

2018.09.01 Issues and Addresses

CHURCH-STATE SEPARATION

The Johnson Amendment, in case you're not familiar with it, is one of our country's bulwarks of church-state separation. It prohibits all 501(c)(3) non-profits, including churches, from endorsing or opposing political candidates. The Johnson Amendment is law, and because it is law, only Congress has the power to repeal it. However, this fact has not prevented Donald Trump from announcing to evangelical leaders, "Now one of the things I'm most proud of is getting rid of the Johnson Amendment," implying that they now have the right to endorse political candidates from the pulpit. If they take the President at his word, we are apt to see a wave of church-based candidate endorsements—despite that fact that this has not been legalized.

REMIND Trump that he is not a dictator and cannot undo law on his own and **INSIST** that he stop making misleading statements about the Johnson Amendment

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

REQUEST that our Congresspeople take an active role in assuring that the Johnson Amendment remains in place and is not undercut by the Trump's falsehoods

- **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's Evangelical Advisory Board (consisting of only far-right Christian religious leaders) was created during Trump's campaign. Members of the Board have spoken about their access to the President and their ability to influence policy. Federal law requires that the Board's meetings and documents be available to the public, but this has not happened. Americans United has filed a letter demanding that the Evangelical Advisory Board cease and desist until it is in compliance with federal law. The Board insists that it is not a board, but an informal group, and is not subject to federal transparency laws. However, Trump has held a formal White House dinner for Board members, which indicates the group is more than "informal." Americans United has also filed a federal open-records request for documents, including transcripts, minutes, working papers, agendas, and studies, prepared for the Board or made available to it.

INSIST to Trump and the White House Counsel that this group honor federal transparency laws

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

- **Don McGahn**, White House Counsel, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

ASK that our Congresspeople investigate this violation of federal transparency laws and church-state separation

- **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

CONSUMER PROTECTION, WORKING CONDITIONS, and ECONOMIC JUSTICE

From the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) via *Rogan's List*: “CEO pay continues to be very, very high and has grown far faster in recent decades than typical worker pay. Higher CEO pay does not reflect correspondingly higher output or better performance. Exorbitant CEO pay therefore means that the fruits of economic growth are not going to ordinary workers.... CEOs are getting more because of their power to set pay, not because they are more productive or have special talents or more education. If CEOs earned less or were taxed more, there would be no adverse impact on output or employment.” To remedy this problem, the EPI has recommended that the U.S. “reinstate higher marginal income tax rates at the very top; set corporate tax rates higher for firms that have higher ratios of CEO-to-worker compensation; set a cap on compensation and tax anything over the cap; allow greater use of ‘say on pay,’ which allows firm’s shareholders to vote on top executives’ compensation.”

TELL Congressional leaders that this is the kind of tax reform Americans, and not just the 1%, want to see

- **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541
- **Senator Chuck Schumer** (D-NY), Senate Minority Leader, 322 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6542
- **Representative Paul Ryan** (R-WI), Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3031
- **Representative Kevin McCarthy** (R-CA), House Majority Leader, 2421 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2915
- **Representative Steve Scalise** (R-LA), House Majority Whip, 2338 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3015
- **Representative Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA), House Minority Leader, 223 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4965
- **Representative Steny Hoyer** (D-MD), House Minority Whip, 1705 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4131

As the *Los Angeles Times* headline put it, “Marco Rubio’s Parental Leave Plan Would Rob Peter to Pay for Peter Jr.” S.3345, the misleadingly titled “Economic Security for New Parents Act,” would allow parents to take partially paid leave after the birth of a child, but to do so they *would have to tap their future Social Security benefits*. Parents could receive two months partially paid leave if they agree to put off receiving their Social Security benefits for three to six months. A better program would be like that in California, which is administered through the State Disability Insurance Program and is funded from the existing 1% payroll deduction for disability insurance. This program has another benefit that Rubio’s proposal doesn’t: it allows partially

paid leave to care for a seriously sick family member as well as after a birth. S.3345 has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

