

## **CONSUMER PROTECTIONS, WORKING CONDITIONS, and ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

The Trump administration has been rolling back all sorts of worker safety protections. Under Obama, workplace inspections at mines had to occur before workers started their shifts, but the Trump administration said it would allow inspections to begin while miners were already working. The Interior Department is seeking to roll back regulations for offshore oil rigs that were put in place after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster, rescinding the rule that inspections of blowout preventers must only be conducted by government-approved third parties. And the Agricultural Department is considering lifting line speed requirements in hog processing plants. This threat is exacerbated by the recent Supreme Court decision to allow workers to opt out of joining a union, since reduced union power means workers are going to be less able to advocate for safety measures themselves. (Write-up 9/9/18) (h/t to *Rogan's List*)

**ASK** our Congresspeople to support—or introduce—legislation that will restore worker safety protections

- **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

**INFORM** leadership of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee (HELP) and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce that we don't support the administration's rollbacks and want to see legislation restoring worker safety protections

- **Senator Lamar Alexander** (R-TN), Chair, HELP Committee, 428 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5375
- **Senator Patty Murray** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Committee, 428 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5375
- **Representative Virginia Foxx** (R-NC), Chair, Education and the Workforce Committee, 2176 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527
- **Representative Joe Wilson** (R-SC), Vice-Chair, Education and the Workforce Committee, 2176 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527
- **Representative Robert C. "Bobby" Scott** (D-VA) Ranking Member), Education and the Workforce Committee, 2176 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527

## **EDUCATION**

Seth Frotman, the student loans ombudsman at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), has resigned in protest because CFPB head Mick Mulvaney has "turned his back" on student borrowers. His office handles some 23,000 complaints each year about lenders, debt collectors, and purported "debt relief" agencies. (Write-up 9/9/18)

**CASTIGATE** Mulvaney for turning his back on student borrowers and for making it impossible for those working under him to responsibly do their jobs

- **Mick Mulvaney**, Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G St. NW, Washington DC 20552, (855) 411-2372

## **ELECTIONS**

In August, a federal court ruled that North Carolina's congressional maps were unconstitutionally gerrymandered to favor Republican. Nonetheless, the same court has ruled that those gerrymandered maps must be used in November midterm elections because there is insufficient time to redraw them, meaning that North Carolina's elections will overtly be skewed to favor Republicans. (Write-up 9/9/18)

**EXPRESS** disgust with this state of affairs and **TELL** our Congresspeople that the time has come for more effective national protections against gerrymandering

- **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

## **ENVIRONMENT**

Former Dow DuPont lawyer Peter Wright has been nominated as assistant administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Land and Emergency Management (and has been temporarily hired by the EPA as a special counsel while the confirmation process is underway). And what exactly does the Office of Land and Emergency Management do? It is in charge of Superfund environmental clean-ups—exactly (not) the sort of work we want to have guided by a chemical industry insider. (Write-up 9/9/18)

**URGE** our Senators to fight Wright's confirmation in order to uphold the integrity of the Superfund program

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

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

California SB 100 would require the state's utilities to get 100% of their power from clean energy sources by 2045. The State Senate and Assembly have passed this bill. It now sits on the Governor's desk awaiting a signature. (Write-up 9/9/18)

**URGE** the governor to sign SB100 because our planet needs California to take up the mantle of leadership abandoned by the federal government

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

## **ETHICS, SEPARATION OF POWERS, and TRANSPARENCY**

Let's take a moment to that whistleblower Reality Winner who has been sentenced to more than five years in prison as a result of leaking documents that helped start the Russia investigation. Without her courage, we might not know as much as we currently do about threats to our elections and possible administration complicity with those threats. Our democracy is safer because of her courage. (Write-up 9/9/18)

**THANKS** to Reality Winner for supporting our democracy at a great personal cost

• **Reality L. Winner**, Lincoln County Jail, PO Box 970, Lincolnton, Georgia 30817

