

July Links

The Trump administration is trying to force local energy systems operators to purchase power from coal plants that are “retiring”—in other words, are going out of business because they have been losing money. Trump has directed Energy Secretary Rick Perry to take immediate steps to keep these coal plants in operation. This move would force localities to pay more for energy than is necessary (coal is an *expensive* energy source) and prevent them from making energy choices that don’t exacerbate global warming. (Write-up date 6/6/18)

EXPLAIN to Trump and Perry that this is a bad move, both fiscally and environmentally

- **Donald Trump**, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111
- **Rick Perry**, Secretary of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20585, (202) 586-5000

URGE our Congresspeople to protect our pocketbooks and our planet by fighting this move with all they’ve got

- **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 Department of Defense has concluded that transgender people serving in the military present no implications for readiness. Trump’s bigoted attempts to keep transgendered individuals from serving is just that, bigotry. Right now, there’s a proposed amendment to the Defense Bill that would repeal the ban on transgender military service. (Write-up date 6/6/18)

TELL our Congresspeople that we want those who wish to serve to be able to serve, and this amendment will make that possible

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553
- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (BP) are out of control, causing lifelong developmental trauma to children separated from parents and imprisoning legal asylum seekers indefinitely, with limited access to legal counsel and without bond hearings. The Supreme Court has ruled again and again that Constitutional protections apply to everyone in this country—that includes asylum seekers and undocumented migrants. (Write-up date 6/6/18)

INFORM our Congresspeople that we don’t want our tax dollars paying for cruel, unconstitutional treatment of anyone, regardless of citizenship or residency status—the time to defund ICE and CBP has come

- **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

Trump has been trying to move attention away from his administration's malfeasance with claims that the FBI planted a "spy" in his campaign team. An unexpected ally in calling out this falsehood has been Republican Representative Trey Gowdy, who chairs the House Oversight Committee. Saying on Fox News that "the FBI did exactly what my fellow citizens would want them to do" was a brave and significant thing to do. (Write-up date 6/6/18)

THANKS to

- Representative Trey Gowdy, 104 South Main St, Greenville, SC 29601, (202) 225-6030

Senator Kamala Harris and Representative Pramila Jayapal have introduced the "Detention Oversight Not Expansion (DONE) Act, S.2849 in the Senate and H. Res.5820 in the House. This legislation will increase oversight of detention centers and limit prison growth—which will also help bring humanity to our immigration system. (Write-up date 6/6/18)

THANKS for introducing S.2849 to

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

THANKS for introducing H.Res.5820 to

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

REQUEST co-sponsor ship of S. 2849 from

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

REQUEST co-sponsorship of H.Res.5820 from

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

Rogan's List points out that "While the U.S. is coming down hard and cruel on immigrant families, punishments remain lax for gun sellers who violate federal laws. A review of more than 100 inspections [by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF)] has shown that senior officials often overrule lower-level inspectors, enabling gun sellers to keep their licenses, even when they have admitted to actively circumventing gun laws, sold a gun without a background check, or sold a gun to a felon." Our safety is directly tied to strict enforcement of our gun control laws. (Write-up date 6/6/18)

DEMAND that ATF do its job and enforce the nation's gun laws

- **Deputy Director Thomas E. Brandon**, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, 99 New York Ave. NE, Washington DC 20226, (202) 648-8520

- **Regina Lombardo**, Associate Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, 99 New York Ave. NE, Washington DC 20226, (202) 648-8520
SHARE your concerns about these enforcement failures that put us at even more risk of gun violence
- **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

Actress Mayim Bialik declined speaking at the upcoming UCLA commencement ceremonies due to the lack of agreement between AFSCME Local 3299 and the University. She explained, “My grandparents were sweatshop workers and my parents were civil rights activists. These issues are near and dear to my heart, especially since the LAUSD teacher's union helped support my family for my entire young life. My Jewish tradition is clear that it is of the utmost imperative to treat workers fairly and to protect employees from injustice; the Talmud states that these make for a just and Godly society. I send deepest regrets to the UCLA community and I hope to be able to join you soon to celebrate your accomplishments.” (Write-up date 6/6/18)

THANKS for honoring the labor of underpaid workers who keep the University of California functioning to

- **Mayim Bialik**, William Morris Endeavor Entertainment, 9601 Wilshire Blvd., 3rd Floor, Beverly Hills, CA 90210-5213, (310) 285-9000