TELL key finance committee members that this bill takes the wrong approach and that parents shouldn't be penalized for caring for newborns

- **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

URGE our Senators to hold out for a California-style model—they should understand its benefits since they're representing California

- **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

EDUCATION

The “Local Control of School Lunches Act,” H.R.6541, would repeal a number of nutritional standards for school lunches put in place during the Obama administration, including limits on calories and salt and minimum requirement for percentage of enriched or whole grain flour. Given that childhood obesity rates have tripled in this country since 1970, we might want to keep the Obama-era standards in place. H.R.6541 is currently with the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

REMIND key members of the House Education and the Workforce Committee that our children deserve better than unlimited calories, salt, and refined flour

- **Representative Virginia Foxx** (R-NC), Chair, House Education and the Workforce Committee, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527

- **Representative Joe Wilson** (R-SC), Ranking Member, House Education and the Workforce Committee, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is preparing new policies narrowing the definition of campus sexual harassment; strengthening the rights of students accused of assault, harassment, or rape; and reducing campus liability. The proposed rules would hold schools accountable only for formal complaints filed with “an official who has the authority to institute corrective measures” regarding conduct that occurred on campuses. The new rules would also establish a higher legal standard to determine whether schools improperly addressed complaints. With estimates that approximately one in every five women and one in every sixteen men are sexually assaulted while in college and that 90% of such assaults go unreported (National Sexual Violence Resource Center), this legislation could negatively affect the lives of thousands of college students.

INFORM Secretary DeVos that she should be making sure campuses are safe for students, not making it easier for assaults to occur and for campuses to ignore those assaults

• **Betsy DeVos**, Secretary of Education, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington DC 20202, (800) 872-5327

ENVIRONMENT

H.R.3671, the “Off Fossil Fuels for a Better Future Act,” would transition the U.S. from fossil fuels to clean energy. It would require that by 2027 80% of energy must be generated by clean sources, 80% of new vehicle sales must be of zero-emissions vehicles, and 80% of train lines and trains must be electrified. By 2035, these percentages would move upward to 100% in each of the three categories. A host of House committees are currently considering this legislation: the House Committee on Energy and Commerce; the House Committee on Ways and Means; the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; the House Committee on Education and the Workforce; the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee; the House Financial Services Committee; the House Foreign Affairs Committee; the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials; the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management; the Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment; and two Subcommittees on the Environment.

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

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

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

• **Representative Fred Upton** (R-MI), Chair, Energy and Commerce Energy Subcommittee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Bobby Rush** (D-IL), Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Energy Subcommittee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Kevin Brady** (R-TX), Chair, House Ways and Means Committee, 1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3625

• **Representative Richard Neal** (D-MA), Ranking Member, House Ways and Means Committee, 1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3625

• **Representative Bill Shuster** (R-PA), Chair, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446

• **Representative Peter A. DeFazio** (D-OR), Ranking Member, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446

• **Representative Lou Baretta** (R-PA), Chair, Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446

• **A. Drew Furgeson IV** (R-GA), Vice-Chair, Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446

- **Representative Dina Titus** (D-NV), Ranking Member, Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446
- **Representative Jeff Denham** (R-CA), Chair, Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446
- **Representative John J. Faso** (R-NY), Vice-Chair, Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446
- **Representative Michael E. Capuano** (D-MA), Ranking Member, Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446
- **Representative Garrett Graves** (R-LA), Chair, Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water, Resources, and the Environment, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446
- **Representative Brian J. Mast** (R-FL), Vice-Chair, Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water, Resources, and the Environment, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446
- **Representative Grace F. Napolitano** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water, Resources, and the Environment, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446
- **Representative Virginia Foxx** (R-NC), Chair, House Education and the Workforce Committee, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527
- **Representative Joe Wilson** (R-SC), Ranking Member, House Education and the Workforce Committee, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527
- **Representative Lamar Smith** (R-TX), Chair, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6371
- **Representative Frank D. Lucas** (R-OK), Vice-Chair, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6371
- **Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson** (D-TX), Ranking Member, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6371
- **Representative Randy Weber** (R-TX), Chair, Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Energy, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6371
- **Representative Steve Knight** (R-CA), Vice Chair, Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Energy, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6371
- **Representative Marc Veasey** (D-TX), Ranking Member, Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Energy, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6371
- **Representative Jeb Hensarling** (R-TX), Chair, House Financial Services Committee, 2129 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-7502
- **Representative Patrick T. McHenry** (R-NC), Vice-Chair, House Financial Services Committee, 2129 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-7502
- **Representative Maxine Water** (D-CA), Ranking Member, House Financial Services Committee, 2129 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-7502

