Postcarding Issues/Addresses, 4.28.2018

In a lengthy piece in its “Magazine” section, the *New York Times* reported that “Black infants in America are now more than twice as likely to die as white infants—11.3 per 1,000 black babies, compared with 4.9 per 1,000 white babies, according to the most recent government data—a racial disparity that is actually wider than in 1850, 15 years before the end of slavery, when most black women were considered chattel. In one year, that racial gap adds up to more than 4,000 lost black babies. Education and income offer little protection. In fact, a black woman with an advanced degree is more likely to lose her baby than a white woman with less than an eighth-grade education. This tragedy of black infant mortality is intimately intertwined with another tragedy: a crisis of death and near death in black mothers themselves. The United States is one of only 13 countries in the world where the rate of maternal mortality—the death of a woman related to pregnancy or childbirth up to a year after the end of pregnancy—is now worse than it was 25 years ago. Each year, an estimated 700 to 900 maternal deaths occur in the United States. In addition, the C.D.C. reports more than 50,000 potentially preventable near-deaths… per year—a number that rose nearly 200 percent from 1993 to 2014, the last year for which statistics are available. Black women are three to four times as likely to die from pregnancy-related causes as their white counterparts, according to the C.D.C.—a disproportionate rate that is higher than that of Mexico, where nearly half the population lives in poverty—and as with infants, the high numbers for black women drive the national numbers.

**DEMAND** to know what actions are currently being taken to address this health crisis

• **Alex Azar**, Secretary of Health & Human Services, 200 Independence Ave, SW, DC 20201, 877-696-6775

The “Expressing No Confidence in the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and Calling for the Immediate Resignation of the Administrator Resolution,” H.Res.834, is exactly what it sounds like: a resolution demanding the resignation of ethics-challenged EPA head Scott Pruitt. This legislation currently has 141 co-sponsors, including our own Jimmy Panetta. The Senate equivalent, S.Res.473, has 39 co-sponsors, including our two Senators.

**THANKS** for working to hold public officials to account to

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

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

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

From *Rogan’s List*: The devastation suffered by Puerto Rico during Hurricane Maria is turning out to be far worse than the government has said. Researchers say more than 1,000 people died due to the Hurricane, as opposed to the official estimate of. It is well beyond time for our country to treat Maria like the catastrophe it really was and help Puerto Rico recover. The “Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands Equitable Rebuild Act,” (S.2165 in the Senate; H.R.4782 in the House) would provide additional recovery assistance to these territories.

**URGE** our Congresspeople to move forward and ensure folks get the assistance they need.

• **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

United Farmworkers warns that “Until recently, the farm workers who help bring fresh fruit and vegetables to our tables were not protected by the same safety standards that most workers in the U.S. enjoyed. It took more than 20 years to update the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS) and more than 40 years to update the Certification of Pesticide Applicators (CPA) rule. These rules provide crucial pesticide training and life-saving protections to the most exposed and vulnerable workers and communities. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt wants to weaken rules that would prevent children from applying toxic pesticides and protect all of us from dangerous chemicals found in agricultural, commercial and residential settings. By tampering with the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard and its sister set of safety standards, the Certification of Pesticide Applicators Rule, **Pruitt is putting farm workers, pesticide handlers, their families and the entire public at risk.**

**DEMAND that we maintain these hard-won protections for farmworkers, our communities, and the environment**

• **Scott Pruitt**, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460, (202) 564-4700

The American Federation of Teachers has announced that they'll cut ties with Wells Fargo, because they object to the bank's relationship with the NRA. According to AFT President Randi Weingarten, the decision came after attempts to engage the bank directly failed.

**THANKS** to

• **President Randi Weingarten** American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO 555 New Jersey Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001

Politico reports that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (Ky.), worried that Democrats might take the Senate, is rushing to confirm as many judges as possible to reshape the courts: Trump has already nominated 69 judges, but there are 149 total vacancies. GOP leaders say McConnell is intent on filling as many as he can this year, in part out of concern that Democrats take back the Senate. In contrast to the current rate of confirmations, McConnell allowed only 20 confirmations of district and circuit judges during Obama’s last two years, a modern low according to congressional statistics.