From *Rogan's List*: “In addition to separating families from children at the border, the administration is exacerbating the use of mass trials of immigrants.... This practice threatens each person’s right of due process, as public defenders only have minutes to meet with each of their clients, and questions from the court need to be answered in unison, resulting in “a mass production of guilty pleas.” This is not what justice looks like. (Write-up date 6/6/18)

ENSURE our Congresspeople know that we object to this breach of human rights and ask them to call for an immediate end to this policy

- **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
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Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) head Thomas Homan spoke on June 5 to the Center for Immigration Studies, an innocuously titled organization that the Southern Poverty Law Center has identified as an “anti-immigrant hate group.” (Write-up date 6/6/18)

POINT OUT that dignifying a group like this with his presence is a poor choice

Thomas Homan, Acting Director, U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20536, (866) DHS-2-ICE

Yes, we've found Roseanne's tweets offensive, and we think cancelling her show was appropriate, but there are other issues that deserve more coverage. The number of deaths resulting from Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, for example. However, the major news networks seem to have found Roseanne more newsworthy than 4,500+ deaths. Let's compare, using data from the May 29 through 6-9a.m. on May 30.

MSNBC: 4 hours on Roseanne, 20 minutes on Puerto Rico

CNN: 5 hours on Roseanne, 12 minutes on Puerto Rico

Fox News: 2 hours on Roseanna, 48 seconds on Puerto Rico

(Write-up date 6/6/18)

INFORM broadcasters that these kinds of "news" priorities are unacceptable

- **Andrew Lack**, Chairman, NBC News and MSNBC, NBC Universal, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112, 212-664-4444

- **Meredith Artley**, SVP & Editor in Chief, CNN Digital Worldwide, 190 Marietta St NW, Atlanta, GA 30303, 404-827-1500

- **Jay Wallace**, President, Fox News and Executive Editor, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10036, 212-310-3000

From *Rogan's List*: "New data has revealed that white Congressional staffers are paid more on the average than staffers of color, a practice that threatens the ability for Congresspeople to truly represent the American people they serve." (Write-up date 6/6/18)

ASK our Congresspeople if they have reviewed pay for their own staff to identify and correct any disparities

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

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

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

Our laws for equal treatment and protections against discrimination are severely lacking in the U.S., and we need legislation to catch up with where we are culturally. The Equality Act (S.1006 in the Senate; H.R.2282 in the House) would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 "to include sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation in places of public accommodation." The Senate version is with the Judiciary Committee. The House version is with five (!) different committees: Judiciary, Education and the Workforce, Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform, and Administration. The bills already have 197 cosponsors in the House, and 47 in the Senate; it's time to move them forward out of committee (including our own Feinstein, Harris, and Panetta). (Write-up date 6/6/18)

URGE key committee members to move this legislation out of committee

- **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, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
 - **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553
 - **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951
 - **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951
 - **Representative Joe Wilson** (R-SC), Chair, Education and the Workforce Committee, 2176 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515
 - **Representative Duncan Hunter** (R-CA), Vice-Chair, 2176 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515
 - **Representative Robert C. “Bobby” Scott** (D-VA), Ranking Member, 2176 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515
 - **Representative Jeb Hensarling** (R-TX), Chair, House Financial Services Committee, 2228 Rayburn House office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3484
 - **Representative Maxine Waters** (D-CA), Ranking Member, House Financial Services Committee, 2221 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2201
 - **Representative Trey Gowdy** (R-SC), Chair, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5074
 - **Representative Elijah Cummings** (D-MD), Ranking Member, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5074
 - **Representative Gregg Harper** (R-MS), Chair, House Administration Committee, 1309 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5031
 - **Representative Rodney Davis** (R-IL), Vice-Chair, House Administration Committee, 1309 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2371
 - **Representative Robert Brady** (D-PA), Ranking Member, House Administration Committee, 1309 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4731
- URGE** Congressional leaders to bring this legislation to the floor of the Senate and House as quickly as possible
- **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

From *Scientific American*: “[The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)] must produce the opposing body of science Administrator Scott Pruitt has relied upon to claim that humans are not the primary drivers of global warming, a federal judge has ruled. The EPA boss has so far resisted attempts to show the science backing up his claims.... Not long after he took over as EPA administrator, Pruitt appeared on CNBC’s ‘Squawk Box,’ where he was asked about carbon dioxide and climate change. He said, ‘I would not agree that it’s a primary contributor to the global warming that we see.’ The next day, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility,

or PEER, filed a Freedom of Information Act request seeking the studies Pruitt used to make his claims. Specifically, the group requested ‘EPA documents that support the conclusion that human activity is not the largest factor driving global climate change.’ On Friday, the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Beryl Howell, ordered the agency to comply. ‘Particularly troubling is the apparent premise of this agency challenge to the FOIA request, namely: that the evidentiary basis for a policy or factual statement by an agency head, including about the scientific factors contributing to climate change, is inherently unknowable.’” (Write-up date 6/6/18)