- **Representative Ed Royce** (R-CA), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5021
- **Representative Francis Rooney** (R-FL), Vice-Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5021
- **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5021

From **Rogan's List**: "Trump's and the EPA's new power plan will kill an additional 1400 people a year. The EPA itself acknowledges this."

QUERY our Congresspeople about what they're doing to stop this insane decision and protect the Clean Power Plan

- **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

ETHICS, TRANSPARENCY, and SEPARATION of POWERS

Back when Bill Clinton was being investigated by a special counsel, Lindsey Graham, who prosecuted the impeachment, said "You don't even have to be convicted of a crime to lose your job... impeachment is not about punishment. Impeachment is about cleansing the office. Impeachment is about restoring honor and integrity to the office."

COPY these three sentences onto a postcard and send them to Senator Graham—no need for an attribution, he should remember who the speaker was

- **Senator Lindsey Graham**, 290 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5972

SHARE this statement with Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee with Senator Graham—in which case, you might want to add the attribution

- **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744
- **Senator Orrin G. Hatch** (R-UT), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 104 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5251
- **Senator John Cornyn** (R-TX), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 517 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2934
- **Senator Ted Cruz** (R-TX), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 404 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5922
- **Senator Jeff Flake** (R-AZ), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 413 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4521
- **Senator Thom Tillis** (R-NC), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 185 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6342

- **Senator Michael S. Lee** (R-UT), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 361A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5444
- **Senator Ben Sasse** (R-NE), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 136 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4224
- **Senator Mike Crapo** (R-ID), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 239 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6142
- **Senator John Kennedy** (R-LA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 383 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4623

FAMILY SEPARATION, IMMIGRATION, and DENATURALIZATION

Several recent press reports have documented the challenges facing unaccompanied minors in immigration courts. Because immigration courts are considered civil courts, not criminal, unaccompanied children aren't guaranteed a right to a court-appointed attorney. Having an attorney makes an immense difference in the results of these court appearances. According to data gathered by Syracuse University tracking rulings through 2014, only 12% of unrepresented minors wind up being allowed to remain in the U.S.; more than 80% of represented children are allowed to remain. In an opinion piece for the *New York Times*, Americans for Immigrant Justice explains: "We created a coloring book to explain to these children their rights. It explains concepts such as what a country is, who is an immigrant and what a judge does. We read the book to separated and unaccompanied children as part of our 'know your rights' presentations and have them act out scenarios from the story." The situation of a proportion of these children is complicated by the fact that they speak only an indigenous language, not Spanish. If Congress chose to act, it could create regulations requiring representation for these children.

POINT OUT the cruel absurdity of the situation in which these children find themselves and **DEMAND** that they receive representation

- **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541
- **Senator Chuck Schumer** (D-NY), Senate Minority Leader, 322 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6542
- **Representative Paul Ryan** (R-WI), Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3031
- **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 U.S. government has begun *denying passports to U.S. citizens* with Spanish surnames living along our southern border. The Trump administration alleges that thousands such people were actually born on the Mexican side of the border and have fraudulent birth certificates. According to the State Department, "the U.S.-Mexico border region happens to be an area of the country

where there has been significant incidence of citizenship fraud.” The Washington Post reports, “In some cases passport applicants with official U.S. birth certificates are being jailed in immigration detention centers and entered into deportation proceedings. In others, they are stuck in Mexico, their passports suddenly revoked when they attempt to reenter the United States.