## **FAMILY SEPARATION, DENATURALIZATION, and IMMIGRATION**

Let's put two recent pieces of immigration news alongside one another. First, on September 5, *NBC News* reported that in 2017 the National Counterterrorism Center completed a report analyzing the risks presented by immigrants entering the country. The risks, according to that report? Pretty much nonexistent. When the report was brought to a meeting with Associate Attorney General Rachel Bland, she announced "We read that. The Attorney General doesn't agree with the conclusions of that report." Never mind that one organization contributing to the report was the FBI, an organization under the direction of Attorney General Jeff Sessions. A few months later, Trump political appointees wrote a new report contradicting that prepared by U.S. intelligence agencies and claiming that immigrants represent a significant terrorist threat. The new report is being challenged in court for allegedly excluding incidents of domestic terrorism by white supremacists, and wrongly including terrorist acts committed overseas by individuals who were later brought to the U.S. to stand trial for those acts. In others, *the government brought in* the terrorists it warns of and *had them in custody*. Former Assistant Attorney General Mary McCord, who worked for the Justice Department's National Security Division—which has the responsibility for prosecuting alleged terrorism—described the report as "both over-inclusive and under-inclusive" resulting in "an inaccurate picture of the threats of terrorism within in the United States. Alongside this bit of news, let's place an analysis, also from NBC, of Immigration and Custom Enforcement data from the first fourteen months of the Trump administration. This data shows that federal arrests of undocumented immigrants with no criminal record have tripled under Trump (in a comparison with data from the final fourteen months of the Obama administration) and may still be accelerating. (Write-up 9/9/18)

**DECRY** this distorting of data and subsequent harassment and pursuit of individuals without criminal records to

• **Jeff Sessions**, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20530-0001, (202) 353-1555

- **Ronald D. Vitiello**, Deputy Director and Senior Official Performing the Duties of Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington DC 20536,(866) DHS-2-ICE
- **Kirstjen Nielsen**, Secretary of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494
- **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751
- **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

Under Trump, last year's U.S. refugee cap was 45,000. Compare that with the highest annual admissions ceilings set by recent U.S. Presidents: Ronald Regan, 140,000; George H. W. Bush, 142,000; Bill Clinton, 121,000; George W. Bush, 80,000; and Barak Obama, 110,000. Bear in mind that these are caps, so the actual number of refugees admitted may be significantly lower. Now, according to the New York Times, the Trump administration is considering cutting the refugee cap to 25,000. (Write-up 9/9/18)

**APPEAL** to our Congresspeople to fight to raise the cap to at least 75,000 (a number suggested by the International Refugee Committee) for next year and **REMIND** them that given U.S. involvement in conflicts across the globe we have an obligation to take in a fair share of those people displaced by these conflicts

- **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

Even though the Trump administration has stopped its family separation policy under a court order, it has not reunited families at the rate demanded by the judge ruling in that case. In fact, as of the end of August 497 immigrant minors were still in U.S. custody, including 22 children under the age of five. Nearly 2/3 of these children have parents who were deported during the first few weeks of the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy. (Write-up 9/9/18)

**DEMAND** that greater funding and staff be devoted to family reunification

- **Ronald D. Vitiello**, Deputy Director and Senior Official Performing the Duties of Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington DC 20536,(866) DHS-2-ICE
  - **Kirstjen Nielsen**, Secretary of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494
- ASK** our Congresspeople to keep advocating for family reunification
- **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

## GENERAL DECENCY

The bipartisan “Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act,” S.1917, would result in a number of much-needed reforms in sentencing in federal courts. These include limiting the use of mandatory many mandatory minimum sentences and a requirement that all federal prisons have recidivism reduction programs including things like academic courses and jobs training. Dianne Feinstein was one of the original sponsors of this legislation. Kamala Harris has become a cosponsor. S.1917 has made it through the Senate Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 9/9/18) **TELL** the Senate Majority Leader that this bipartisan legislation needs to be brought to a vote of the full Senate as soon as possible

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

**THANK** our Senators for supporting S.1917

• **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

Two bills that would improve police accountability are on the Governor’s desk awaiting his signature. A.B.748 would require police departments to release body camera footage for most police shootings within 45 days. S.B.1421 would make investigation records public in police shootings and confirmed cases of sexual assault or lying by police. Since 1978, California has shielded records on police misconduct, so these bills would mark an important change in state practice. (Write-up 9/9/18)

