**ASYLUM, FAMILY SEPARATION, DENATURALIZATION, and IMMIGRATION**

The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus has taken a vocal stance against Southeast Asian deportations. In a letter to the Republican administration the Caucus states that “It is troubling to see Southeast Asian American families being targeted at unprecedented levels. We urge you to reexamine policies on the arbitrary detention and deportation of Southeast Asian Americans who prove no threat to public safety, are interwoven into our communities, and support U.S. citizen families.” (Write-up 12/28/18)

**THANKS** for standing up for this vulnerable community to

• **Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus**, 2423 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, Phone: (202) 225-5464, Fax: (202) 225-5467

A 5-month-old baby who was being held in Customs and Border Protection (CBP) custody is severely ill from pneumonia. According to NBC News, “the border agents took medicine from the mother and the infant and mother were kept inside ‘freezing’ holding cells [literally, these are cells designed to be punitively cold] for two days in San Ysidro, California. They were then taken to San Diego where they were held in custody for three more days." These unheated icebox cells are common in different detention centers. (Write-up 12/28/18)

**DEMAND** an immediate end to the placement of asylum seekers in icebox cells

• California Enrollment Center, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office, 405 Virginia Avenue, San Diego, CA 92173, (619) 690-7600

• **Michael R. Pompeo**, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520, (202) 647-4000

• **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

• **Alex Azar**, Secretary of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20201, (877) 696-6775

**CALL FOR** an investigation of this abuse of asylum seekers

• **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

**CHURCH-STATE SEPARATION**

In December, the House passed tax legislation that would gut the Johnson Amendment, which prohibits non-profits (including churches) from endorsing or opposing specific candidates for political office. Since legislation gutting the Johnson Amendment was not passed in the Senate and no Johnson Amendment repeal went forward to the President, the Johnson Amendment remains in place for now. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**EMPHASIZE** to (likely) incoming House leadership that we don’t want to see any compromises on the Johnson Amendment or church-state separation

• **Representative Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA), House Speaker Candidate, 233 Canon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4965

• **Representative Steny H. Hoyer** (D-MD), Incoming House Majority Leader, 1705 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4131

• **Representative James E. Clyburn** (D-SC), House Majority Whip, 242 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225- 3315

**CONSUMER PROTECTIONS and WORKPLACE RIGHTS**

From Kamala Harris: Domestic workers in our country do incredible work, both as caregivers for our families and our homes. It’s the work that our economy is built on, and we need to speak the truth that it is too often undervalued and underappreciated. Eighty years ago, when Congress established the Fair Labor Standards Act to give basic protections for American workers, domestic workers and agricultural workers were specifically and intentionally left out to appease Southern Democrats who didn’t want to extend protections to Black workers. This has gone on for too long. It is appalling and shameful that domestic workers and agricultural workers still don’t have many of those basic protections today. So yesterday, Representative Pramila Jayapal and I announced our plan to introduce a Federal Domestic Worker Bill of Rights in order to increase protections and benefits for all domestic workers. We’re taking this fight to Congress because it’s time that domestic workers have the dignity and respect they deserve. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**THANK** Harris and Jayapal for for this effort to provide protections to domestic workers

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

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

**TELL** our remaining Senator and Representative that we want them to vocally support this legislation

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

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

From *Rogan’s List*: The very first thing that the House of Representatives will do is adopt rules for legislation in the upcoming Congress. And reportedly, they are planning to reinstate “PAYGO” rules, which requires offsets for any new spending or tax cuts. **With their first act, Democrats are proposing to tie one hand behind their back.** Republicans added $2 trillion to the deficit with their tax scam, with no plans to pay for it. Mitch McConnell has already falsely insisted that we need to cut Social Security and Medicare as a result. **We can’t keep playing the same game with different rules. Democrats won’t win with one hand tied behind their backs.** (Write-up 12/29/18)

**EMPHASIZE** to (likely) incoming House leadership that we don’t want them to hobble themselves with PAYGO—we trust them to be fiscally responsible without this rule

• **Representative Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA), House Speaker Candidate, 233 Canon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4965

• **Representative Steny H. Hoyer** (D-MD), Incoming House Majority Leader, 1705 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4131

• **Representative James E. Clyburn** (D-SC), House Majority Whip, 242 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225- 3315