Inform McConnell that we see and are sick of his hypocrisy and bullying in his position as Senate Majority Leader

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

**Trump's new National Security Adviser chaired a nonprofit that promoted misleading and anti-Muslim news**. John Bolton was chairman of the Gatestone Institute from 2013 until last month. The advocacy group claims that a "jihadist takeover" of Europe is leading to a "Great White Death," which was amplified by a Russian troll factory that sought to portray Western society as at risk of "Islamization."

**TELL** Trump and Bolton that fear-mongering, racism, and hate are no way to make a nation secure

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

• **John Bolton**, National Security Adviser, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington DC 20500

We still need a clean DREAM act.

TELL Congressional leaders that a DREAM Act should be a priority

• **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

**ASK** our Congresspeople to keep fighting for Dreamers

• **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

From *Rogan’s List*: Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, has started a new protocol that has resulted in the dismissal of 500 civil rights cases. The provision allows the Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights (OCR) to “throw out cases that signal "a pattern of complaints previously filed with OCR by an individual or a group against multiple recipients," or that place "an unreasonable burden on OCR’s resources. In other words, you can ask that your civil rights be protected—but not too many times. The new rules also eliminate some appeal provisions.

**INSIST** on due process for all civil rights cases and the individuals who file them from

• **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

**URGE** our Congresspeople to closely monitor decisions by the Department of Education to throw out cases without due process

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

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

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

The “Ammunition Background Check Act,” (S. 2627 in the Senate; H.R. 5383 in the House), will “require instant background checks for the sale of bullets to prevent criminals from illegally purchasing ammunition.” A report from the *Lancet* has estimated that firearms deaths could be reduced by up to 81% if ammunition background checks were put in place.

**ASK** for support of this life-saving legislation 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

A brilliant and disturbing New York Times report has traced how riots and lynchings around the world are linked to propaganda and hate speech being spread on Facebook. This is the stuff that leads to genocide.

**DEMAND** better control over propaganda and hate speech for the protection of lives around the world from

• **Mark Zuckerberg**, Chief Executive Officer, Facebook, 1601 Willow Rd, Menlo Park, CA 94025, (650) 308-7300

• **Sheryl Sandberg**, Chief Operating Officer, Facebook, 1601 Willow Rd, Menlo Park, CA 94025, (650) 308-7300

The *Guardian*, reports that, “violence erupted [in Palestine at the end of March] after mass demonstrations took place demanding the right of return for Palestinian refugees and their descendants to land in Israel. Tens of thousands of people, including women and children, had planned to camp several hundred metres from the Israeli frontier, which surrounds the 140-square-mile Gaza strip on two sides, on the first day of a peaceful, six-week protest. But from the main camps, groups of mostly young men approached the border at several locations and started throwing stones and burning tyres. Soldiers responded by opening fire throughout the day. More than 1,400 people were wounded, mostly by bullets but also rubber-coated rounds and tear-gas inhalation, the health ministry said.” Other sources report at least fifteen dead and 750 wounded by live ammunition.

DECRY the violence and U.S. support of the Israeli military to

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

• **Senator Bob Corker** (R-TN), Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6225, (202) 224-4651

• **Senator Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6225, (202) 224-4651

Donald Trump posted an anti-Semitic tweet referring to respected journalist Chuck Todd as “sleepy eyes Chuck Todd.” German propaganda on how to identify Jews described them as having “sleepy eyes.” Trump’s tweet came within twenty-four hours of a swastika burning in Georgia by white supremacists.

**DEMAND** for an apology for this slur from

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

The “Climate Change Is Real Act,” H.R.5552, would require the reposting of climate change data that has been removed from the EPA website and would also require ongoing collection of climate change data by the EPA. It was authored by a pair of Representatives, one Republican and one Democrat. Currently H.R.5552 is before the House Committee on and Commerce.