**URGE** the Governor to sign A.B.748 and S.B.1421 into law to improve police accountability

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

## GUNS

Yet another piece of legislation currently on the Governor’s desk is S.B.221, which would ban gun shows at San Francisco’s Cow Palace. The Governor has vetoed similar legislation in the past, so he needs to hear from Californians who are trying to reasonably limit gun sales. (Write-up 9/9/18)

**URGE** the Governor to sign S.B.221—whatever his reasoning in the past, this bill is needed *now*

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

## HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS

Now that the Supreme Court has upheld Trump's travel ban, primarily affecting people from predominantly Muslim countries, we need to look for other ways to fight back against this form of faith- and race-based discrimination. A pair of bills, S.1979 in the Senate and H.R.4271 in the House, would prohibit the spending of federal funds to support these bans. Feinstein and Harris are cosponsors of S.1979. Panetta has not cosponsored H.R.4271. These bills have been sitting in committee since late last year. S.1979 is currently with the Senate Judiciary Committee on which both Feinstein and Harris sit. H.R.4271 is with four committees/subcommittees: the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Select Intelligence Committee, the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee of the Homeland Security Committee, and the Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary. (Write-up 9/9/18)

**TELL** committee leadership that we want to see action on this legislation

- **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 Ed Royce** (R-CA), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-5021
- **Representative Francis Rooney** (R-FL), Vice-Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-5021
- **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-5021
- **Representative Devin Nunes** (R-CA), Chair, House Select Intelligence Committee, Capitol Visitor Center HVC-304, U.S. Capitol Building, Washington DC 20515-6415, (202) 225-4121
- **Representative Adam Schiff** (D-CA), Ranking Member, House Select Intelligence Committee, Capitol Visitor Center HVC-304, U.S. Capitol Building, Washington DC 20515-6415, (202) 225-7690
- **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Homeland Security Committee, 176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515-6480, (202) 226-8147
- **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Homeland Security Committee, 176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515-6480, (202) 226-8147
- **Representative Martha McSally** (R-AZ), Chair, Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee, House Homeland Security Committee, 176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515-6480, (202) 226-8147
- **Representative Filemon Vela** (D-TX), Ranking Member, Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee, House Homeland Security Committee, 176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515-6480, (202) 226-8147
- **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 Raúl Labrador** (R-ID), Chair, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951
- **Representative Zoe Lofgren** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

Nigerian Udoka Nweke is gay and fled his home country to seek asylum in the U.S. He has been held in Adelanto Detention Center, a privately-run immigration detention center, since December 2016. When his asylum application was denied, Nweke attempted suicide. Since then he has been diagnosed with schizophrenia and depression. The Black LGBT Migrant Project have petitioned for Nweke's release so he can access lifesaving medical treatment. (Write-up 9/9/18) **JOIN** the Black LGBT Migrant Project's call for Nweke's release by appealing to

- **David Marin**, Adelanto ICE Field Director, Adelanto East 1400 Rancho Road, Adelanto, CA 92301, (760) 561-6100

Some Americans of Mexican heritage delivered by midwives, especially those living in the Rio Grande Valley, are being denied passports because the State Department is questioning their state-issued birth certificates, claiming that midwives often provide a U.S. address for babies delivered on the Mexico side of the border to give infants U.S. citizenship. As a result, these individuals are being asked to prove their citizenship by providing obscure, often unavailable, documentation, like their mothers' prenatal care records or rental agreements from their infancy. (Write-up 9/9/18) (h/t *Rogan's List*)

**OBJECT** to this stripping of citizenship rights

- **Mike Pompeo**, U.S. Secretary of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520-2204, (202) 647-6575
- Michelle S. Guida, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Public Affairs, State Department, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520-2204, (202) 647-6575

**SHARE** your objections with our Congresspeople and **URGE** action to end this harassment and denial of rights of U.S. citizens

- **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

## INTERNATIONAL

In violation of Egyptian Law, Al Jazeera journalist Mahmoud Hussein has been held beyond the maximum period of time permitted in pre-trial arrest (according to Section 143 of the Egyptian Penal Code). He has now been imprisoned for more than eighteen months and, a Cairo court has

approved his continued detention for another forty-five days. Hussein has been put in solitary confinement. He has been accused of) “disseminating false news and receiving monetary funds from foreign authorities in order to defame the state’s reputation,” but has yet to be formally charged with any crime. Al Jazeera has denied all charges against Hussein and demands his immediate, unconditional release. (Write-up 9/9/18)