OBJECT to this harassment of and disrespect for American citizens to

• **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

• **Ronald Vitiello**, Acting Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St. SW, Washington D.C. 20536, (866) DHS-2-ICE

REQUEST an investigation by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of this mistreatment of American citizens

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

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

URGE attention to these practices from our Congresspeople

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

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

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

Our own Kamala Harris Has introduced the DONE Act (Detention Oversight, Not Expansion), S.2849, which would, as its title suggests, prohibit the construction of new immigration detention facilities and increase oversight of those currently operating. It is currently with the Senate Judiciary Committee, on which both California Senators sit. Companion legislation, H.R.5820, has been introduced in the House by Representative Pramila Jayapal, where it is with the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees.

THANKS to Senator Harris for introducing S.2849

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

URGE key members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to expedite discussion of S.2849

• **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744

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

URGE key members of the House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees

• **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 Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Homeland Security Committee, 176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8417
- **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Homeland Security Committee, 176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8417

GENERAL DECENCY

Politico reports that at least five complains involving transgender bathroom access have been filed with the Civil Rights Office of the Department of Education. These cases have been ignored because Education Secretary DeVos has halted such investigations. The lack of available bathrooms and the isolated location of such bathrooms add to the constant reminders of their difference that transgendered students experience at school every day.

AFFIRM to the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights that these students have a right to accommodations and the Department of Education's Civil Rights Office should be investigating their claims

- **Betsy DeVos**, Secretary of Education, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington DC 20202, (800) 872-5327
- **Ken Marcus**, Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington DC 20202, (800) 872-5327

GUNS

Despite a federal court order blocking the sale of blueprints for guns that can be produced with 3-D printers, Cody Wilson, continues the online sale of such blueprints. One way of addressing this issue (since it appears the court order is not being enforced) would be passage of S.533 and H.R.2033, the "Undetectable Firearms Modernization Acts." These pieces of legislation would expand the federal definition of firearms to include printable guns and their components to the federal list of prohibited firearms. Each of these pieces of legislation is currently with its house's Judiciary Committee.

POINT OUT the need for legislation regulating printable guns, **DECRY** the current violation of the court order barring selling of blueprints for these guns, and **URGE** movement of both versions of the Undetectable Firearms Modernization Act through committees

- **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553
- **Representative 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

HEALTHCARE and HEALTH

The maternal mortality rate in the U.S. is not only higher than in other developed nations, but it is also getting worse. What's more is the large disparity in the maternal health and morbidity rates of black women, as compared to white women. S.1112 and H.R.1318, the “Maternal Health Accountability Act,” would provide funding for maternal mortality review committees in each state to examine and address the cause of maternal deaths. S.3363, the “Maternal CARE Act” (introduced by our own Kamala Harris), would work to end maternal mortality by using “evidence-based quality improvement to protect the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postpartum period and to reduce neonatal and infant mortality [in order] to eliminate racial disparities in maternal health outcomes.” S.1112 is with the Senate Help, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee (HELP). H.R.1318 is with the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s Health Subcommittee. S.3363 is with the Senate Finance Committee. **THANKS** to Senator Harris for introducing S.3363

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

URGE key HELP Committee members to push for quick movement of S.1112 through committee and to the Senate floor

- **Senator Lamar Alexander** (R-TN), Chair, Health Education Labor, and Pensions Committee, 428 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5375

- **Senator Patty Murray** (D-OR), Ranking Member, Health Education Labor, and Pensions Committee, 428 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5375

URGE key Energy and Commerce Committee/Subcommittee members to push for quick movement of H.R.1318 through committee and onto the House floor

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

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

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

- **Representative Michael Burgess** (R-TX), Chair, Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