JOIN Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and tell Pruitt that you want precise information on which studies he is using to conclude that carbon dioxide is *not* a primary contributor to global warming

- **Scott Pruitt**, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 1101A, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington DC 20460, 202-564-4700

At the end of May, Trump signed a law expanding veterans’ healthcare. The catch? (You know there was one, didn’t you?) While Trump frequently touts his support of veterans and members of the armed services, promising during the campaign to fix Veterans Affairs and give more veterans access to private health care, his administration is fighting against new funding for the legislation he’s just signed. Instead, he insists that expanded veterans’ health care be paid for by cuts to other programs. (Write-up date 6/6/18)

REMIND Trump that supporting veterans’ health care requires more than a signature on a document and the accompanying photo-op; it requires actually spending the money to make expanded healthcare for veterans a reality

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

The White House has announced Michael Pack as Trump's pick to head the Broadcasting Board of Governors. Pack is a close ally of Steve Bannon, and “is a sharp critic of what he calls the ‘politically correct agenda’ at universities around the country, where he says liberal media professors indoctrinate students with courses on environmental filmmaking and gay culture” (*Foreign Policy*). The broadcasting arm of the U.S. government has a budget of \$685 million and oversees programs that include Voice of America and Radio Free Europe. The position requires Senate confirmation. (Write-up date 6/6/18)

EXPLAIN to our Senators that Pack is an inappropriate pick to serve as the U.S.’s global voice

- **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

There are two proposals before the Senate that would replace the post-9/11 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF), which has allowed continued expansion of the “War on Terror.” The better of these, proposed by Senator Jeff Merkley would require Congress to actively approve

any further expansion of the war and would expire after three years so that authorization couldn't stretch on indefinitely without a debate. (Write-up date 6/6/18)

ASK our Senators to support the Merkley version of the AUMF in order to put reasonable restraints on Presidential power

- **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

Amnesty International reports that "Over the past year the US-led coalition in Syria has killed entire families in Raqqa in their attempts to dislodge the armed group calling itself Islamic State from the city. Those attempts reduced the city to rubble through a prolonged campaign of aerial bombardment, that, despite the coalition's claims to the contrary, led to widespread death and destruction.... Amnesty International researchers recently visited the war-torn city of Raqqa, and what they found is unlike anything else they've seen in decades of war. Entire communities had been wiped out by the coalition, laid low by its alleged 'precision' air campaign." (Write-up date 6/6/18)

DEMAND that the U.S-led Coalition recognize the scale of civilian lives lost in Raqqa, properly investigate airstrikes that killed civilians, publish all their findings, and provide reparation for the victims.

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

Andrew Oldham has been nominated for an important federal appeals court judgeship. Oldham's rulings have included anti-immigration rants. He has challenged California's right to apply its gun laws to Texans who visit or live in California, questioned the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to issue regulations on greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, and helped the Governor of Texas implement a repressive voter ID law that discriminates against racial minorities. (Write-up date 6/6/18)

TELL our Senators that this man should not be a federal judge

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

Trump has nominated Ryan Holte for a position on the Court of Federal Claims. Chop Wood, Carry Water points out that, "Holte is 34 years old with less than 3 years of litigation experience. He's never done a trial to completion. The ABA minimum requirement is 12 years of experience for a federal judge.... Holte's main qualification seems to be membership in the Federalist Society and the right-wing Teneo Network, connected to the Koch brothers who donate millions to ultraconservative causes. Yuck." (Write-up date 6/6/18)

TELL our Senators that Holte is yet another inappropriate Trump judicial nominee

- **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

Politico reports that newly disclosed emails show that “Scott Pruitt’s EPA and the White House sought to block publication of a federal health study on a nationwide water-contamination crisis, after one Trump administration aide warned it would cause a ‘public relations nightmare.’ ... The intervention early this year... came as HHS’ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry was preparing to publish its assessment of a class of toxic chemicals that has contaminated water supplies near military bases, chemical plants and other sites from New York to Michigan to West Virginia. The study would show that the chemicals endanger human health at a far lower level than EPA has previously called safe, according to the emails. ‘The public, media, and Congressional reaction to these numbers is going to be huge,’ one unidentified White House aide said in an email forwarded on Jan. 30 by James Herz, a political appointee who oversees environmental issues at the OMB. The email added: ‘The impact to EPA and [the Defense Department] is going to be extremely painful. We (DoD and EPA) cannot seem to get [the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry] to realize the potential public relations nightmare this is going to be.’” The study has not yet been released. (Write-up date 6/6/18)

