in 2014 approved a program that gave them broad license to spray 79 pesticides, some known to cause cancer and birth defects, anywhere in the state, including schools, organic farms, public parks and residential yards. Spraying was allowed indefinitely and required no analysis of the health and environmental impacts of the chemicals at the specific application sites and no public notice or scrutiny of treatment decisions. Many of the pesticides are also highly toxic to bees, butterflies, fish and birds.

**THANKS** to the organizations whose suit brought about this ruling

• **The City of Berkeley**, c/o Mayor Jesse Arreguin, 2180 Milvia St., 5th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704, (510) 981-7100

• **The Center for Biological Diversity**, 1212 Broadway St. #800, Oakland, CA 94612, (510) 844-7100

• **The Environmental Working Group**, 500 Washington St., Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94111, (415) 963-0750

• **California Environmental Health Initiative**, 2029 University Ave., Suite 200, Berkeley, CA 94704

• **MOMS Advocating Sustainability**, PO Box 654, Mill Valley, CA 94942

• **Center for Food Safety**, West Coast Office, 303 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111, (415) 826-2770

• **Pesticide Action Network North America**, 2029 University Ave., Suite 200, Berkeley, CA 94704, (510) 788-9020

• **Center for Environmental Health**, 2201 Broadway, Suite 302, Oakland, CA 94612, (510) 655-3900

• **Environmental Action Committee of West Marin**, 63 3rd St. #14, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956, (415) 663-9312

• **Beyond Pesticides**, 701 E St. SE, Suite 200, Washington DC 20003, (202) 543-5450

• **Californians for Pesticide Reform**, 2029 University Ave., Suite 200, Berkeley, CA 94704, (520) 788-9025

• **Safe Alternatives for Our Forest Environment**, Hayfork, CA 96041, [closet thing to a mailing address available; a town of 2400, so this address will probably work]

2. 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

3. 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

4. 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

5. 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

6. The Trump administration has called for opening the bulk of our nation’s coast to oil and gas drilling. The official comment period for this proposal is now open. If you dread the possibility of an oil spill within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary you may want to speak up.

**COMMENTS** on this proposal can be sent to to

• **Ms. Kelly Hammerle**, Chief, National Oil and Gas Leasing Program Development and Coordination Branch, Leasing Division, Office of Strategic Resources, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD), "Comments for the 2019-2024 Draft Proposed National Oil and Gas Leasing Program," 45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166-9216

7. Trump’s Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is trying to to repeal the rule that requires oil and gas companies on federal land to capture planet-warming methane rather than releasing it into the atmosphere. Methane is 25 times more potent at trapping heat than carbon dioxide. A California judge has put a stay on this action, but we need to keep the pressure up.

**COMMENTS** to

• **Ryan Zinke**, Secretary of the Interior, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C St. NW, Room 5665, Washington DC 20240, (202) 209-3801

**BUDGET**

1. 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

2. 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

3. 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

4. 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

5. 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

6. It appears that the administration’s call to end all funding for National Public Radio (NPR) and the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) is going to be an annual event. The new budget proposal out of the White House calls for elimination of these programs, despite their long history of contributing to education, arts, and public discourse.

**TELL** Trump and Congressional leaders that you expect them to maintain full funding for these programs

• **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 Congresspeople what they’re doing to protect NPR and PBS

• **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

7. As part of the budget proposal from the White House, Trump is calling for a program that would cut in half food stamp support provided to families currently receiving $90 a month or more (about 80% of participants) and replacing the monies cut with monthly boxes of non-perishable food items. The Agriculture is planning to call these “America’s Harvest Boxes,” and Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney describes the boxes as “a Blue Apron type program.” Aside from denying food stamp recipients the opportunity to make their own food decisions the program would likely rely on canned fruits and vegetables and refined carbohydrates in the form of pasta. And the cut in actual food stamps would make purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables and whole grain products even more difficult than it currently is. (I guess the savings will pay for the program’s contribution to the US’s type 2 diabetes epidemic.) The plan doesn't include funding for infrastructure to make the food, money to ship the food, or plans to address specific dietary needs of its recipients. Plus, individual states are expected to pick up the bill for the $25 billion it would take to implement this plan.

**COMPLAINTS** to

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

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

**REQUESTS** for vigilant opposition as the budget process continues 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

**GUNS**

1. In a recent surprise move, and to the shock of many Republicans, Trump told members of Congress that he supports commonsense gun reform and thinks it should happen.

**ENCOURAGE** this outlook before he changes his mind

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

2. Rancho Gordo, based in Napa, CA, and working with farmers across Mexico and the U.S. is an internationally known purveyor of heirloom beans and grains. They don’t just sell good foodstuffs; they help preserve lesser-known varieties of beans and grains and support small, individually operated farms. Following FedEx’s refusal to drop its NRA discount program, Rancho Gordo CEO Steve Sando has announced that Rancho Gordo is severing its business relationship with FedEx, which goes back to Rancho Gordo’s founding. Work is underway to redesign and code their web site to make this change reality.