- **Representative Brett Guthrie** (R-KT), Vice-Chair, Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

- **Representative Gene Green** (D-TX), Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

URGE key Senate Finance Committee members to push for quick movement of S.3363 through committee and onto the Senate floor

- **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

Don't let S.3388, the deceptively titled "Ensuring Coverage for Patients with Pre-Existing Conditions Act," get your hopes up. Republicans are touting it as a way to guarantee insurance coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, but it's a bit more complicated than that. If passed, S.3388 would go into effect if states (led by Texas) are successful in a suit claiming that the Affordable Care Act is unconstitutional. Larry Levitt, Senior Vice President for healthcare reform at the nonprofit Kaiser Family Foundation, explains, "An insurer would have to give you coverage if you have a pre-existing condition, but it could exclude any services associated with your pre-existing condition."

REMIND Congressional leaders and our own Congresspeople that we want real healthcare that addresses our real health issues and POINT OUT that S.3388 is an utter failure at doing this

- **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541
- **Senator Chuck Schumer** (D-NY), Senate Minority Leader, 322 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6542
- **Representative Paul Ryan** (R-WI), Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3031
- **Representative Kevin McCarthy** (R-CA), House Majority Leader, 2421 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2915
- **Representative Steve Scalise** (R-LA), House Majority Whip, 2338 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3015
- **Representative Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA), House Minority Leader, 223 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4965
- **Representative Steny Hoyer** (D-MD), House Minority Whip, 1705 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4131
- **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

HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS

The *Virginian-Pilot* has published a comprehensive investigation of conditions for those experiencing mental illness in America's jails, tracking the cases of 404 people with mental illnesses who have died in America's jails since 2010. The *Virginian-Pilot* created its database using court records, Google searches, newspaper websites, state records, and existing databases. There are 900+ jail deaths each year in the U.S., but the federal government does not track mental illness diagnoses, nor do most states, so the figure of 404 is almost certainly an undercount. The patterns/problems this investigation found included the facts that 41% of mentally ill prisoners who died in custody were, or had recently been, held in isolation; 44% of these deaths were suicides, which can often be prevented with careful monitoring; in 70 cases, inmates were shocked with a taser or stun-gun, pepper-sprayed or restrained—often in

combination—before dying; in at least eleven cases, family or friends warned jails of a prisoner’s mental illness and, in more than half of those cases, they attempted to bring the prisoner’s medications to the jail. Elizabeth Sinclair, of the Treatment Advocacy Group, explained, “The lack of data collection, the lack of accountability is such a systematic, widespread issue, and the fact that [the *Virginian-Pilot’s* study] is the only database that has this information available to people—it points to the fact that if data doesn’t exist then they [jails and jailers] cannot be held accountable to what’s happening. I think people expect the data to be collected by the criminal justice system, but the reality is, it’s not systematically collected on any level.” The Senate Judiciary Committee has oversight of the Bureau of Prisons.

CALL FOR close examination of this study and for meaningful legislation in response to it from key members of the Judiciary Committee, including both of California’s Senators

- **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

A number of women have come forward with claims that they were subjected to invasive body cavity searches by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers, despite the fact that. Many of these women were travelling with valid U.S. passports. A number of law suits have been filed by these women. The *Washington Post* reports, “The women who’ve brought these lawsuits, including two minor girls, say CBP officers subjected them to indignities — such as strip searches while menstruating and prohibited genital probing — despite finding no contraband. Four women further allege they were handcuffed and transported to hospitals where, against their will, one underwent a pelvic exam and X-rays. In one of the cases, the woman’s lawsuit asserts she was intravenously drugged at the hospital, according to lawsuits. Such invasive medical procedures require a detainee’s consent or a warrant. In two cases, the plaintiffs say they were billed. A lawsuit filed in San Diego federal court on behalf of a Hispanic 16-year-old identified as C.R. alleges CBP strip-searched her last September as she and her adult sisters returned from a family visit to Mexico through the San Ysidro pedestrian port. The sisters were flagged after a false drug-sniffing dog alert, the lawsuit asserts. Female officers took C.R. aside and allegedly told the tearful girl to disrobe, hand over a sanitary pad, and squat and cough ‘while officers probed and shined a flashlight at her vaginal and anal areas,’ the lawsuit says.” The Senate Judiciary Committee has oversight of CBP.

