Issues/Addresses 4.20.2018

Twelve U.S. senators asked the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to investigate Sinclair Broadcasting Group for “deliberately distorting news” and asked the commission to pause its ongoing review of the company’s proposed $3.9 billion acquisition of Tribune Media Co. In a letter, the senators, 11 Democrats and independent Bernie Sanders, expressed concern about local news anchors at Sinclair-owned stations around the country being forced to read company-mandated scripts: “We are concerned that Sinclair is engaged in a systematic news distortion operation that seeks to undermine freedom of the press and the robust localism and diversity of viewpoint that is the foundation of our national broadcasting laws.” They added that Sinclair’s actions “may have violated the FCC’s longstanding policy against broadcast licensees deliberately distorting news by staging, slanting, or falsifying information.” Disappointingly, FCC Chair Ajit Pai has already rejected their request, claiming that it would “conflict with the First Amendment and freedom of the press.”

**CELEBRATE** these legislators’ defense of independent reporting and **ENCOURAGE** them to keep looking for other avenues along which to pursue this fight

• **Senator Tom Udall** (D-NM), 531 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6621

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

• **Senator Elizabeth Warren** (D-MA), 317 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4543

• **Senator Ron Wyden** (D-OR), 221 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5244

• **Senator Edward Markey** (D-MA), 255 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2742

• **Senator Richard Blumenthal** (D-CT), 706 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2823

• **Senator Tina Smith** (D-MN), 309 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5641

• **Senator Bernie Sanders** (I-VT), 332 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5141

• **Senator Jeff Merkley** (D-OR), 313 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3753

• **Senator Tammy Baldwin** (D-WI), 709 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5653

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

**INFORM Pai that he’s not protecting freedom of the press; he’s protecting the freedom of corporate owners to limit and distort the news available on local stations**

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

A large, nationwide group of U.S. mayors have joined in a Cities Open Internet Pledge, which requires all internet providers with whom they do business to follow a strong set of Net Neutrality principles. Among these are two local Mayors and one county Supervisor.

**THANKS** for doing their part to make net neutrality more difficult to unravel to

• **Zach Friend**, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, Chair, 701 Ocean St., #500A, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 454-2200

• **Mayor David Terrazas**, 800 Center St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 420-5020

• **Mayor Lowell Hurst**, 275 Main St. #400, Watsonville, CA 95076

While America and its allies are bombing Syria because as Donald Trump says in regards to possible chemical weapons attacks against Syrian civilians, “this is about humanity.” Contrast this with the number of Syrian refugees the U.S. has admitted through mid-April of this year: eleven. Eleven. During Obama’s last year in office, the U.S. admitted 15,479 Syrian refugees. Last year, the Trump administration admitted 3,024 Syrian refugees. Meanwhile, a Syrian refugee camp in Jordan has over 83,000 residents. So, bombing is humanitarian. Admitting refugees, not so much.

**DEMAND** that the U.S. engage in true humanitarian action and substantially increase the number of Syrian refugees it’s admitting

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

• **John J. Sullivan**, Acting Secretary of State, US Department of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520, (202) 647-4000

• **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494

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

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

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

In an exceptional piece of good news, Brown University has announced that it will allow DACA students (“Dreamers”) to attend its Master’s Degree programs tuition-free.

**ENTHUSIASTIC THANKS** for this act of generosity and investment in our nation’s future to

• **Christina Paxon**, President, Brown University, Office of the President, Brown University, Box 1860, Providence, RI 02912, (401) 863-2234

• **Trustees of Brown University**, Corporation Office, Brown University, Box 1887, Providence, RI 02912, (401) 863-2409

Senator Tammy Duckworth has accomplished the significant action of arranging to block a vote on the ADA Educational and Reform Act (H.R.620), which would have forced individual lawsuits to make individual businesses compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Duckworth assembled a group of 43 Senators that wrote a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell stating that they would block any vote on H.R.620.

**THANKS** to Senator Duckworth for this immensely important accomplishment and **CONGRATULATIONS** on the birth of her daughter Maile Pearl

• Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), 524 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2854

Attorney General Jeff Sessions has handed down a case quota for U.S. immigration judges. He expects each of them to process 700 cases a year. If we assume a five-day work week with only two weeks of vacation over the year, that means each judge must process 2.8 cases per work day on top of all their other duties.