**THANKS** to

• **Steve Sando**, CEO, Rancho Gordo New World Specialty Foods, 1924 Yajome St., Napa, CA 94559, (707) 259-1935

3. FedEx doesn’t just offer an NRA discount. Think Progress reports that internal company documents show “precisely how FedEx has secretly agreed to bend its own rules on gun shipments for powerful forces in the gun industry, including all major gun manufacturers and the NRA itself.” In most cases, the US Postal Service won’t ship guns, meaning that gun shipments in this country are most often handled by FedEx or UPS. Think Progress explains that, “FedEx’s *public policy* [emphasis added], like UPS’s, is that “[f]irearms must be shipped via FedEx Priority Overnight service,” according to the company’s 2018 Service Guide, which also states that FedEx will not transport handguns via FedEx Ground. But FedEx does not apply these rules to everyone. According to the document, the company has struck a deal with dozens of major gun manufacturers and dealers in an effort to woo the industry away from competitors with lower cost shipping. In fact, “Some customers have been approved for an exception to ship firearms with a 2-day (AM or PM) service,” the document says. Those customers include 86 firearms manufacturers and dealers, including nearly every major company in the business, like Smith & Wesson, Colt, Glock, SIG Sauer, and the NRA itself.

**GIVE** FedEx your **VIEW** of their catering to the gun industry

• **FedEx Corporate Offices**, FedEx Customer Relations, 7900 Legacy Dr., Plano, TX 75024, (469) 980-3000

4. Dick’s Sporting goods has announced an end to selling assault-type rifles and high-capacity magazines. They will not sell bump stocks. They will not sell to anyone under 21. If we can’t get reasonable gun control from our government, perhaps we can get it through the marketplace.

**THANKS** to

Dick’s Sporting Goods, 345 Court St., Coraopolis, PA 15108, (724) 273-3400

5. In thinking about next steps on gun control, advocates have highlighted one measure that might have actually prevented the Parkland shooting – a gun violence restraining order statute, or “red flag” law, which would allow family or law enforcement to petition a judge to temporarily remove firearms from an individual in crisis. California already has legislation that does just this—perhaps one of the reasons our state is 43rd out of 50 in annual gun deaths per 1000 residents. HR 2598, the Gun Violence Restraining Order Act would make such legislation national.

**THANKS** again for not only supporting, but cosponsoring this legislation to our own

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

6. Democrats led by Representatives Ted Deutch (D-FL) and David Cicilline (D-RI) have introduced HR 5097, the Assault Weapons Ban of 2018, which delineates the types of guns that will be defined as “assault weapons” and prohibits the manufacturing, sale, importation, and ownership of these guns. Assault Weapons currently held by individuals will not be included in this ban, but the legislation requires their safe storage.

**THANKS** for not only supporting, but cosponsoring this legislation to our own

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

7. California State Treasurer John Chiang has proposed rules that would prevent the California State Teachers’ Retirement System (CalSTRS) to end its stake in sporting goods companies and wholesale weapons dealers that sell guns that are illegal in California in other states. Wouldn’t it be great if all state pension funds did this?

**THANKS** for the initial proposal to

• John Chiang, California State Treasurer

**REQUEST** information on steps the state’s retirement systems may be taking and **ENCOURAGE** divesting from gun manufacturers to

• **Marie Frost**, CEO, California Public Employees’ Retirement System, 400 Q St., Sacramento, CA 95811, (888) 225-7377

• **Henry Jones**, Chair Investment Committee, California Public Employees’ Retirement System, 400 Q St., Sacramento, CA 95811, (888) 225-7377

• **Jack Ehnes**, CEO, CalSTRS, PO Box 15275, Sacramento, CA 95851-0275, (800) 228-5453

• **Christopher J. Ailman**, Chief Investment Officer, CalSTRS, PO Box 15275, Sacramento, CA 95851-0275, (800) 228-5453

• **Jagdeep Singh Bachher**, CIO and Vice President of Investments, University of California, Office of the President, 1111 Franklin St., Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 987-9200

8. In November of last year, representatives in the House introduced a background check bill, HR 4240, which would ensure that background checks occur in all commercial firearm sales, including gun shows, classified ads, and over the internet. Although the bill has bipartisan support, and over 160 cosponsors, it has been sitting in the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.  Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA) filed a discharge petition this week to bring the bill to the House floor for a vote.

**THANKS** for signing on to the discharge petition and cosponsoring HR 4240, the Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2017, to

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

9. Here’s an idea: Given what we know about how many violent offenders start out by abusing animals—and for the sake of the animals themselves—why not create a state-wide or national registry of animal abusers, similar to that we currently have for sex offenders. This could be used very effectively when background checks are made on potential gun buyers.

**ENCOURAGE** our state and national representatives to consider the creation of such a registry

• **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

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

• **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

10. 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

11. 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

12. 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

13. 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

14. 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**

15. 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

• **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

16. 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

17. 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

18. 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

19. 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

20. The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, which would allow any person with a concealed carry permit in *one* state to carry a concealed weapon in *all* states, regardless of the laws of those other states, has already been approved by the House, and Trump has said he will sign this legislation of it makes it to his desk. The Senate version of the bill currently has 40 cosponsors. Since California’s Attorney General has been so proactive in challenging many of the administration’s policies and practices perhaps he might think about concealed reciprocity as a states’ rights issue or by some other means (I’m not a lawyer; I’m just trying to pay attention).