Existing law, as decided in Dynamex Operations West, Inc. v. Superior Court of Los Angeles, creates a presumption that a worker who performs services for a hirer is an employee and requires a three-part test before a worker can be classified as an independent contractor. A.B.5 would codify this ruling and clarify its application. There will be a massive effort by businesses to sink this legislation, so it will need active, ongoing support. This legislation has not yet been referred to committee. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**ASK** the Governor-elect and your Assemblyperson to support A.B.5, regardless of the pressures the business community puts on them

• **Governor-elect Gavin Newsom**, State Capitol, Suite 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-8994

• **Assemblymember Robert Rivas** [for Watsonville], 275 Main St. Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 768-3035

• **Assemblymember** Mark Stone [for Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St. #318b, Santa Cruz, CAS 95060, (831) 425-1303

**EDUCATION**

From *Rogan’s List*: “Although no African American student has been implicated in any high-profile school shooting, Trump’s ‘school safety’ commission formed after the Parkland, FL high school massacre—headed by Ed Secretary Betsy DeVos and including Acting AG [Attorney General] Matthew Whitaker, HHS [Health and Human Services] Secretary Alex Azar, and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Neilsen—[have] formally recommend[ed] that the Trump administration rescind ‘groundbreaking’ Obama-era policies that aimed to prevent disciplinary discrimination against students of color on the grounds that these make students less safe; no gun control provisions are recommended.” (Write-up 12/28/18)

**TELL** these officials that we are not fooled: if “school safety” is really their object, they should disarm shooters, not permit the wildly disproportionate disciplining of students of color

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

• **Matthew Whitaker**, Acting Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20530-0001

• **Alex Azar**, Secretary of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20201, (877) 696-6775

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

**ELECTIONS**

H.R.1 the first piece of proposed legislation for the House’s next session includes a package of democracy reforms—restoring the Voting Rights Act, automatic voter registration, public financing of elections (small donor matching funds), supporting the overturn of Citizens United, ending partisan gerrymandering and much more. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**URGE** new House leadership to aggressive action on this legislation

• **Representative Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA), House Speaker Candidate, 233 Canon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4965

• **Representative Steny H. Hoyer** (D-MD), Incoming House Majority Leader, 1705 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4131

• **Representative James E. Clyburn** (D-SC), House Majority Whip, 242 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225- 3315

**TELL** our Representative we’re counting on him to support H.R.1

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

S.B.47, the new Petition DISCLOSE Act, is intended to stop bad initiatives from getting on the ballot while hiding who's behind them. S.B.47 will require people collecting signatures for ballot initiatives to show you their top three funders before you sign to help place the petition on the California ballot. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**TELL** the Governor-elect and your State Senator that S.B.47 is essential in this era of big-money politics

• **Governor-elect Gavin Newsom**, State Capitol, Suite 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-8994

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

Existing law requires the Secretary of State to annually provide every high school, community college, and California State University and University of California campus with voter registration forms. Existing law also expresses the intent of the Legislature that every eligible high school and college students receive a meaningful opportunity to register to vote. A.B.59 would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would make a polling place or vote center available on every college and university campus in the state. This legislation has not yet been referred to committee. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**ASK** the Governor-elect and your Assemblyperson to support participation among younger voters by supporting A.B.59

• **Governor-elect Gavin Newsom**, State Capitol, Suite 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-8994

• **Assemblymember Robert Rivas** [for Watsonville], 275 Main St. Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 768-3035

• **Assemblymember** Mark Stone [for Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St. #318b, Santa Cruz, CAS 95060, (831) 425-1303

S.B.27 would require a presidential candidate to provide California with his or her income tax returns for the five most recent tax years. The returns would then become available on the Secretary of State's website. A candidate could not be placed on the California primary ballot without providing this information. Trump is the first president since Nixon to keep his tax returns private. This legislation has not yet been referred to committee. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**ASK** the Governor-elect and your State Senator to ensure that Californians are not forced to make crucial electoral decisions without sufficient information

• **Governor-elect Gavin Newsom**, State Capitol, Suite 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-8994

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

**ENVIRONMENT**

S.B.43, Carbon Taxes, calls for a study on adjusting retail taxes to reflect goods’ carbon intensity. This might lead to a reduction in or elimination of current sales and use taxes. This legislation has not yet been referred to committee. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**TELL** the Governor-elect that it makes sense to have a taxation system that is keyed to the health of our planet