**THANK** the authors of this resolution for working across the aisle to address our need for solid climate change information

• **Representative Salud Carbajal** (D-CA), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3601

• **Representative Carlos Curbelo** (R-FL), 1401 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2778

**URGE** key members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee to take quick, positive action on this resolution (I’m including all California Representatives on the Committee, since this is an issue that much of our state accepts as legitimate, regardless of political party)

• **Representative Greg Waldon** (R-OR), Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Joe Barton** (R-TX), Vice-Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Frank Pallone** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Mimi Walters** (R-CA), Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Anna Eshoo** (D-CA), Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Doris Matsui** (D-CA), Member House Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Jerry McNerney** (D-CA), Member House Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Tony Cárdenas** (D-CA), Member House Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Raul Ruiz** (D-CA), Member House Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Scott Peters** (D-CA), Member House Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

**TELL** our Representative we hope he’s keeping an eye open for this legislation and is actively supporting it

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

*Politico* reports that “Democratic lawmakers and activists are assailing the Trump administration over changes made to the State Department’s annual human rights report… with many especially unhappy over dramatic cuts to sections on women’s reproductive rights. Among other changes, this year’s report also appears to devote less space to discrimination by nonstate actors and drops the reference to “occupied territories” in labeling Gaza and the West Bank, according to analyses by rights researchers and *Politico*’s own spot checks.

**REMINDERS** that women’s reproductive rights are human rights, that it’s not only states that violate human rights, and that Gaza and the West Bank are, indeed, occupied territory to

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

**REQUEST** a return to fuller reporting by the State Department in the future to

• **Senator Bob Corker** (R-TN), Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6225, (202) 224-4651

• **Senator Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6225, (202) 224-4651

S.B.822 the “Broadband Internet Access Service Act is slowly making its way through the California Senate. At the moment, it’s been re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations. SB460, the “Communications: Broadband Internet Access Service” has been forwarded by the California Senate Judiciary Committee to the full Senate. Both of these are crucial to maintaining net neutrality in California—and could also make protecting net neutrality easier for the rest of the country.

**SHARE** your sense of the importance of S.B.822 to the members of the California Senate Appropriations Committee

• **Senator Ricardo Lara**, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee, State Capitol, Room 2206, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4101

• **Senator Patricia Bates**, Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee, State Capitol, Room 2206, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4101

• **Senator Jim Beall**, Member, Senate Appropriations Committee, State Capitol, Room 2206, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4101

• **Senator Steven Bradford**, Member, Senate Appropriations Committee, State Capitol, Room 2206, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4101

• **Senator Jerry Hill**, Member, Senate Appropriations Committee, State Capitol, Room 2206, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4101

• **Senator Jim Nielsen**, Member, Senate Appropriations Committee, State Capitol, Room 2206, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4101

• **Senator Scott Weiner**, Member, Senate Appropriations Committee, State Capitol, Room 2206, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4101

**REQUEST** that our state Senator take an active role in supporting this legislation

• **Senator Bill Monning**, Member, Senate Budget Committee 3, 701 Ocean St. #318a, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-0401

*Splinter News* reports that “There’s at least 75 miles of the U.S.‐Mexico border where National Guard troops can’t go, no matter what President Donald Trump says. The Tohono O’odham Nation says its people have inhabited what is now southern and central Arizona and northern Mexico since “time immemorial—in other words, way before any borders were put in place.” But a U.S.-Mexico land deal in the 1800s “dissected” the nation’s indigenous lands in half. The tribe has been fighting border walls ever since so that their people can travel freely. Tohono O’odham chairman Edward D. Manuel recently went on a local radio station to tell members of the tribe that no National Guard or military personnel were welcomed on the land, according to a spokesperson for Manuel’s office. The tribe also released a statement announcing the Border Patrol has agreed to not send military personnel to its land.

**THANKS** for protecting this land along the U.S.-Mexico border to

• **Tohono O’odham Nation**, P.O. Box 837, Sells, AZ 85634

Where to start with the Farm Bill? It’s renewed every five years and, in the past, has been an area of government that’s shown bipartisan cooperation. This year, the content of the bill (H.R. 2) is so partisan, it only passed out of the House Agriculture Committee on a party line vote. Included is a work requirement for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients, as well as weakened protections against pesticides, and weakening school food programs. Anti-hunger groups and others say stringent food stamp eligibility and work requirements will lead to 1.6 million people losing the essential, but extremely modest, safety net that currently provides about $1.40 per person per meal. Close to two-thirds of SNAP participants are children, elderly, or disabled, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, while the remainder, mostly low-wage workers, are more likely than other workers to experience periods of unemployment or see their monthly earnings drop. Whatever its possible virtues for family farmers, food stamp benefits make up a majority of spending under the Farm Bill, and the purpose of this version seems to be to throw people off of SNAP. Our Representative Jimmy Panetta has been fighting to keep a fair Farm Bill that puts no one’s health or livelihood at risk.