**INFORM** the Attorney General and our legislators that we find this kind of conveyor-belt processing of humans, whose lives may depend on an immigration decision, unacceptable

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

• **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

Mick Mulvaney, head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), is doing all he can to dismantle that agency. A possible remedy would be S.2155, which would make it easier for poor and rural individuals to purchase homes with fair mortgage agreements. S.2155 Has passed the Senate and is now moving on to the House.

**TELL** our Representative to keep his eyes open for this legislation and to stick up for ordinary consumers

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

The US Dept. of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) new Division of Conscience and Religious Freedom, allows medical professionals to discriminate against our own citizens by refusing to provide any medical treatment that conflicts with their religious views. Not only does this include issues like abortion and family planning, it also means patients can be refused treatment based on who they are—their religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation, for example. Providers who discriminate should not receive government money. H.R.5123, the “Eliminating the HHS Discrimination Act,” would abolish this department and the discrimination it is designed to protect.

**TELL** our Representative that denying medical treatment is unconscionable and risks out neighbors’ lives and **ASK** that he co-sponsor H.R.5123

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

Maintaining independent local newscasting may depend on careful monitoring of Sinclair, and the Sinclair-Tribune merger. Sinclair is currently forcing local reporters at Sinclair-owned stations to read scripted “news” announcements about—what else?—“fake” news.

**INFORM** the Department of Justice’s Antitrust Division that this merger deserves further scrutiny

• **Makan Delrahim**, Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20530-0001, (202) 307-0924

Greyhound bus company is allowing Border Patrol agents to board its buses and question and arrest passengers without a warrant or any suspicion of wrongdoing. What Greyhound and its passengers need to know is that there is NO legal requirement for the company to let Border Patrol board its buses. The Fourth Amendment prohibits government agents from entering private property without consent or a warrant, and it protects everyone on U.S. soil—regardless of citizenship—from being detained or searched without cause. Families and working people rely on companies like Greyhound every day. A trip to work or to visit family shouldn’t result in deportation.

REMIND Greyhound that they can say “no” to border patrol and that they shouldn’t be throwing their own customers under the bus

• **David Leach**, CEO and President, GreyhoundLines, Inc, 350 N. St. Paul St., Dallas, TX 7 (214) 849-89665210

The *New York Times* reports that “Trump administration officials, seeking ways to lower drug costs, are targeting pharmaceutical companies that refuse to provide samples of their products to generic drug companies, making it impossible to create inexpensive generic copies of a brand-name medicine…. The Federal Trade Commission is investigating the practice, which it says can forestall generic competition and “potentially preserve a brand firm’s monopoly indefinitely.” Legislation to ensure access to drug samples for generic drug manufacturers has broad support in Congress, from Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Democrat of Vermont, on the left to Senator Mike Lee, Republican of Utah, on the right. A similar bill in the House also has diverse backers, including Representatives Peter Welch, Democrat of Vermont, and Mark Meadows, Republican of North Carolina, who is the chairman of the conservative House Freedom Caucus. Under the bill, a generic drug developer could file a lawsuit, and a federal court could require a brand-name drug maker to provide samples of its product to a generic company “on commercially reasonable, market-based terms.” The court could also award damages if it found that a drug maker had refused to sell samples “without a legitimate business justification.”

**EXPLAIN** to our legislators that this is an issue affecting all of us and that you would like to see action taken to make the production of generic drugs more effective

• **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 *San Francisco Chronicle* editorial draws attention to the fact that “The state-owned Cow Palace hosts five gun shows every year, each featuring hundreds of tables of firearms and ammunition for sale and trade, with free admission for children under 12.” The editorial goes on to explain that “San Francisco and San Mateo counties have passed unanimous resolutions opposing gun shows at the Cow Palace. But because the property is owned and managed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s Division of Fairs and Expositions, it is immune from local control. The Legislature has passed, but governors have vetoed, bills to prohibit Cow Palace gun shows. In vetoing the most recent bill in 2013, Governor Jerry Brown left the issue to the Cow Palace Board of Directors, encouraging the board “to work with their local communities when determining their operations and events.”