• **Governor-elect Gavin Newsom**, State Capitol, Suite 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-8994

**ASK** your State Senator to support S.B.43

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

Assemblyman Phil Ting (D-San Francisco) has introduced Zero-Emission Vehicles: Comprehensive Strategy, A.B.40, a bill that would require California energy regulators to identify a strategy to “achieve complete electrification of the transportation sector” by 2040. Politico noted Ting’s statement that “Climate change is happening at a much faster rate than anticipated…. Cleaner cars would make the biggest impact in reducing this pollution.” This legislation has not yet been referred to committee. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**TELL** the Governor-elect that California needs to continue to take the lead on fighting climate change and that A.B.40 would be a significant step in this direction

• **Governor-elect Gavin Newsom**, State Capitol, Suite 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-8994

**ASK** your Assemblyperson to support A.B.40

• **Assemblymember Robert Rivas** [for Watsonville], 275 Main St. Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 768-3035

• **Assemblymember** Mark Stone [for Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St. #318b, Santa Cruz, CAS 95060, (831) 425-1303

Governor Brown vetoed legislation prohibiting smoking in State Parks and on State Beaches not once, but three times. Given that cigarette butts are the single most common type of ocean pollution and that we live in a state where wildfires are a year-round threat, we can hope that Governor Newsom will see this issue differently. The smoking ban has been reintroduced as S.B.8. It would impose a $25 penalty for violations of the ban. It has not yet been referred to committee. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**TELL** the Governor-elect that for our health and for the health of the state and the planet we want this legislation passed

• **Governor-elect Gavin Newsom**, State Capitol, Suite 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-8994

**ASK** your State Senator to support S.B.8

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

**ETHICS and SEPARATION of POWERS**

**GENERAL DECENCY**

A.B.32 would prohibit the Department of Corrections, as of January 1, 2020, from entering into or renewing a contract with a private, for-profit prison to incarcerate state prison inmates. The bill would also prohibit, after January 1, 2028, a state prison inmate or other person under the jurisdiction of the department from being incarcerated in a private, for-profit prison facility. This legislation has not yet been referred to committee. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**TELL** the Governor-elect and your State Assemblyperson that prisons should not be a for-profit industry and that we are tired of the abuses perpetrated in these facilities

• **Governor-elect Gavin Newsom**, State Capitol, Suite 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-8994

• **Assemblymember Robert Rivas** [for Watsonville], 275 Main St. Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 768-3035

• **Assemblymember** Mark Stone [for Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St. #318b, Santa Cruz, CAS 95060, (831) 425-1303

A.B.33 would prohibit the boards of the Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS) and the State Teachers’ Retirement System (STRS) from making new investments or renewing existing investments of public employee retirement funds in a private prison company. This bill would require the boards to liquidate investments in private prison companies on or before July 1, 2020, and would require the boards to constructively engage with private prison companies to establish whether the companies are transitioning their business models to another industry. The bill would provide that it does not require a board to take any action unless the board determines in good faith that the action is consistent with the board’s fiduciary responsibilities established in the constitution. This legislation has not yet been referred to committee. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**TELL** the Governor-elect and your State Assemblyperson that PERS and STRS should not be contributing to the profits of the prison-industrial context and that you want strong support for A.B.33

• **Governor-elect Gavin Newsom**, State Capitol, Suite 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-8994

• **Assemblymember Robert Rivas** [for Watsonville], 275 Main St. Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 768-3035

• **Assemblymember** Mark Stone [for Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St. #318b, Santa Cruz, CAS 95060, (831) 425-1303

Santa Cruz County’s Mark Stone has introduced A.B.45, “Inmates: medical visits.” Existing law authorizes the Director of Corrections to charge a $5 fee for each inmate-initiated medical visit of an inmate, except under specified circumstances, and requires that the moneys received be expended to reimburse the department for direct provision of inmate health care services. For most inmates, their only source of cash to pay the current fee is earnings from prison labor that currently averages 20¢ and hour, meaning a single medical visit might require the equivalent of more than half a week’s fulltime work. This bill would repeal this authorization to charge that. This legislation has not yet been referred to committee. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**ASK** the Governor-elect to support A.B.45