DEMAND an immediate end to these abusive violations of the 4th Amendment by CBP officers from

- **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494
- **Kevin McAleenan**, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20229, (877) CBP-5511
- **Robert E. Perez**, Acting Deputy Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20229, (877) CBP-5511
- **Jeff Sessions**, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20530-0001, (202) 353-1555

CALL FOR a thorough investigation of these claims from key members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

- **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

INTERNATIONAL

The International Campaign for the Rohingya reports that, “the United Nations Security Council discussed a damning new UN report that concludes that Myanmar’s top military generals should be prosecuted for genocide against Rohingya in Rakhine State. The U.N. Fact-Finding-Mission on Myanmar found evidence of genocidal intent and compiled a ‘non-exhaustive list’ of alleged perpetrators of crimes under international law, including Burmese Commander-in-Chief Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing. This represents further evidence that the U.S. Administration needs to take tougher action. The U.S. Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, is on the verge of publishing the findings of a major State Department investigation into Burma's atrocities against the Rohingya. Holding up the report's publication is a heated internal U.S. government debate over whether to term the Burmese army's actions ‘crimes against humanity’ or ‘genocide.’ Whatever the term it uses, we must insist that the U.S. government publish the report as part of imposing further, tougher sanctions to end Burma's march toward the genocide of the Rohingya.”

URGE quick release of this report by Secretary Pompeo

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

United Nations investigators have issued a report alleging that the Saudi and Emirati coalition fighting in Yemen have engaged in war crimes, including killing thousands of civilians, torturing detainees, raping civilians, and using child soldiers. Kamel Jendoubi, the chairman of the panel of experts that produced the report noted, “There is little evidence of any attempt by parties in the conflict to minimize civilian casualties.” Nevertheless, the U.S. continues to provide funding for the Saudi-Emirati coalition.

DEMAND and immediate end to the U.S. role in and funding of this conflict

- **Donald Trump**, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111
- **Mike Pompeo**, Secretary of State, U.S. 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, (202) 224-4651
- **Senator Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

There has been relatively little reporting in the U.S. of the current struggle in Nicaragua. The strife originated in a plan announced by the Ortega government to rework and scale back social security benefits. Following public protests against the proposed policy, the Ortega government began responding with repression and violence. By mid-July, the death toll had reached 273. Student activists have continued in their protests, despite government violence against them. The bipartisan legislation S.6683, the “Nicaragua Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Act,” would impose sanctions against those responsible for the violence in Nicaragua. S.6683 is currently with the Senate Foreign Affairs and Judiciary Committees.

URGE quick movement of S.6683 through the appropriate committees from

- **Senator Bob Corker** (R-TN), Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651
- **Senator Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651
- **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

INTERNET

From *Rogan's List*: “When Federal Communications Commission chairman Ajit Pai repealed net neutrality rules earlier this year, he promised that fair access to the Internet would instead be protected by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Now we're hearing that ISPs have been busily lobbying the FTC hard, to convince it to abandon any defense of net neutrality as well. Furthermore, they are pressuring the FTC to issue new rules to prevent states from passing their own net neutrality laws, as California is doing.”

TELL the FTC to be better than the FCC, and to not drop the ball on this crucial issue because more than ever before, democracy depends on free access to information!