**INFORM** the Cow Palace Board of Directors that no California state agency should facilitate or profit from the proliferation of firearms

• **Mara Kopp**, President, Cow Palace Board of Directors, 2600 Geneva Ave., Daly City, CA 94014, (415) 404-4100

• **Barbara Wanvig**, First Vice President, Cow Palace Board of Directors, 2600 Geneva Ave., Daly City, CA 94014, (415) 404-4100

• **Anthony Pantaleoni**, Second Vice President, Cow Palace Board of Directors, 2600 Geneva Ave., Daly City, CA 94014, (415) 404-4100

• **William Nack**, Member, Cow Palace Board of Directors, 2600 Geneva Ave., Daly City, CA 94014, (415) 404-4100

• **Kenneth M. Flower**, Member, Cow Palace Board of Directors, 2600 Geneva Ave., Daly City, CA 94014, (415) 404-4100

• **Tyrone A. Evans**, Member, Cow Palace Board of Directors, 2600 Geneva Ave., Daly City, CA 94014, (415) 404-4100

• **Al Perez**, Member, Cow Palace Board of Directors, 2600 Geneva Ave., Daly City, CA 94014, (415) 404-4100

• **Jason Chan**, Member, Cow Palace Board of Directors, 2600 Geneva Ave., Daly City, CA 94014, (415) 404-4100

• **Nancy Atkinson**, Member, Cow Palace Board of Directors, 2600 Geneva Ave., Daly City, CA 94014, (415) 404-4100

Like Mitch McConnell, Paul Ryan has declared that he sees no need for legislation protecting Special Counsel Robert Mueller from firing by Donald Trump.

**INFORM** him of your strong disagreement

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

From Rogan’s List: Congress has required Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg to testify, but not Cambridge Analytica’s financier Robert Mercer and his daughter, board member Rebekah Mercer. We have a right to know exactly what happened so that we can prevent future election interference.

**INFORM** key members of the Senate Judiciary Committee (including our two Senators) that we want Robert and Rebekah Mercer to testify in Congress about Cambridge Analytica’s abuse of private citizen data to sway the 2016 election

• **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

Andrew Wheeler, a coal lobbyist who has spent much of his career trying to undermine the EPA, is now going to be its deputy administrator—and would take over Scott Pruitt’s responsibilities if he’s ever fired or resigns over his multiple scandals.

**THANK** our Senators for voting against confirming Wheeler in this post

• **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: In April, Mick Mulvaney, acting director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), appeared before the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and the House Finance Committee. There, he acknowledged that although there are numerous open probes into financial institutions, the CFPB has taken no enforcement actions since he became acting director in November 2017, and he continues to recommend that the bureau be reduced. Meanwhile, judges from the D.C. Court of Appeals indicated that they see issues with Mulvaney holding the position of Acting Director of CFPB while he remains the head of the White House Office of Management and Budget.

**TELL** Mulvaney he’s unacceptable to head the CFPB, both because of his unwillingness to protect consumers and because of his position running Management and Budget

• **Mick Mulvaney**, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th St. NW, Washington DC 20503, (202) 395-3080

Many of us may have already thanked Dick’s Sporting Goods for its decision to stop selling “modern sporting rifles” (aka assault-style rifles), but they’ve gone one better. Rather than simply returning the rifles to the manufacturers, which they could do, Dick’s Sporting Goods has announced that it is, “destroying the firearms in accordance with federal guidelines and regulations.”

**THANKS** for not just refusing to sell assault-style rifles, but also for completely removing these weapons from the market to

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

Two pieces of legislation that would add to or improve public lands have passed in the House, but still await action in the Senate. The “Santa Ana River Wash Plan” (H.R.497 in the House, S.357 in the Senate) would swap land to unite and conserve habitat for endangered species. The Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park Boundary Revision Plan (H.R.538 in the House, S.135 in the Senate) would establish an important Native American site as part of the Parks System and conserve lands held within it. Both pieces of legislation are now before the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, with S.357 before that Committee’s Public Lands, Forests, and Mining Subcommittee.

**REQUEST** support for S.135 and S.357 from

• **Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK), Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, Committee phone (202) 224-4971

• **Senator Maria Cantwell**, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, Committee phone (202) 224-4971

**REQUEST** support for S.357 from

• **Senator Mike Lee** (R-UT), Chair, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, Committee phone (202) 224-4971

• **Senator Ron Wyden** (D-OR), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, Committee phone (202) 224-4971

The “Protecting Our Democracy Act” (H.R.356 in the House, S.27 in the Senate) would establish a commission to investigate foreign interference in the 2016 Presidential election.

**REQUEST** support of H.R.356 from

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

**REQUEST** support of S.27 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

The “Trump Transparency Package,” is a set of three House bills intended to prevent future improprieties of the kinds that appear to have affected the 2016 Presidential election. The “Safeguarding Government from Foreign Corruption Act,” H.R.2456, extends prohibitions on accepting gifts from outside the U.S. The “Presidential Disclosure of Foreign Business Transactions Act,” H.R.2440, would require the President to report to the Treasury and make publicly available past business transactions with foreign countries exceeding $10,000. The “Separation of Government and President’s Financial Interests Act,” H.R.2455, would prohibit federal employees from taking certain acts affecting a financial interest of the President.