• **Governor-elect Gavin Newsom**, State Capitol, Suite 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-8994

**THANK** Assemblyperson Stone for introducing A.B.45

• **Assemblymember** Mark Stone [for Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St. #318b, Santa Cruz, CAS 95060, (831) 425-1303

**ASK** your Assemblyperson to support A.B.45

• **Assemblymember Robert Rivas** [for Watsonville], 275 Main St. Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 768-3035

A new, bipartisan attempt has been launched to extend the statute of limitations from one year to three for workers filing sexual harassment claims under state law. Former-Governor Brown had vetoed this legislation, saying harassment allegations should be investigated, but that the believed the current one-year deadline ‘not only encourages prompt resolution while memories and evidence are fresh, but also ensures that unwelcome behavior is promptly reported and halted.’ We agree that it would be ideal if all workplace sexual harassment claims could be filed within a year, but there are many reasons women—and men—may need a longer time to file claims. The recent confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh illustrates the kind of harassment those filing complaints can experience, which might make them hesitant to file. This legislation has not yet been referred to committee. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**TELL** the Governor-elect that we need a longer statute of limitations for workplace sexual harassment and ask him to supportA.B.9

• **Governor-elect Gavin Newsom**, State Capitol, Suite 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-8994

**ASK** your Assemblyperson to support A.B.9

• **Assemblymember Robert Rivas** [for Watsonville], 275 Main St. Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 768-3035

• **Assemblymember** Mark Stone [for Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St. #318b, Santa Cruz, CAS 95060, (831) 425-1303

In 2016, then-Governor Brown vetoed legislation that would have made tampons and other menstrual products nontaxable. Now that Gavin Newsom is Governor, this legislation is being reintroduced as A.B.31. A similar piece of reintroduced legislation, A.B.66, would exempt diapers from taxation. When Brown vetoed both pieces of legislation, he cited the potential loss of tax income for the state as his justification. Neither bill has been assigned to a committee at this time. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**TELL** the Governor-elect that you don’t want to see the veto of these pieces of legislation repeated

• **Governor-elect Gavin Newsom**, State Capitol, Suite 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-8994

**ASK** your Assemblyperson to support A.B.31 and A.B.66

• **Assemblymember Robert Rivas** [for Watsonville], 275 Main St. Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 768-3035

• **Assemblymember** Mark Stone [for Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St. #318b, Santa Cruz, CAS 95060, (831) 425-1303

**GUNS**

How many times have we heard that the blame for gun violence can placed on failures in the mental health/substance abuse system? S.B.11 would not only authorize, an employer, a coworker, or an employee of a secondary or postsecondary school that the person has attended in the last 6 months to file a petition for a one-year, renewable gun violence restraining order. It would also prohibit health care plans and insurers that provide prescription drug benefits for the treatment of substance use disorders from, among other things, imposing any prior authorization requirements on a prescription medication approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of substance use disorders. This legislation has not yet been referred to committee. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**TELL** the Governor-elect and your State Senator that you want them to support S.B.11’s two-pronged approach to reducing gun violence

• **Governor-elect Gavin Newsom**, State Capitol, Suite 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-8994

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

Existing law provides that any person who has been convicted of certain misdemeanors may not, within 10 years of the conviction, own, purchase, receive, possess, or have under their custody or control, any firearm. Existing law also makes it a misdemeanor or a felony for a person who is prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm pursuant to these provisions to own, possess, or have under their custody or control, any ammunition or reloaded ammunition. S.B.55 would increase the number of misdemeanors that this existing law applies to, though in some cases the prohibition on firearm and ammunition possession could be for a period of less than 10 years. Additional convictions for misdemeanors of a single type could also lengthen the period of the prohibition from possessing firearms and ammunition. This legislation has not yet been referred to committee. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**TELL** the Governor-elect and your State Senator that this is the kind of reasonable gun regulation we need

• **Governor-elect Gavin Newsom**, State Capitol, Suite 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-8994