DEMAND public access to this report, which clearly has health implications for many Americans, and **POINT OUT** that the role of government is to protect the health of the people, not to protect polluters (within the government or the private sector) from negative publicity

- **Donald Trump**, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111
 - **Scott Pruitt**, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 1101A, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington DC 20460, 202-564-4700
 - **Alex Azar**, Secretary of Health & Human Services, 200 Independence Ave, SW, DC 20201, (877) 696-6775
 - **Patrick Breysse**, PhD, CIH, Director, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, 4770 Buford Hwy NE Atlanta, GA 30341 USA, (800) 232-4636
 - **Donna Knutson**, PhD, Deputy Director, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, 4770 Buford Hwy NE Atlanta, GA 30341 USA, (800) 232-4636
- REQUEST** that our Congresspeople take action to see that this report is released
- **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

Independent researchers from several institutions, including Harvard, have concluded that more than 4,600 Puerto Ricans died in Hurricane Maria and they have reported this finding in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. Compare this to the Texas death toll following Hurricane Harvey, which is estimated at 88 persons. Despite this disparity in impact, relief efforts in Puerto Rico

have been far below those in States. June marked the start of the 2018 hurricane season, which may have drastic consequences for Puerto Rico, which has not recovered from last year. (Write-up date 6/6/18)

EXPLAIN that Puerto Ricans are our fellow citizens and that they deserve the same protection and support as State residents

- **William B. “Brock” Long**, Administrator, FEMA Headquarters, 500 C St. SW, Washington DC 20472, (202) 646-4622
- **Daniel Kaniewski**, PhD, Deputy Administrator, FEMA Headquarters, 500 C St. SW, Washington DC 20472, (202) 646-4622
- **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494

TELL our Congresspeople we want them to actively follow through on Puerto Rico recovery progress and 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

The 7-2 ruling in the *Masterpiece Cake Shop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* sided—on narrow procedural grounds—with the defendant, who refused to provide a gay couple with a wedding cake citing his religious objections to gay marriage and claiming that cake making is Constitutionally protected free speech. This was a ruling on how the Colorado Civil Rights Commission handled the case at a lower level. The majority’s ruling was based on several Colorado cases in which bakers had refused to make Bible-shaped cakes bearing the message “homosexuality is a sin.” The Colorado Civil Rights Commission had upheld the bakers’ right to refuse to make these cakes. The dissenting Justices were Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor. In their dissent, written by Bader Ginsburg, they explain that the bakers refusing to make the Bible bakers were objecting to the demeaning message that would have been put on the cakes, while the plaintiff in *Masterpiece Cake Shop* was not objecting to a specific message, but to the rights of an entire class of people: “Phillips [owner of *Masterpiece Cake Shop*] declined to make a cake he found offensive where the offensiveness of the product was determined solely by the identity of the customer requesting it.... When a couple contacts a bakery for a wedding cake, the product they are seeking is a cake celebrating their wedding—not a cake celebrating heterosexual weddings or same-sex weddings—and that is the service Craig and Mullins [the gay couple] were denied.” The dissent went on to explain that refusing to bake any same-sex wedding cakes, as Phillips did, is equivalent to having a discriminatory policy. In contrast, refusing to bake a cake that offends the baker’s sensibilities based on the particular message does not indicate a blanket rejection of an entire swath of people. (Write-up date 6/6/18)

THANK the Justices for their dissent and for their respect for the dignity of all Americans

- Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Supreme Court, 1 First St. NE, Washington DC 20543, (202) 479-3000
- **Justice Sonia Sotomayor**, Supreme Court, 1 First St. NE, Washington DC 20543, (202) 479-3000

Despite the fact that it was formed as a result of gun violence, the Federal Commission on School Safety will not look at the role of guns in a recent series of school shootings. The *Huffington Post* reports that in an exchange with Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), DeVos said it is “not part of the commission’s charge per se” to look at the role of firearms as it relates to gun violence. Instead, DeVos said the commission will study “school safety and how we can ensure our students are safe at school.” If this makes no sense to you, you’re not alone. In fact, it looks as though the real agenda might be to consider whether to repeal a package of Obama-era school discipline policies targeted at addressing policies that disproportionately affect minority students. (Write-up date 6/6/18)