**REQUEST** support for this entire package for the sake of our democracy from

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

In September, California will be hosting an international climate summit. This event offers a great opportunity (and public stage) for Governor Jerry Brown, who has repeatedly stated that “time is running out” to solve the climate crisis, to take leadership in addressing climate change. He could

1. Lead by announcing no new permits for oil and gas extraction, fossil fuel infrastructure, or petrochemical projects in California.

2. Have California set a global precedent by becoming the first oil producing state to announce a phase-out of existing production in line with the Paris climate goals, with a just and equitable transition that protects workers, communities, and economies, starting in places that are suffering most from the impacts of fossil fuel extraction.

**SUGGEST** what a positive moves these would be

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

Military equipment, like armored tanks, grenade launchers, and assault rifles, has been issued to law enforcement in nearly every county in California. We have a right to know how this equipment is being used and a right to public hearings before it enters our communities. A.B. 3131 would address this issue, preventing unnecessary police militarization and providing accountability, transparency, and racial justice.

**ASK** for strong support of A.B.3131 from

• **Assemblymember Mark Stone** [Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St., #318b, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-1503

• **Assemblymember Anna Caballero** [Watsonville], 275 Main St., Suite 400, Watsonville, CA 95076, (813) 768-3035

The Trump administration is attempting to deport appropriately 8,000 Vietnamese immigrants who are protected by a 2008 treaty in which the United States agreed not to deport immigrants from Vietnam who entered the country between 1972 and July of 1995, many as refugees. Hanoi is objecting to receiving those who would be deported; many were supporters of the former South Vietnam and therefore would be seen as “destabilizing,” according to the former ambassador to Vietnam, Ted Osius.

**DEMAND** that the U.S. honor its treaties and that these immigrants not be deported to a regime that will see them as hostile

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

• **John J. Sullivan**, Acting 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

From *Vice* via *News You May Have Missed*: In early April, 97 people—including some with work visas—were swept up in an ICE raid on a meat-packing plant in rural Tennessee. Those in the plant say that ICE stormed in and apprehended people, hand-cuffing some, without asking for documentation. Fifty-four people were sent out of state without being able to notify their families. Since then, the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights coalition has called this “a humanitarian crisis,” pointing out that 160 children have just lost a parent and over 600 children stayed home from school out of fear. As one woman whose husband is being held for deportation told *Vice*, “We want to ask all the people that they listen to us, that they please don't judge us because we wanted a better life for us and our families.”

**CONDEM** these kinds of sweeping actions that separate families who pose no threat to the U.S.

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

• **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494

The *New York Times* has reported that in the last year, in an exercise of NIMBY on a national scale, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has torn up Obama-era rules related to oil, gas and mineral extraction and overseen the largest reduction of federal land protection in the nation’s history, including an effort to slash the size of Bears Ears National Monument. However, in Montana, where support for drilling in certain beloved areas can be a career killer, Mr. Zinke has struck a different note. In the past year, Mr. Zinke has halted the sale of oil and gas leases near Yellowstone National Park, opposed gold mining in that area, and urged the president to protect one national monument, Montana’s Upper Missouri River Breaks, while creating another, the Badger-Two Medicine, just miles from his childhood home.

**INFORM** Zinke that we’re on to his hypocrisy and resent his determination to protect Montana, while destroying the federal lands and environment in the remainder of the U.S.

• **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

It’s not only Democrats who are worried by Trump’s military strikes against Syria. House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA) said his committee would hold a hearing in the coming days to examine U.S. policy in Syria, Representative Thomas Massie (R-KY) quipped on Twitter that he could not recall the Constitution giving the president the authority to strike Syria, and Senator James Lankford (R-OK) warned that “it is vitally important that the Trump administration honors the Constitution by working with Congress on further military action.” Likewise, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is expected to reopen debate on a new authorization of military force (AUMF).

**TELL** both the Senate and House committees and all our Congresspeople that Trump must be stopped before any threatened "second strike" and must clarify both U.S. strategy and the constitutionality of his orders.

• **Representative Ed Royce** (R-CA), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4111

• **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2464

• **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•

• **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: now that Congress has “clarified” that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) can conduct research into gun violence, let’s tell Health & Human Services Secretary Alex Azar to get started. Let’s also tell Azar that we expect the CDC’s research to include gun violence and women, low-income communities, and people of color—and to account for personal and societal biases in its research.