- **Joseph J. Simons**, Chair, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania NW 20580, (202) 326-2222
- **Maureen K. Ohlhausen**, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania NW 20580, (202) 326-2222
- **Noah Joshua Phillips**, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania NW 20580, (202) 326-2222
- **Rohit Chopra**, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania NW 20580, (202) 326-2222
- **Rebecca Kelly Slaughter**, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania NW 20580, (202) 326-2222

JUDICIARY

Following a deal between Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer which would guarantee an *on-time break* for the Senate, the confirmation of seven federal district judges was fast-tracked, with all seven being confirmed in a single day. This was problematic in multiple ways. First, these are more of Trump's lifetime appointments, that will be shaping the laws of our land long after Trump leaves office, making any delay in their confirmation (even if that confirmation appears certain) a small success. Second, a number of Democratic Senators voted in favor of some of these candidates, including Charles Goodwin, who was ranked as "not qualified" by the American Bar Association.

REMIND Senator Schumer that in the current political climate, where courts are essential to assure limitations on executive overreach and an extremely conservative agenda, he should not be making it easy to confirm extremist judges

- **Senator Charles Schumer** (D-NY), Senate Minority Leader, 322 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6542

EXPRESS your disappointment in the six Democrats who voted to confirm Goodwin, pointing out that it's one thing to confirm a judicial appointee nominated by a President on the other side of the aisle and quite a different thing to confirm a judicial appointee who has been evaluated as unqualified by the body governing his profession

- **Senator Joe Donnelly** (D-IN), 702 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4814

- **Senator Margaret Wood Hassan** (D-NH), 330 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3324

- **Senator Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN), 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3244

- **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154

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

- **Senator Jon Tester** (D-MT), 311 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2644

From *Rogan's List*: "Now that Trump has been named as an unindicted co-conspirator in violating campaign finance laws, several Democratic Senators are taking a stand and insisting that the Kavanaugh confirmation hearing needs to be put on hold. A president whose legitimacy is in question should not be appointing a Supreme Court Justice, especially one who has been on record stating that a President should be immune from criminal investigation. The Mueller investigation must continue before this appointment is considered. As Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) tweeted... , 'As an unindicted co-conspirator of a federal crime, President Trump should not be allowed to appoint someone to a lifetime position on the highest court in our land—a court which may very well adjudicate on this matter.'" (Original write-up date 8/25/18)

DEMAND that key Senate figures put any consideration of Kavanaugh—or any other Supreme Court nominee—on hold until the Mueller investigation is complete

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

- **Senator Chuck Schumer** (D-NY), Senate Minority Leader, 322 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6542
- **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

#ME TOO

The “Closing the Law Enforcement Loophole Consent Act,” H.R.6568, would make it illegal for federal law enforcement officers to engage in sexual acts with individuals in their custody and would encourage states to enact similar legislation. There’s been an ugly history of sexual acts/assaults between law enforcement officers and those in their custody, with the officers claiming the activity was consensual and the individuals in custody saying the activity was forced. By barring this kind of sexual activity, H.R.6568 would close the “consent loophole,” protecting individuals in custody. This bipartisan legislation is currently before the House Judiciary Committee. (Original write-up date 8/30/18)

URGE key Judiciary Committee members to take action on this essential legislation

- **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

Since its passage in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act has increased accountability for perpetrators. It has also received bipartisan support for three previous renewals. The current renewal, H.R.6545 is currently with several House committees and subcommittees: the House Committee on the Judiciary, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, the House Financial Services Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, the House Education and the Workforce Committee, the House Natural Resources Committee, and the Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaskan Native Affairs. H.R.6545 have 142 sponsors (including our own Jimmy Panetta)—none of them are Republicans. (Original write-up date 8/30/18)

INSIST to Republican committee leadership that renewal of the Violence Against Women should be prioritized and that the lack of Republican support is shameful and unacceptable

- **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA) Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951
- **Representative Greg Walden** (R-OR), Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927
- **Representative Joe Barton** (R-TX), Vice-Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