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

CNN Reports: “Nearly 40,000 people in the United States died by guns last year [2017], marking the highest number of gun deaths in decades, according to a new analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's WONDER database…. CNN replicated that analysis and found that 39,773 people died by guns in 2017, which is an increase of more than 10,000 deaths from the 28,874 in 1999. The age-adjusted rate of firearm deaths per 100,000 people rose from 10.3 per 100,000 in 1999 to 12 per 100,000 in 2017. CDC statisticians confirmed with CNN on Thursday that these numbers are correct and they show gun deaths have reached a record-high going back to at least 1979, which was the year firearm deaths started to be coded in mortality data. CNN's analysis also showed that, within the total number of deaths, 23,854 people died from suicide by guns in 2017, the highest number in 18 years. That's a difference of more than 7,000 deaths compared with 16,599 suicide deaths by guns in 1999…. [According to Adelyn Allchin, the director of public health research for the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence], ‘In 2017, nearly 109 people died every single day from gun violence. Gun violence is a public health epidemic that requires a public health solution, which is why we must immediately enact and implement evidence-based interventions—like permit-to-purchase policies and extreme risk laws.’ (Write-up 12/28/18)

**REMIND** our Congresspeople that we’re still waiting for significant action on gun control

• **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

Californians convicted of serious alcohol-related crimes would lose their firearms for 10 years under legislation proposed Wednesday by state Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara).

Jackson’s bill is the latest of a string of gun-control measures proposed after last month’s mass shooting at a Thousand Oaks bar in which 12 people were killed. Jackson said her bill is based on the findings of a 2017 UC Davis study that found prior convictions for crimes involving alcohol were associated with up to a fivefold increase in the likelihood of arrest for serious offenses including those involving guns…. State law already bars people convicted of certain violent crimes from possessing firearms for 10 years or more. Jackson’s Senate Bill 55 [for the 2019-2020 session] would expand the list of crimes resulting in firearm bans to include serious alcohol-related offenses, including vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated. People would also be prohibited from possessing guns if they have multiple convictions for driving under the influence. (Write-up 12/28/18)

**ASK** our State Legislators to actively support S.B.55 and/or equivalent Assembly legislation

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

• **Assemblymember Robert Rivas** [for Watsonville], 275 Main St. Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 768-3035

• **Assemblymember** Mark Stone [for Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St. #318b, Santa Cruz, CAS 95060, (831) 425-1303

**HEALTH and HEALTHCARE**

S.B.11 and S.B.12 by Sen. Jim Beall (D-San Jose) address mental health issues. S.B.11 would require health insurers and service plans to submit annual reports showing how they comply with laws requiring them to approve mental health care treatment to the same extent they would all medical and surgical benefits. S.B.12 would authorize state and local governments to establish at least 100 mental health centers statewide for youth. This legislation has not yet been referred to committee. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**ASK** the Governor-elect and your Assemblyperson to support A.B.11 and 12

• **Governor-elect Gavin Newsom**, State Capitol, Suite 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-8994

• **Assemblymember Robert Rivas** [for Watsonville], 275 Main St. Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 768-3035

• **Assemblymember** Mark Stone [for Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St. #318b, Santa Cruz, CAS 95060, (831) 425-1303

S.B.24 reintroduces additional vetoed legislation and would require California public universities to provide abortion medication for students and mandate quick testing of rape kits, both of which were vetoed by Brown this year. Governor Newsom has spoken in favor of this legislation. This legislation has not yet been referred to committee. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**THANK** the Governor-elect for his support of S.B.24

• **Governor-elect Gavin Newsom**, State Capitol, Suite 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-8994

**ASK** your State Senator to support S.B.24

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

From *New York*’s “Intelligencer”: “the coal industry will receive a late Christmas gift. The federal government is scheduled to reduce an excise tax on coal production by 55 percent on December 31, a move that industry representatives welcome. But what is good for the coal industry is often bad for coal miners themselves. If the tax cut takes effect as planned, the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund will lose a significant source of its funding. Currently, the government levies a tax of $1.10 per ton of coal produced. That tax goes into the fund, which defrays the significant costs associated with black lung disease…. ‘With the scheduled 2019 tax rate decrease, our moderate case simulation suggests that expected revenue will likely be insufficient to cover combined black lung benefit payments and administrative costs, as well as debt repayment expenditures,” the GAO [Government Accountability Office] explained…. [R]ates of black lung are on the rise—though the industry steadfastly denies this. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) reported in July that as many as one in five miners in central Appalachia suffer from black lung, the highest rate in 25 years. Nationwide, the condition now afflicts one in ten miners, an increase of 3 percent since 2012.… In 2012, a joint investigation by NPR [National Public Radio] and the Center for Public Integrity [CPI] ‘found widespread and persistent gaming of the system designed to measure and control exposure….’ Sometimes coal operators commit outright fraud, by sampling air outside their own mines. Sometimes they simply fail to meet certain safety standards…. In other cases, operators exploit perfectly legal loopholes…. Thus, black lung, and more of it.” (Write-up 12/28/18)