**SPEAK UP** for public science the protects all of us

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

While we may not be thrilled with their mascot, we can be pleased by the Cleveland Indians’ decision to allot a full playoff “share” to organizations in Puerto Rico. The team was awarded a total of sixty-two full shares, each worth $36,782.74. About half that money will go to Nuestra Escuela, the high school attended by former Indians player Joe Colon. The other half will be donated to former big-leaguer Carlos Delgado’s Extra Bases non-profit, which intends to pass the money on to Albergue Jesús de Nazareth, a home for abused children in Mayaguez.. In both cases, the money will be used to refurbish sports fields and rebuild sports programs. At the same time, the players’ wives’ association will be donating $4000 to Puerto Rico’s oldest institution for battered women, Casa Protegida de Burgo.

**THANKS** to

• **Cleveland Indians**, Progressive Field, 2401 Ontario St., Cleveland, OH 44115-4003

S.B.1421 would require law enforcement agencies to release the details of use-of-force investigations, confirmed cases of sexual assault and lying while on duty. This legislation also would permit more public oversight under the California Peace Officers’ Bill of Rights, which mandates that police personnel records be kept tightly confidential.

**VOICE** your support of this legislation to

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

A key California Senate committee advanced S.B.822, the best net neutrality bill in the country! Accomplishing this was a close call. With lobbyists for AT&T and Comcast doing everything in their power to try to kill the bill or water it down.

**ADVOCATE** for this essential legislation to

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

Trump announced new sanctions against Russia for their role in the war in Syria. He sent out the information on these sanctions to government representatives, including U.N. Ambassador Niki Haley. Then he changed his mind, but didn’t tell Haley, among others, which put her in the position of announcing sanctions Trump had already nixed. When a Trump spokesperson announced that Haley must have been suffering from “momentary confusion,” Haley shot back, “With all due respect, I don’t get confused.”

**THANKS** for standing up for herself and not falling in line with the administrations spin and a **QUESTION** about why the President might be having trouble standing up to Russia to

• **Ambassador Nikki Haley**, U.S. Mission to the United Nations, 799 United Nations Plaza, NY, NY 10017

**CASTIGATION** for trying to blame his own erratic behavior on others to

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

**CONCERNS** about the Trump’s inability to stand up to Russia to

• **Senator Bob Corker**, Chair, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, 425 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510

• **Senator Ben Cardin**, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, 509 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510

• **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

This week, Senators Bob Corker (R-TN) and Tim Kaine (D-VA) released their proposal, S.J.Res.50 for a new Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) bill, which would replace the 2001 and 2002 versions which were used to authorize the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. While it is expected to be challenging gaining enough bipartisan support for it to pass, and it is likely to go through multiple revisions before a final bill is voted on, this is still an important first step. There’s at least one other big problem: according to Rep. Barbara Lee, the only member of Congress to vote against the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force, the new AUMF negotiated by Bob Corker and Tim Kaine “further limits Congress’s role in warmaking by requiring a veto-proof majority to block military action from the President.” This time Lee is not alone; others believe the Corker-Kaine AUMF would flip [Congress’s] constitutional power on its head.” Meanwhile, Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis did argue forcibly, though unsuccessfully, that Trump needed to get Congressional approval for bombing Syria.

**ASK** for support for S.J.Res.50 and **INSIST** that the section requiring a veto-proof majority to bloc military action from the President 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

**REMINDERS** that there’s a Constitution that he swore to uphold to

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

**THANKS** for trying to get the President to honor the Constitution to

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

In late March, Trump tweeted against DACA, using as an excuse undocumented immigration along the U.S.’s southern border, “Getting more dangerous. ‘Caravans’ coming. Republicans must go to Nuclear Option to pass tough laws NOW. NO MORE DACA DEAL!” These Caravans he speaks of? *Latino USA* explains, “On March 25, more than 1,000 people, most of them women and children fleeing violence and poverty in Central America, made their way from southern Mexico toward the U.S. border. They travelled on foot, buses and on top of trains, as well as hitchhiking at times. The caravan was organized by *Pueblos Sin Fronteras*, an organization that works in Central America, Mexico and the U.S. to raise awareness about migrants’ right to ask for asylum, and to help ensure a safe passage for them. Migrants who make this journey from Central America to the U.S. are often prone to assault, extortion and rape by gangs and drug cartels who learn their routes. While Trump warns his followers about “bad hombres,” the truth is that desperate women and children are making this tre in an attempt to save and to better their own lives.