INSIST to Commission members that a consideration of the role of guns in gun violence and in school safety is highly germane to the Commission’s charge—and that we don’t make schools safer by undermining protections for minority students

- **Betsy DeVos**, Secretary of Education, U.S. Department of Education, 7W301 LBJ Building, Mail Number 0100, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington DC 20202, (202) 401-3000
- **Attorney General Jeff Sessions**, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20530, comment line (202) 353-1555
- **Alex Azar**, Secretary of Health & Human Services, 200 Independence Ave, SW, DC 20201, (877) 696-6775
- **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494

Art Acevedo, Houston’s Police Chief, has reported that even though Houston’s immigrant population is one of the fastest-growing in the country, the city last year saw a 16 percent drop in domestic violence reports from the Hispanic community. The police blame this decline on a tough new immigration enforcement law in Texas and the increasingly hostile political climate across the country surrounding the issue of illegal immigration, which leave Latina women who are victims of domestic violence afraid to request to legal protection to which they’re entitled. Abusers know they can use potential deportation as another way of controlling those they abuse and preventing them from seeking legal recourse. It is probably safe to assume that other parts of the country are seeing a similar drop in domestic violence calls for the same reason. (Write-up date 6/6/18)

THANKS for speaking up on behalf of domestic violence survivors to

- **Chief Art Acevedo**, Houston Police Department, 1200 Travis St., Houston, TX 77002, (713) 884-3131

POINT OUT the collateral damage being inflicted by excessive and extreme Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity

- **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

In response to immigrant fears of reporting domestic abuse and other crimes due to aggressive Immigrations and Customs Enforcements (ICE) actions, our own Jimmy Panetta has introduced H.R.5058, the “Immigrant and Witness Victim Protection Act,” to provide critical protections to victims and witnesses of sexual assault, domestic violence and other serious crimes and to expand protections for survivors who come forward and work with law enforcement to prosecute these crimes and to serve their communities. H.R. 5058 is currently before the House Judiciary Committee.

THANKS for introducing this essential legislation to

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

TELL key members of the House Judiciary Committee that this vital legislation needs their immediate attention and action

- **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951
- **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

Both Senator Jeff Merkley and Senator Bob Menendez have been denied access to an immigration detention center housing children separated from their families. In fact, in the case of Merkley, police were called to remove the Senator from the center. Merkley reported that the center’s front doors were locked and blacked out, making it impossible to see anything happening within the facility. (Write-up date 6/6/18)

THANKS to the Senators for their attempts to protect the rights of children who are essentially being held hostage by the U.S. government

- **Senator Jeff Merkley** (D-OR) 313 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3753
- **Senator Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), 528 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4744

INFORM the Secretary of Homeland Security that we find this lack of transparency, disrespect for the people’s elected representatives, and the separation of families unacceptable

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

TELL our Congresspeople that it is time for this policy to stop and that we demand hearings on the oversight of these children and families, many who come seeking asylum, which has never been considered a crime before now

- **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
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Several pieces of legislation are currently before Congress that would protect the rights of children separated from their parents when the parents are arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

1. H.R. 2572, the “Protect Family Values at the Border Act,” requires that the Department of Homeland Security take into consideration safety and family concerns in any action related to the prosecution or repatriation of those apprehended for immigration violations. This legislation is currently before the House’s Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees.

2. The “HELP Separated Children Act” (S.2937 in the Senate; H.R.5950 in the House) would identify children affected by the arrest of a parent/parents on immigration charges, inform state and local services, and prioritize the release of parents so they can care for their children. S.2937 (Harris is a co-sponsor) is currently before the Senate Judiciary Committee; H.R.5950 is currently before the House Judiciary Committee.

3. The “Fair Day in Court for Kids Act” (S.2468 in the Senate; H.R. 2043 in the House) would require the government to appoint counsel to unaccompanied child refugees and other vulnerable refugees, so that they are not forced to defend themselves alone against government prosecutors. S.2468 (Feinstein and Harris are co-sponsors) is currently before the Senate Judiciary Committee. H.R.2043 is currently before the House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security. (Write-up date 6/6/18)

TELL the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee that you would like to see quick, positive action on S.2937 and S.2468

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

TELL key members of the House Judiciary Committee that you would like to see quick, positive action on H.R.2572, H.R.5950, and H.R.2043

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

• **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

TELL key members of the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security that you would like to see quick, positive action on H.R.2043