**TELL** our Representative that we appreciate his continued effort to see that the 2018 Farm Bill is non-partisan, maintains food security for those who need assistance, and provides the support small agriculture needs

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

**EXPRESS** your disgust with the current, partisan version of the Farm Bill to

• **Alex Azar**, Secretary of Health & Human Services, 200 Independence Ave, SW, DC 20201, 877-696-6775

• **Sonny Perdue**, Secretary of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. DC 20250, 202-720-2791

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

• **Andrew Bremberg**, Domestic Policy Chief, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, this week released a report that presents the data on, impact of, and legal pushback against anti-Muslim bias across the United States. The report finds that federal government agencies have instigated more than a third of all anti-Muslim bias incidents in 2017. Of these, 464 incidents have pertained to the unconstitutional Muslim Ban. CAIR's new report, titled “Targeted,” also notes a 17 percent increase in anti-Muslim bias incidents and a 15 percent increase in hate crimes in 2017 over 2016. Not only have anti-Muslim bias incidents continued to increase, but a greater percentage of these instances have been violent in nature, targeting American children, youth, and families who are Muslim or perceived to be Muslim. Ammad Rafiqi, CAIR-SFBA's Civil Rights & Legal Services Coordinator explains “The findings of this report clearly demonstrate that increased and pronounced animus by the administration towards Muslims has emboldened individuals and extremist groups to engage in hate-filled acts that turn violent at times. It is crucial then that we continue to fight against openly bigoted policies such as the Muslim Ban which targets individuals simply because of their national origin and how they choose to pray.”

**DEMAND** increased attention to anti-Muslim discrimination and violence, particularly the current administration’s role in encouraging it

• **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

• **Senator Lindsey Graham** (R-SC), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

• **Senator Cory Booker** (D-NJ), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

• **Eric Treene**, Special Counsel for Religious Discrimination, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington D.C. 20530, (202) 353-8622

S.2691, the “Opioid Crisis Accountability Act,” is intended to “hold pharmaceutical companies accountable for illegal marketing and distribution of opioid products and exacerbating the opioid epidemic in the United States.” This legislation was introduced by Bernie Sanders, and Kamala Harris is a co-sponsor. It is currently before the Senate Finance Committee. It carefully defines *marketing* and *distribution*, sets requirements for reporting unusually large sales of opioids to states or communities, and it includes penalties both for individuals and companies engaged in opioid marketing and distribution outside of the limits set in the bill.

**THANKS** for co-sponsoring this legislation to

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

**URGE** quick action on this legislation by key leaders of the Senate Finance Committee

• **Senator Ron Wyden** (D-OR), Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4515

• **Senator Orrin G. Hatch** (R-UT), Chair, Senate Finance Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4515

Environmental Protection Agency head Scott **Pruitt has proposed a "transparency" rule that would limit the EPA's ability to use the best science available when writing new regulations**. Under the rule, only studies where the raw, underlying data–including participants' personal health data–was made publicly available would qualify. Since ethical research does not provide specifics on individual participants in studies, this move would essentially keep the EPA from using any research accepted by peer-reviewed journals.

**DECRY** the move to eliminate ethical, high-quality research from consideration when the EPA is developing new regulations

• **Scott Pruitt**, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460, (202) 564-4700

**REQUEST** oversight that ensures the EPA makes use of the best scientific data available from

• **Senator John Barrasso** (R-KY), Chair, Environment and Public Works, 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6441

• **Senator Thomas R. Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Environment and Public Works, 456 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2441

Mick Mulvaney, director of the Office of Management and Budget and now in charge of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), outlined and seemingly advocated for pay-to-play politics in a speech to the American Bankers Association in which he said he gave preferential treatment to lobbyists who had donated to his campaigns. He also announced that he intends to end public access to the database used by consumers to file complaints against financial institutions. According the Wall Street Journal, “It includes the names of the companies that receive complaints and detailed consumer experiences. Advocates say having the information available to the public makes the portal effective... Businesses say it spreads unverified negative information about them.”