**CASTIGATION** for misrepresenting the nature of this caravan to

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

**ASSURANCES** of our commitment to the U.S. serving as a place of asylum for threatened women and children to

• **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494

• **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

*America: The Jesuit View* published an online opinion piece stating, “President Trump is right to want to assist ‘innocent Syrians’ who are victims of ‘heinous attacks.’ There are many ways the United States can help: President Trump can increase U.S. humanitarian aid; accept refugees from Syria; help frontline states Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and Iraq minister to the victims; press for humanitarian access corridors so aid can reach the war-torn Syrian population; and press for the implementation of a ceasefire to accompany the start of peace talks.”

**ENCOURAGEMENT** for these alternate forms of humanitarian aid (as opposed to more bombs) 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

*Eco News* reports that Trump’s border wall won’t stop the illicit flow of people and or drugs across the border, “but what is undeniable is that the 654 miles of walls and fences already on the US-Mexico border have made a mess out of the environment there. They’ve cut off, isolated, and reduced populations of some of the rarest and most amazing animals in North America, like the jaguar and ocelot (also known as the dwarf jaguar). They’ve led to the creation of miles of roads through pristine wilderness areas. They’ve even exacerbated flooding, becoming dams when rivers have overflowed” Other rare species that are already suffering to the existing segments of wall include collared peccary, plains blind snake, nine-banded armadillo, Texas earless lizard, barred tiger salamander, Rio Grande chirping frog, bobcat, and mountain lion.

**INSIST** on an end to wall funding for the sake of the planet (never mind the waste of money) to

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

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

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

In a desperately needed show of bipartisanship, thirty-nine Senators have signed on to a resolution calling for the resignation of EPA Director Scott Pruitt. Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris are among them.

THANKS for expecting integrity from government appointees 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

File under “seriously?” *BuzzFeed* reports: “Members of HHS, USAID, and the US Mission to the UN asked for references to contraception, abortion, and comprehensive sex education to be struck from a document on international gender equality, calling the US a ‘pro-life nation.’ […] The comments came during the annual UN Commission on the Status of Women, a two-week session described by a spokesperson for the US Mission to the United Nations as the UN’s ‘most important meeting on women’s empowerment.’ The main event is a closed-door negotiation on language to include in an annual UN document that sets global standards and outlines potential policies pertaining to gender equality efforts in all member countries.

Trump administration officials discussed shifting international policy on women toward abstinence-oriented education and teaching women sexual ‘refusal skills.’ Two Trump administration officials — Alma Golden of USAID and Valerie Huber of the US Department of Health and Human Services — emphasized their agencies’ anti-abortion views at another off-the-record meeting during the session. The goal of this meeting was for US officials to brief NGOs about the US’s ‘priorities on international women’s issues,’ the US Mission to the UN spokesperson said…. After the negotiations concluded, the US released a statement saying, ‘The term “sexual and reproductive health’ is open to many interpretations. The United States does not understand the term sexual and reproductive health to include the promotion of abortion and educational strategies that may increase sexual risk for youth.”

**NOTIFICATION** that this attempt to limit global support for women’s independence and right to control their own bodies is unacceptable to

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

• **Mark Green**, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, Attn: Office of the Inspector General, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20523, (202) 712-1150

• **Alma Golden**, Deputy Assistant Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, Attn: Office of the Inspector General, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20523, (202) 712-1150

• **AMD Brett P. Giroir, MD**, Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Room 715-G, Washington DC 20201, (240) 453-2801

• **Valerie Huber**, Chief of Staff, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Room 715-G, Washington DC 20201, (240) 453-2801

From *Rogan’s List*: Women-owned businesses (WOBs) are 21% less likely to win federal contracts compared with other businesses. Every year, the federal government is supposed to award a certain percentage of contracts to WOBs, but often fails to do so because of lax oversight. Plus, WOBs tend not to be awarded the most expensive contracts.

**TELL** our Congresspeople that we want them to investigate and correct both the unmet percentage of contracts to WOBs and the consistent awarding of lower-valued contracts to WOBs

• **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 Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation (CJCT) has the right to obtain the President’s tax returns.