**URGE** our Congresspeople to revisit the issue of the coal excise tax, the health of the Black Lung Disability Fund, and the air sampling methods used by mining corporations

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

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

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

In response to a recent court ruling that the Affordable Care Act is unconstitutional, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, is poised to lead the way in an appeal. Few states have as much on the line—given the aggressive implementation of both expanded Medicaid coverage through the Medi-Cal program and the insurance exchange run by Covered California. Outgoing Governor Jerry Brown called the ruling a “wanton and cruel action” that the state will fight. (Write-up 12/28/18)

**THANKS** (yet again) to our State Attorney General for being proactive in defending the well-being of Californians and all Americans

• **Attorney General Xavier Becerra**, 1300 I St., Sacramento, CA 95814-2919, (916) 445-9555

From CBS News via *Rogan’s List*: “Despite the facts that at least 20 vets commit suicide each day and that the VA identified suicide prevention as its highest clinical priority in 2018, it appears that Trump's VA sat on $6.2 million in prevention instead of using it to improve the situation. Let’s as the Senate and House Committees on Veterans’ Affairs to investigate this matter.” (Write-up 12/28/18)

**CALL** for an investigation of this failure to use available resources to address the purpostedly “prioritized” issue of veteran suicides

• **Senator Johnny Isakson** (R-GA), Chair, Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, 412 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2074

• **Senator John Tester** (D-MT), Ranking Member, Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, 412 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2074

• **Representative Mark Takano** (D-CA), Incoming Chair, House Veterans’ Affairs Committee, 333 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9756

**HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS**

S.B.31 declares it illegal to arrest someone for a civil violation while that person is in a courthouse for a proceeding or other legal business. This legislation is in response to the arrest of undocumented immigrants by federal immigration authorities while those immigrants were in court for an unrelated matter. This legislation has not yet been referred to committee. (Write-up 12/29/18)

**ASK** the Governor-elect and your State Senator to support S.B.31, which affirms California’s status as a sanctuary state

• **Governor-elect Gavin Newsom**, State Capitol, Suite 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-8994

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

In December H.R.7228, the “Reproductive Rights Are Human Rights Act,” was introduced and sent to the House Foreign Affairs Committee. This legislations would amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to require that Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices include a section on reproductive rights. (Write-up 12/28/18)

**ASK** the likely incoming Chair of the House Foreign Relations Committee to prioritize this legislation in the next Congressional session

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

From *Rogan’s List*: This month, the United Nations (UN) adopted the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). Although nonbinding, they include important commitments to uphold the human rights of refugees and migrants, support best practices, and work to end harmful ones As a first step, governments must demonstrate political will by stepping up with funding to begin implementing the compacts’ commitments, and that requires action in Congress. (Write-up 12/28/18)

**TELL** our Congresspeople we’d like to see them get busy writing and sponsoring funding legislation to support the GCR and GCM.

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

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

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

From *Rogan’s List*: “The Brennan Center for Justice has identified more than 100 emergency powers that ‘the president can invoke with the stroke of a pen. Some of these powers “allow the president to shut down or take over radio stations and even suspend a law that prohibits government testing of chemical and biological weapons on unwitting human subjects.’” (Write-up 12/28/18)

**JOIN** the Brennan Center in calling on our Members of Congress to review these powers and pass legislation to eliminate those that are not needed and to pass reforms to prevent their abuse.