- **Representative Job Hensarling** (R-TX), Chair, House Financial Services Committee, 2129 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-7502
- **Representative Patrick T. McHenry** (R-NC), Vice-Chair, House Financial Services Committee, 2129 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-7502
- **Representative Kevin Brady** (R-TX), Chair, House Ways and Means Committee, 1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3625
- **Representative Virginia Foxx** (R-NC), Chair, House Education and the Workforce Committee, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527
- **Representative Joe Wilson** (R-SC), Ranking Member, House Education and the Workforce Committee, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527
- **Representation Rob Bishop** (R-UT), Chair, House Natural Resources Committee, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2761
- **Representative Louie Gohmert** (R-TX), Vice-Chair, House Natural Resources Committee, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2761
- **Representative Doug LaMalfa** (R-CA), Chair, Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Subcommittee, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2761
ASK Democratic committee leadership to consistently and vocally push for movement of the Violence Against Women Act through committee and onto the House floor
- **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951
- **Representative Frank Pallone** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927
- **Representative Maxine Water** (D-CA), Ranking Member, House Financial Services Committee, 2129 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-7502
- **Representative Richard Neal** (D-MA), Ranking Member, House Ways and Means Committee, 1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3625
- **Representative Robert “Bobby” Scott** (D-VA), Ranking Member, House Education and the Workforce Committee, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527
- **Representative Raúl Grijalva** (D-AZ), Ranking Member, House Natural Resources Committee, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2761
- Representative Ruben Gallego (D-AZ), Ranking Member, Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Subcommittee, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2761
THANKS to our Representative for cosponsoring this legislation
- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

RUSSIA, OBSTRUCTION, and MUELLER

S.2644, the “Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Act,” made it out of the Senate Judiciary Committee back in April, but has not yet been brought up for a vote of the full Senate. This act would limit the right to remove a special counsel to the Attorney General or most senior Senate-confirmed Department of Justice (DOJ) official, would require that a special counsel being removed receive written notice of the reasons for that removal, and would allow the

special counsel to challenge that removal in federal court. This legislation has four sponsors/sponsors, two Republican, two Democrat. (Original write-up date 8/30/18)

URGE the Senate Majority Leader to put S.2644 on the Senate calendar and **AFFIRM** that the Mueller investigation needs to be thorough and comprehensive

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

ASK our Senators for vocal support of S.2644

• **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*: "After telling the president last year that he would not confirm a new Attorney General (AG), if Jeff Sessions were fired, Senate Judiciary Chair, Chuck Grassley (R-IA) has done a complete about face and now says he would hold confirmation hearings for a new AG. Firing Sessions would be a first step toward firing special prosecutor Robert Mueller." (Original write-up date 8/30/18)

EXPRESS your dismay at Senator Grassley's turn-around and **TELL** him that legislation protecting the Mueller investigation absolutely has to be in place before any confirmation hearings for a new AG are held

• **Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)**, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744

TELL our Senators that any confirmations hearings for a new AG must be preceded by passage of protection for the Mueller investigation

• **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

SCIENCE

The *Guardian* reports: "Prominent U.S. climate scientists have told the *Guardian* that the Trump administration is holding up research funding as their projects undergo an unprecedented political review by the high-school football teammate of the U.S. Interior Secretary. At the beginning of 2018, interior secretary Ryan Zinke instated a new requirement that scientific funding above \$50,000 must undergo an additional review to ensure expenditures 'better align with the administration's priorities' ... Zinke has signaled that climate change is not one of those priorities. Steve Howke, one of Zinke's high-school football teammates, oversees this review.... Howke's highest degree is a bachelor's in business administration. Until Zinke appointed him as an interior department senior adviser to the acting assistant secretary of policy, management and budget, Howke had spent his entire career working in credit unions.... One of the largest programs affected is the Climate Adaptation Science Centers, a network of eight regionally

focused research centers located at ‘host’ universities across the country.” (Original write-up date 8/30/18)

EXPLAIN to the Interior Secretary that evaluations of scientific proposals should be done by actual scientists, not football buddies

• **Ryan Zinke**, Secretary of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240, (202) 208-3100