**REQUEST** that the CJCT members obtain these documents for close study and potential public release

• **Senator Orrin G. Hatch** (R-UT), Chair, The Joint Committee on Taxation, 502 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3621

• **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Member, The Joint Committee on Taxation, 502 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3621

• **Senator Mike Crapo** (R-ID), Member, The Joint Committee on Taxation, 502 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3621

• **Senator Ron Wyden** (D-WA), Member, The Joint Committee on Taxation, 502 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3621

• **Senator Debbie Stabenow** (D-MI), Member, The Joint Committee on Taxation, 502 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3621

• **Representative Kevin Brady** (R-TX), Vice Chair, The Joint Committee on Taxation, 502 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3621

• **Representative Sam Johnson** (R-TX), Member, The Joint Committee on Taxation, 502 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3621

• **Representative Devin Nunes** (R-CA), Member, The Joint Committee on Taxation, 502 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3621

• **Representative Richard Neal** (D-MA), Member, The Joint Committee on Taxation, 502 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3621

• **Representative John Lewis** (D-GA), Member, The Joint Committee on Taxation, 502 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3621

**REQUEST** that our Congresspeople ask CJCT for these documents

• **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 the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*: “[Jamie Cutter] teaches sexual education at Delta Charter High School to a generation that’s breaking traditional gender expectations. But when she started teaching it four years ago, there weren’t many books helping her navigate the waters of intersex, transgender and other non-traditional gender norms in an inclusive way. So she wrote the book herself — titled “Inclusive Sex Education: A Comprehensive Sex Ed Curriculum Guide for Teachers” — aimed at helping other teachers. The spiral-bound text of less than a hundred pages includes diagrams, handouts and a glossary of words that aren’t in the lexicon of current teachers. But she didn’t stop there. Cutter, working with the Safe Schools Project, received a nearly $10,000 grant from the Community Foundation Santa Cruz County to train teachers how to create a more inclusive sexual education curriculum. The grant pays for the teachers’ time as well as the cost to print the text.”

**THANKS** for taking leadership in this too-long neglected area to

• **Jamie Cutter**, Delta Charter High School, 6500 Soquel Dr., Aptos, CA 95003

The online site *Artsy* reports, “The arts and cultural sector contributed over $763.6 billion to the American economy in 2015—more than the agriculture, transportation, or warehousing sectors, according to U.S. government data released in March by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The arts generated 4.2% of the overall U.S. GDP, with roughly 4.9 million Americans working in the sector in 2015, the latest year for which data is available. Collectively, those employed in the sector earned over $370 billion, according to the findings.”

**REMIND** our Congresspeople and State Representative that they can use this data to fight cuts to arts funding

• **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

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

• **Assemblymember Mark Stone** [Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St., #318b, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-1503

• **Assemblymember Anna Caballero** [Watsonville], 275 Main St., Suite 400, Watsonville, CA 95076, (813) 768-3035

Robert Menendez, top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has announced that he will oppose Mike Pompeo’s nomination as Secretary of State, and following Mike Pompeo's confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Committee member Rand Paul has also indicated that he may vote "no" on Pompeo's nomination to be Secretary of State. If the Committee Democrats all oppose Pompeo as well, this would mean that he would not receive the majority vote. Along with his hawkishness and his subservience to Trump, Pompeo is a confirmed climate change denier, has opposed renewable energy development, and has actively pushed a pro-fossil fuel agenda. As Secretary of State, he would oversee the United States’ participation in the UN climate accords. However, as *CNN* reports, “Democratic Senator Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota has announced her support for Mike Pompeo's nomination for Secretary of State, becoming the first Democrat to say she'll vote for the current CIA director to be the nation's top diplomat and giving him a much-needed vote for his confirmation,” suggesting that even without the Foreign Relation Committee’s recommendation, this inappropriate Trump nominee may be confirmed.

**TELL** Rand Paul we support his doubts about Pompeo's confirmation because we do not need someone who is both Islamophobic and homophobic serving as our nation's top diplomat

• **Senator Rand Paul**, 167 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4343

**CASTIGATE** Senator Heidi Heitkamp for becoming the first Democratic Senator to declare her support for Pompeo

• **Senator Heidi Heitkamp** (D-ND), 516 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2043

**INFORM** our senators know we want them to vote down Pompeo’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

The Trump administration has announced drastic rollback to the century-old Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), saying the MBTA does not prohibit the “incidental take” (aka killing) of birds. The 1918 law made it illegal to “hunt,” “pursue,” “capture,” or “kill” any migratory bird without a waiver. But the Interior Department has issued a legal opinion specifying “the take [killing] of birds resulting from an activity is not prohibited by the [MBTA] when the underlying purpose of that activity is not to take birds.” That means accidentally killing birds with an oil spill, for example, no longer breaks the law.