**DEFEND** our right to make our complaints public and thus pressure companies to respond to consumers and **CONDEMN** this open embrace of pay-for-play, and **SUGGEST** it’s time to resign

• **Mick Mulvaney**, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G St. NW, Washington DC 20552, (202) 411-2372

The National Parks Conservation Association reports that “Wyoming's Game and Fish Department is rushing to open a grizzly bear hunt that could harm the bears of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. The commission is proposing to kill 24 bears this fall, some even through baiting—enticing bears with food and waiting for them to approach for easy kills…. Millions of people visit Wyoming hoping to see a grizzly in the wild. Bears move across the landscape and cross over borders such as national park boundaries…. Grizzlies are a slow reproducing species and removing 24 through hunting this fall could have a long-lasting impact on this population.”

**TELL** Wyoming Fish and Game to abandon this short-sighted proposal and to extend the no-hunting area around all of Yellowstone and Grand Teton’s borders

• **Wyoming Fish and Game Department**, 5400 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82009, (307) 777-4600

From *Rogan’s List*: The administration wants to reclassify Native Americans as a race rather than as a sovereign nation in order to include them in work requirements for people receiving Medicaid, which have now been enacted by several states. Tribal leaders are insisting that this violates treaty agreements that date back from when George Washington was president.

**INSIST** on respect and recognition for the sovereign rights of Native American nations

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

• **Alex Azar**, Secretary of Health & Human Services, 200 Independence Ave, SW, DC 20201, 877-696-6775

• **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 of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson has proposed tripling rent increases for low-income Americans receiving federal housing subsidies**, which would affect more than 4.5 million families. He has additionally proposed allowing public housing agencies to implement work requirements for individuals and families. The proposed legislation, the “Making Affordable Housing Work Act” (Get it? Work.), requires congressional approval.

**SHARE** your opposition to this bill with our Congresspeople

• **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

**TELL** Secretary Carson what you think of this attack on low-income families

• Ben Carson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th St. SW, Washington DC 20410, (202) 708-0417

Four years ago, a racist application of emergency management law by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder’s administration led to the water crisis in Flint. Governor Snyder has now ended water aid to Flint, despite uncertainties about the safety of the community’s water. Days before he announced that end to water aid, Governor Snyder granted Nestlé the right to extract millions of gallons of water for bottling for payments of just $200 a year.

**EXPLAIN** that access to clean water is a human right and that government exists to serve people, not corporations to

• **Governor Rick Snyder**, P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909, (517) 373-3400

*Earthjustice* reports: “A small group led by Republicans in Congress spearheaded a bill that passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday, April 25. If the bill becomes law, it could lead to the eventual extinction of wild salmon in the Columbia and Snake rivers—iconic species in the Pacific Northwest that the federal government is required by law to protect. H.R.3144 [addresses operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System and] seeks to overturn multiple federal court decisions that protect endangered salmon and steelhead. It undermines bedrock environmental laws and forbids any action that might reduce power generation at Columbia and Snake River dams without an act of Congress—from spilling more water over dams in the spring to help endangered fish migrate, to studying the possibility of removing the four aging lower Snake River dams. Further, it mandates that salmon populations be managed based on a 2014 federal plan that was rejected in two court decisions as being illegal, for not doing enough to save the fish from extinction.” This legislation now moves to the Senate for consideration by the Environment and Public Works Committee.