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

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

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

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus has been pushing hard for an investigation of the deaths of children in Customs and Border Patrol detention facilities. (Write-up 12/28/18)

**THANKS** for standing up for the most vulnerable to

• **Congressional Hispanic Caucus**, 2329 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2410

A number of reports have emerged recently (with *Pro Publica* taking a lead) of the acquittals of prisoners who were wrongly convicted using “blood spatter analysis.” It turns out there is no sizeable body of research on blood splatter, no national body of standards, and no method for certifying “experts” in this area. (Write-up 12/28/18)

**TELL** the Department of Justice we’re concerned about the abuse of blood spatter analysis and want a) a call for the reviews of convictions in cases where so-called blood spatter analysis contributed significantly to the convictions and b) we’d like to see support for high-level, peer-reviewed research on blood spatter analysis

• **Matthew Whitaker**, Acting Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20530-0001

• **Gerald M. LaPorte M.S.F.S.**, Director, Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences, National Institute of Justice, 810 7th St. NW, Washington DC 20531, (202) 307-2942

From *Citizen Truth*: “A day after the 7-year-old girl’s small body returned to Guatemala in a coffin, a United Nations human rights expert demanded an independent probe into the death of Jakelin Caal while she was in the custody of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)—and made a broader call for the U.S. to stop its international law-violating practice of detaining children on the basis of their migratory status. ‘The U.S. authorities must ensure that an in-depth, independent investigation of the death of Jakelin Ameí Caal is conducted,’ Felipe González Morales, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, said in a statement. Moreover, he added, ‘As repeatedly stated by a series of U.N. human rights bodies, detention of children based on their migratory status is a violation of international law.’ González Morales also expressed hope for being able to conduct an official visit to the United States, as that ‘would allow me to get first-hand, direct information about the situation of migrant children, especially on those who are being held in detention,’ and would ‘allow me to present my recommendations to the U.S. government to fulfill its international commitments to respect and protect the human rights of all migrants.’ Given the tragedy, González Morales’s office also sent a formal complaint to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.” Since then a second Guatemalan child, Felipe Gómez Alonzo, has also died in custody. (Write-up 12/28/18)

**DEMAND** an investigation into the deaths of these children and call for participation by the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants

• **Michael R. Pompeo**, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520, (202) 647-4000

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

**INTERNATIONAL**

From the *New York Times*: “A life on the run was not one any of these Nicaraguans ever intended. But many people in this desperately poor Central American nation now live in a bleak new reality. They have exchanged their routine lives as lawyers, engineering majors, radio broadcasters and merchants for one of ever-changing safe houses, encrypted messaging apps and pseudonyms. Eight months after a spontaneous popular uprising left 322 people dead and 565 others in jail, Nicaraguans from cities across the country have gone underground. They are hiding from an increasingly authoritarian state that is methodically tracking down those who participated in the large-scale and often violent protests against the government of President Daniel Ortega and his wife, Vice President Rosario Murillo.” It’s hard to know what Congress might be able to do to address this situation, but we can let our Congresspeople know we want them to pay attention and look for opportunities for effective action. (Write-up 12/28/18)

**TELL** our Congresspeople to keep Nicaragua in mind as the new legislative year begins

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

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

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

From the *New York Times*: “Muslim inmates from internment camps in far western China hunched over sewing machines, in row after row. They were among hundreds of thousands who had been detained and spent month after month renouncing their religious convictions. Now the government was showing them on television as models of repentance, earning good pay — and political salvation — as factory workers. China’s ruling Communist Party has said in a surge of upbeat propaganda that a sprawling network of camps in the Xinjiang region is providing job training and putting detainees on production lines for their own good, offering an escape from poverty, backwardness and the temptations of radical Islam. But mounting evidence suggests a system of forced labor is emerging from the camps, a development likely to intensify international condemnation of China’s drastic efforts to control and indoctrinate a Muslim ethnic minority population of more than 12 million in Xinjiang. Accounts from the region, satellite images and previously unreported official documents indicate that growing numbers of detainees are being sent to new factories, built inside or near the camps, where inmates have little choice but to accept jobs and follow orders…. China has defied an international outcry against the vast internment program in Xinjiang, which holds Muslims and forces them to renounce religious piety and pledge loyalty to the party. The emerging labor program underlines the government’s determination to continue operating the camps despite calls from United Nations human rights officials, the United States and other governments to close them.” (Write-up 12/28/18)

**ASK** the Secretary of State how the U.S. intends to address these large-scale human rights violations

• **Michael R. Pompeo**, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520, (202) 647-4000