• **Representative Raúl Labrador** (R-ID), Chair, Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Zoe Lofgren** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

THANKS for co-sponsoring S.2937 and S.2468 to

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

THANKS for co-sponsoring S.2468 and **REQUEST** that she consider co-sponsoring S.2937 to

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

REQUEST active support and co-sponsorship for H.R.2572, H.R.5950, and H.R.2043 from

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

From *Rogan's List*: "Forcing school vouchers on the education landscape has long been on the conservative to-do list. Vouchers are a sneak attack on public education because they starve it of money and resources and feed private, parochial, and for-profit schools instead. Right now, the fight against vouchers centers on a House bill, H.R.4508, the 'PROSPER Act,' that would be a conservative's dream for gutting the Higher Education Act." (Write-up date 6/6/18)

TELL our Representative "No!" to this destruction of public education

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

Our own Senator Kamala Harris and Lisa Murkowski have introduced the "Ending the Monopoly of Power Over Workplace Harassment through Education and Reporting Act" (EMPOWER), S.2994. Harris' web site explains that this "comprehensive, bipartisan legislation will reduce the barriers that prevent victims from speaking out and seeking justice, put companies on notice that they can no longer financially protect harassers in secret, and arm individuals with the resources they need to address systemic workplace harassment. This includes prohibiting non-disclosure and non-disparagement clauses (NDAs) that employers have required individuals to sign as a condition of receiving the job—which has perpetuated a culture of silence." The legislation creates a confidential Equal Employment Opportunity Commission hotline for reporting of on-going workplace harassment. EMPOWER requires that public companies disclose the number of settlements, judgments, and aggregate settlement amounts in connection with workplace harassment in their annual SEC filings and disclose the existence of repeat settlements with respect to a particular individual. It prohibits corporations from tax deductions for expenses and attorneys' fees in connection with litigation related to workplace harassment and treats settlement monies received by plaintiffs as non-taxable income. Finally, EMPOWER requires development of workplace training programs to clarify what actions qualify as prohibited workplace harassment. The legislation is with the Senate Finance Committee. (Write-up date 6/7/18)

THANK the Senators for introducing this legislation

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

- **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

URGE quick, positive action on this legislation from key members of the Senate Finance Committee

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

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

REQUEST support, including co-sponsorship, for EMPOWER from

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

Mick Mulvaney, Acting Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), has fired all twenty-five members of his Consumer Advisory Board (CAB). The *Washington Post*

explains: The panel has traditionally played an influential role in advising the CFPB's leadership on new regulations and policies. But some members, who include prominent consumer advocates, academics and industry executives, began to complain that Mulvaney was ignoring them and making unwise decisions about the agency's future. On [June 4], eleven CAB members held a news conference and criticized Mulvaney for, among other things, canceling legally required meetings with the group. On [June 6], group members were notified that they were being replaced — and that they could not reapply for spots on the new board.... 'Firing current members of the advisory board is a huge red flag in this administration's ongoing erosion of critical consumer financial protections that help average families,' said Chi Chi Wu, an attorney for the National Consumer Law Center who has been a board member since 2016." The CAB met thrice yearly with Mulvaney's predecessor. The Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee has oversight of the CFPB. (Write-up date 6/7/18)

EXPLAIN to Mulvaney that you value the work of the CAB, feel they protect your interests, and don't want to see the Board shut down, even temporarily

- Mick Mulvaney, Acting Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G St. NW, Washington DC 20552, (855) 411-CFPB

EXPRESS your dismay about this move and **DEMAND** continued consumer representation within the CFPB from

- **Senator Michael Crapo** (R-ID), Chair, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 534 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-7392
 - **Senator Sherrod Brown** (D-OH), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 534 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-7391
- INSIST** that our Congresspeople keep a close eye on events at the CFPB, especially the status of the CAB
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

THANKS for co-sponsoring S.2468 and **REQUEST** that she consider co-sponsoring S.2937 to

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

REQUEST active support and co-sponsorship for H.R.2572, H.R.5950, and H.R.2043 from

- **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, continues to blatantly show her disregard for separation of church and state. In May on a two-day New York tour where she visited *no* public schools, only private ones, she claimed that constitutional amendments that forbid direct government aid to religious-affiliated institutions should be assigned to the "ash heaps of history." (Write-up date 6/7/18)

REMIND DeVos that her role is to advocate for public education and that her actions must be in line with the First Amendment of the Constitution

- Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW; Washington, D.C. 20202, (800) 872-5327