**THANKS** for the good work he’s doing and REQUESTS that he explore ways to fight concealed carry reciprocity to

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

21. Thirteen of California’s Representatives in Washington DC have taken campaign money from the NRA. Whether or not we live in their current district, we can keep our eyes open and prepare to be an informed opposition should they run for any statewide position. (Dollar amounts received by each Representative over their political career are listed following their address and phone number.) Representative Mike Thompson, a Democrat, took a total of $4,000 over a three-year period more than a decade ago; since then, he has fought for gun control, so I haven’t included him in this list. Everyone listed below has taken contributions within the last year or two.

**TELL** these people that they have blood on their hands and that as a Californian committed to sane gun regulation you are already committed to fighting any attempt they make to run for a higher office—in fact you’re already prepared to work for their opposition

• **Representative Ken Calvert** (R-CA), 2205 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-1986 $40,550

• **Representative Darrell Issa** (R-CA), 2269 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (212) 225-3906, $28,900

• **Representative Devin Nunes** (R-CA), 1013 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2523, $22,950

• **Representative David Valadao** (R-CA), 1728 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4695, $20,400

• **Representative Jeff Denham** (R-CA), 1730 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (212) 225-4540, $19,400

• **Representative Dana Rohrabacher** (R-CA), 2300 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2415, $18,000

• **Representative Kevin McCarthy** (R-CA), 2421 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2915, $15,450

• **Representative Tom McClintock** (R-CA), 2312 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2511, $13,950

• **Representative Duncan D. Hunter** (R-CA), 2429 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5672, $12,000

• **Representative Edward R. Royce** (R-CA), 2310 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4111, $11,970

• **Representative Paul Cook** (R-CA), 1222 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5861, $8,000

• **Representative Mimi Walters** (R-CA), 215 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5611 $4,000

• **Representative Steve Knight** (R-CA), 1023 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-1956, $4,000

22. Republican leadership in the House (in other words, Paul Ryan) is refusing to schedule any of the following for a vote: HR 1475, the Gun Trafficking Prevention Act; HR 1478, the Gun Violence Research Act; HR 1612, the Closing the Gun Show Loophole Act; HR 3947, the Automatic Gunfire Prevention Act; HR 4052, the Keep Americans Safe Act; HR 4240, the Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act. Blocking voting, whether among citizens or legislators, is profoundly un-American.

**CASTIGATION** for a refusal to allow the democratic process to play out

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

Now that Dick’s Sporting Goods and Wal-Mart have changed their sales policies to curb gun violence, there is one remaining major retailer, Bass Pro, that still sells semi-automatic rifles. Bass Pro did stop the sale of bump stocks in October

**ASK** Bass Pro to follow Dick’s and Walmart’s footsteps, and stop selling semi-automatic assault rifles or any guns to people under 21

• **Bass Pro Corporate Headquarters**, 2500 E. Kearney, Springfiled, MO 65803, (417) 873-5000

**EDUCATION**

1. California Assemblymember José Medina has introduced AB 2772, which would make taking an ethnic studies course a requirement for graduation in California high schools.

**THANKS** for taking this action celebrating diversity at a time when bigotry is flourishing to

• Assemblymember José Medina, University Village 1223, University Ave. #230, Riverside, CA 92507, (951) 643-8524

**SUPPORT** for AB 2772 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

2. A memo from Betsy DeVos’s Department of Education argues that the nation's loan servicers should be protected from state rules that may be far tougher than federal law on student loan debt collectors who have been accused of deceiving and abusing student borrowers and have been sued by Attorneys General in a handful of states

**CONDEMN** creating a double standard for predatory lending to college students and the imposition of a rule blocking the states from taking action against these abusive debt collectors

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

3. 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

4. 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

5. 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

6. 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

7. 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

8. A recent, large-scale survey of students at the California State University’s (CSU) 23 campuses revealed that 42% of students in the system struggle to afford food regularly. Almost 11% report having been homeless for at least some period in the last year. No one should be hungry or homeless—particularly not at one of the nation’s top (and largest) educational systems. Students need nutritious food and time away from work in order to succeed.

**QUERY** the Governor, who also happens to lead the CSU Board of Trustees, about how the state is responding to this problem

• **Governor Jerry Brown**, c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-2841

9. The Department of Education (DoE) admits their refusal to respond to civil rights complaints filed by transgender students who are barred from using bathrooms that correspond with their gender identity. More than 700 parents of transgender children have signed a letter to Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos condemning her failure to protect transgender students and calling on her to recognize the basic human and civil rights of transgender young people in our nation’s schools. At the same time, Secretary DeVos is complaining about being criticized for not upholding the rights of students.

**AFFIRM** the rights of all students to have their gender identities recognized and respected

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

• **Candice Jackson**, Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Building, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington DC 20202-1100, (800) 421-3481

**HUMAN/CIVIL RIGHTS**

1. 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

2. *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