**TELL** key members of the Environment and Public Works Committee that you expect them to honor court rulings protecting endangered salmon and to reject this legislation

• **Senator John Barrasso** (R-KY), Chair, Environment and Public Works, 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6176

• **Senator Thomas R. Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Environment and Public Works, 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6176

**ASK** that our Senators strongly oppose this legislation should it reach the Senate floor

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

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

From *Rogan’s List*: Though the unplanned teen pregnancy rate is at its lowest since 1990, Health and Human Services has announced a rule change that would favor “abstinence only” sex education programs—now rebranded as “sexual risk avoidance education”—and weaken the requirement for evidence of effectiveness—convenient, given that a 2007 HHS study found that abstinence programs have “no overall impact on teen sexual activity” and yield “no differences in rates of unprotected sex.” The HHS policy changes were overseen by Valerie Huber, now an HHS official but previously the head of the National Abstinence Education Association.

**OBJECT** both to this rule change and to the appointment of officials with no respect for scientific evidence

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

• **Valerie Huber**, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Room 715-G, Washington DC 20201

Over a hundred generals recently sent a letter to the Senate expressing their serious concerns about CIA Director Nominee Gina Haspel’s past involvement with torture programs.

**TELL** our Senators that we share these concerns and ask them to vote NO Haspel’s nomination

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

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

From *Rogan’s List*: Cambridge Analytica whistleblower, Christopher Wylie, was interviewed by the House Judiciary and Oversight Committees about the information war being waged against our democracy, and the Republican committee members failed to show up. Our representatives should not let partisanship prevent them from taking decisive action to protect our data and our elections.

**ASK** Republican committee members why they refused to attend the interview and why they are putting partisan politics above ensuring our nation’s democratic process

• **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

[**Note**: all the Representatives below can also be contacted at this committee address/phone.]

• **Representative Lamar Smith** (R-TX), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Steve Chabot** (R-OH), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Darrell Issa** (R-CA), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Steve King** (R-IA), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Louie Gohmert** (R-TX), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Jim Jordan** (R-OH), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Ted Poe** (R-TX), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Tom Marino** (R-PA), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Trey Gowdy** (R-SC), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Raúl Labrador** (R-ID), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Doug Collins** (R-GA), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Ron Desantis** (R-FL), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Ken Buck** (R-CO), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative John Ratcliffe** (R-TX), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Martha Roby** (R-AL), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Matt Gaetz** (R-FL), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Mike Johnson** (R-LA), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Andy Biggs** (R-AZ), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative John Rutherford** (R-FL), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Karen Handel** (R-GA), Member, House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Keith Rothfus** (R-PA), Member, House Judiciary Committee

Representative Jimmy Panetta, along with Representative Mike Thompson, chairman of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, have introduced the Armed Prohibited Persons Act of 2018. This legislation helps states launch initiatives to remove guns from convicted felons and the dangerously mentally ill through a competitive grant program within the Department of Justice. The program assists states in developing a voluntary reference system that seeks separation of firearms from individuals who legally relinquished their ownership rights by committing a crime or being deemed dangerously mentally ill.

THANKS for introducing the potentially life-saving legislation to

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

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

James Shaw Jr. isn’t just a hero because he disarmed the Waffle House shooter. He’s also gone on to raise more than $100,000 for the victims and their families.

**THANKS** for both courage and kindness to

• **James Shaw, Jr.**, c/o Jefferson Street Missionary Baptist Church, 2708 Jefferson St, Nashville, TN 37208

From *Rogan’s List*: Uber whistleblower Susan Fowler has highlighted one major change we can make to help increase accountability for sexual harassment: ending forced arbitration agreements, which allow companies to keep illegal treatment of their employees quiet. Members of Congress have introduced legislation to ban forced arbitration on sexual harassment claims. In the Senate that legislation is S.2203, and Feinstein and Harris are both co-sponsors. In the House that Legislation is H.R.4570; Panetta is not currently a co-sponsor.

**THANKS** for support of S.2203 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** active support of H.R.4570 from

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

As the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, a memorial to victims of white supremacy, opened, the Montgomery Advertiser published a rather remarkable public apology for “its own shameful place in the history of these dastardly, murderous deeds.” The apology cites specific language used in reporting lynchings and other acts of violence and goes back to coverage from the late 1800s. This detailed soul-searching could serve as a model for other institutions in the U.S.