**JOIN** Al Jazeera in calling for Hussein’s immediate release

- **Ambassador Yassed Reda**, Egyptian Embassy, 3521 International Court NW, Washington DC 20008, (202) 966-6342

Spain, the fourth largest arms supplier to the Saudi-led coalition war in Yemen, has just cancelled a \$10.6 million arms sale to Saudi Arabia in a protest of the killing of civilian non-combatants. Spain has announced that it will be returning the money to Saudi Arabia. In March, the U.S. State Department approved a \$1 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia over the objections of human rights groups. (Write-up 9/9/18)

**FIRMLY SUGGEST** to the Department of State and to our Congresspeople that the U.S. should be following Spain’s example by discontinuing arms sales that support this combat being conducted in violation of the international rules of war

- **Mike Pompeo**, U.S. Secretary of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520-2204, (202) 647-6575

- **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

Officials from the Pentagon are concerned about the U.S.’s failure to provide safe haven to Iraqi interpreters and others who have helped American forces in that country. The Pentagon is concerned that Iraqi locals may be more hesitant to cooperate when they notice that we don’t keep our promises—and that this may dissuade individuals in other combat zones from cooperating with the U.S. as well. In 2016, the U.S. admitted over 5,100 Iraqi refugees who had helped our government, and in 2017, over 3,000. So far in 2018, we have admitted only 48.

(Write-up 9/9/18)

**TELL** the Secretary of State that this failure to keep promises to those who have served the U.S. in good faith is both dishonorable and a path to greater difficulties in achieving cooperation—and greater hostility—from foreign nationals in the future

- **Mike Pompeo**, U.S. Secretary of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520-2204, (202) 647-6575

## **INTERNET**

S.B.822, California’s net neutrality legislation has been passed by the State Senate and Assembly and awaits the Governor’s signature. (Write-up 9/9/18)



**URGE** Governor brown to protect the people of California and to provide national leadership on this issue by signing S.B.822

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

## **ME TOO**

Senator Mazie Hirono, who sits on the Senate Judiciary Committee, has kept to her promise to ask all judicial nominees, under oath, if they have a history of sexual assault or harassment, directly addressing a topic that has too long remained unspoken. (Write-up 9/9/18)

**THANKS** to the Senator for her leadership in this area

• **Senator Mazie Hirono** (D-HI), 730 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6361

S.B.820 and A.B.3080 are currently awaiting the Governor's signature. S.B.820 would bar confidentiality stipulations in settlements of sexual harassment suits that currently silence victims and protect serial offenders. A.B.3080 would make it illegal for an employer to take back a job offer or retaliate if an employee refuses to sign a mandatory arbitration agreement or non-disparagement clause. These are currently used to make to make sexual harassment claims difficult to pursue and to silence victims. (Write-up 9/9/18)

**POINT OUT** the urgent need for this legislation and ask the Governor to sign off on it immediately

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

## **RUSSIA**

The Global Engagement Center, a State Department unit created two years ago to fight Russian disinformation campaigns, still has not received the funding dedicated by Congress in 2016. The *Huffington Post* explains, "even if some money comes through for the Global Engagement Center before the end of the fiscal year, it will now be just one-sixth of the amount originally directed to the center...Foreign policy experts suggest that the funding delay is a combination of previous disinterest at the State Department and current foot-dragging at the Defense Department." (Write-up 9/9/18) (h/t *Rogan's List*)

**EXPLAIN** to the Secretaries of State and Defense that we desperately need a functioning Global Engagement Center to protect our elections from disinformation campaigns that we know are happening

• **Mike Pompeo**, U.S. Secretary of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520-2204, (202) 647-6575

• **James N. Mattis**, Secretary of Defense, 10009 Defense Pentagon, Washington DC 20301-1000, (703) 571-3343

**REQUEST** that our Congresspeople investigate this failure to launch an important, Congressionally enacted program of protection for our elect oral system

- **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