**CRITICISM** to

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

• **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

In mid-April Representative Adam Schiff (D-CA) introduced the “Abuse of the Pardon Prevention Act,” legislation to prevent Trump or any other President from abusing the pardon power for their own personal benefit or to obstruct justice. The legislation would require that if the President pardons someone in connection with an investigation in which the President or one of his family members is a target, subject, or witness, the evidence against recipient of the pardon would be provided by the Department of Justice to Congress.

**THANKS** for authoring this legislation to

• **Representative Adam Schiff** (D-CA), 2372 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4178

**REQUEST** for support of this legislation to

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

On April 16, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor fell and broke her shoulder

**BEST WISHES** for a speedy recovery to

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

There were endless reasons to oppose the confirmation of James Bridenstein, Trump’s nominee to lead NASA. The NASA nominee had no experience running a large organization, no background in science, and he had also led a small non-profit that went into the red, and—surprise!—some of those non-profit's losses were a result of his directing non-profit monies to a for-profit company he was heavily invested in. In addition, he’s a climate change denier and opposed to LGBT rights. For a brief time, his confirmation seemed uncertain as the vote was tied and Mike Pence was not available to step in as tie-breaker. Then Senator Jeff Flake decided to reverse his “no” vote, leading to Bridenstein’s confirmation.

**“THANKS”** for making sure Bridenstein squeezed through to

• **Senator Jeff Flake** (R-AZ), 413 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4521

From *Rogan’s List*: “The Department of Justice has suspended the General Legal Orientation Program, which gives legal advice to immigrants hoping to stay in the U.S. Coupled with a recent change in policy set by AG Jeff Sessions that sets quotas for quick processing of immigration cases, which makes it much more difficult for people to receive a fair hearing, these policies aim to subvert due process and have been publicly denounced by the American Bar Association, The American Immigrant Lawyers Association, and the [ACLU](https://www.aclu.org/news/aclu-comment-justice-department-notice-halt-legal-orientation-program-immigrants).”

**CALLS** for a reinstatement of the General Legal Orientation Program to

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

• **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 *Americans of Conscience*: Ken Isaacs, the president’s nominee to the UN International Organization for Migration, has made more than 140 disturbing comments against Muslims on Twitter (from an account that has now been made private) that are inappropriate for anyone in a diplomatic position. Isaacs, currently works in relief efforts for the Christian non-profit Samaritan's Purse. The UN's International Organization for Migration is a 169-member group whose mission it is to promote "humane and orderly migration" through assistance to both governments and migrants.

**ASK** the State Department that his nomination be withdrawn

• **Office of Public Engagement**: PA/PL, Rm. 2206, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20520, (202) 647-6575

**TELL** our Senators we’re deeply concerned about this appointment both for ethical reasons and because it will mar the U.S.’s global image

• **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 Tennessee House of Representatives voted Tuesday to strip the money from next year's state budget for Memphis' bicentennial celebrations next year as payback for Memphis removing confederate statues last year.

**CONTACT** Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam to warn them that this short-sighted display of bigotry may have costs for the state in the form of lost tourism and business

• **Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry**, 404 Union St., Suite 107, Nashville, TN 37216, (615) 526-5141

• **Governor Bill Haslam**, State Capitol, Nashville, TN 37243-0001, (615) 741-2001

**SUPPORT** for the decision to remove confederate statues to

• **Mayor Jim Strickland**, 125 N Main St #700, Memphis, TN 38103

The Washington Post reports, “[A] letter from the International Association of Chiefs of Police, representing 18,000 police departments across the United States and Boston Police Commissioner William Evans, targets the “Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act,” which passed the House in December and is now assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee. The letter is endorsed by 473 police officials from 39 states, from large departments such as Los Angeles and Atlanta to small departments such as Spanish Fork, Utah, and Falls Church, Va.

**INFORM** key members of the Judiciary Committee that you’re on the side of law and order

• **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

Currently, one of the reasons for which asylum can be granted to those hoping to enter the U.S. is if they are victims of domestic violence. As *Politico* explains, “Because of recent cases that established fear of domestic violence as a legitimate basis for asylum, those claims often found more solid legal grounding in U.S. immigration court than claims of people who said they were escaping from killer gangs.” Now, Attorney General Jeff Sessions is leading a review to question whether domestic or sexual violence should *ever* be used as a reason for granting asylum in the U.S.

**TELL** Sessions that in a world where women are disproportionately likely to become victims of violence at the hands of husbands, domestic partners, or other men in their life, asylum for domestic and sexual violence victims is essential

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

**ASK** our Senators to speak out on this issue and to draw it to the attention of their colleagues

• **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