**THANKS** for remembering and documenting the own wrongs in its own past to

• **Bro Krift**, Editor, Montgomery Advertiser, 425 Molton St., Montgomery, AL 36104, (334) 262-1611

S.B.910, “Short-Term, Limited-Duration Health Insurance,” legislation which would bar the sale of short-term, limited-duration health insurance in California is currently with the California Senate Appropriations Committee. Short-term health insurance policies are one of the means by which the Trump administration is attempting to undermine the Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”). These policies pull healthy, young people out of the larger insurance pool; they also offer very limited coverage, and may exclude essential services, such as immunization, pregnancy and delivery care, and preventative care.

REJECT this betrayal of health care for all and ASK that the Appropriations Committee support S.B.910

• **Senator Ricardo Lara**, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee, State Capitol, Room 2206, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4101

• **Senator Patricia Bates**, Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee, State Capitol, Room 2206, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4101

• **Senator Jim Beall**, Member, Senate Appropriations Committee, State Capitol, Room 2206, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4101

• **Senator Steven Bradford**, Member, Senate Appropriations Committee, State Capitol, Room 2206, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4101

• **Senator Jerry Hill**, Member, Senate Appropriations Committee, State Capitol, Room 2206, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4101

• **Senator Jim Nielsen**, Member, Senate Appropriations Committee, State Capitol, Room 2206, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4101

• **Senator Scott Weiner**, Member, Senate Appropriations Committee, State Capitol, Room 2206, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4101

The United States has dropped two places from its position last year on the Reporters Without Borders’ ranking of nations by press freedom. Our new position? Forty-five. (Coincidence? I think not.) The report describes Donald Trump as “media-bashing enthusiast.”

**DECRY** this failure to live up to the free press protection embedded in our constitution to

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

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

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

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

The Montana State University Faculty Senate has voted to reject a $5.7 million grant for an economic research center from the Charles Koch Foundation. One of the faculty members voting “no” explained “it came down to whether or not the proposal and organization of the Koch Foundation is one we should endorse…. My concern is not their ideology but their behavior…. Unfortunately, this organization operates in a way that is really inconsistent with the research and peer review values of MSU. The Koch Foundation has a well-documented history and philosophy and aim, going back almost 20 years, of seeking to produce research that supports their aims rather than testing whether it holds in reality. They seek to influence peer review and the tenure process (in ways) inconsistent with the values of the university.” The University’s President, Dr. Waded Cruzado has made it clear she will respect this vote by the Faculty Senate.

**THANKS** for valuing research integrity over funding to

• **MSU Faculty**, c/o Dr. Waded Cruzado, Office of the President, Montana State University, P.O. Box 172420, Bozeman, MT 59717-2420, (406) 994-2341

The Trump administration is threatening to revoke California’s long-standing authority to enforce its own standards on car emissions and fuel economy. Instead, fuel economy standards would freeze at levels required by 2020, which would then remain in place until 2026. Current law aims to reach an average 55 mpg for the nation’s cars and light trucks by 2025. Cars and trucks have now passed electricity plants as the U.S.’s largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. The threat to California’s emission and fuel economy standards is one part of a draft plan by the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Environmental groups and the State of California are committed to fighting this change in court if the draft plan is accepted as currently written.

**CONDEMN** this abandonment of sound environmental policy and violation of states’ rights

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

• **Scott Pruitt**, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460, (202) 564-4700

• **Heidi King**, Deputy Administrator, NHTSA, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington DC 20590, )888) 327-4236

Senator Dianne Feinstein has introduced S.2773, “A Bill to Improve the Management of Driftnet Fishing.” Kamala Harris is a co-sponsor. S.2773 would “prioritize the phase out of large-scale driftnet fishing in the exclusive economic zone and promote the development and adoption of alternative fishing methods and gear types that reduce the incidental catch of living marine resources to the maximum extent possible.’’ This bill is currently before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

**THANKS** for introducing this important legislation to

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

**THANKS** for joining as a co-sponsor to

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

URGE quick action on this legislation from

• **Senator John Thune** (R-SD), Chair, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, 512 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-1251

• **Senator Bill Nelson** (D-FL) Ranking Member, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, 512 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-0411