Issues/Addresses for 1/12/19

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

NBC News has reported that 22 people have died in immigration detention centers since Trump took office: “The 22 immigrants who died in the nation's sprawling network of detention centers over the past two years came to the United States from countries as far-flung as Vietnam, and as close as Mexico. Some had been longtime legal residents, arriving as refugees or students. Others were recent asylum seekers. Many were young—half were not yet 45 years old…. Within the last year, the DHS Office of Inspector General has issued three reports finding poor treatment and spotty oversight in ICE facilities…. The tally [of deaths] does not include the recent deaths of two Guatemalan children in CBP custody… Nor does it include the March death of a 20-month old girl, Mariee Juárez, nearly two months after she was held at an ICE family detention center in Texas with her mother….” If we add these children in, the death toll reaches 25. According to NBC News, “Not just deaths, but detentions overall have increased. A significant piece of [the] recent jump in [the number of] those detained came not from a flood of migrants crossing the border, but from increasing ICE arrests in communities across the U.S. Since Trump signed an executive order nearly two years ago broadening the types of immigrants considered priories for ICE enforcement, ‘administrative’ arrests for violations of civil immigration law have risen 44 percent.” There were also deaths in immigration detention centers under the Obama administration, ranging from five to twelve in a single year. (Write-up 1/11/19)

**DEMAND** an immediate investigation into these immigrant deaths and the Inspector General reports and an end to detention of individuals who pose no security risk to our country

• **Representative Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA), Speaker of the House, 1236 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4965

• **Representative Bennie G. Thompson** (D-MS), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-2616

• **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), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

From Rogan’s List: “When Sarah Sanders gave misinformation regarding immigration and terrorists on Fox News Sunday yesterday, host Chris Wallace corrected her and provided the proper background information refuting her claims.” (Write-up 1/11/19)

**THANK** Chris Wallace for pushing the truth

• **Chris Wallace**, Fox News, 1211 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10036

Writing in *Forbes*, Stuart Anderson explains, “Donald Trump [has] talked about “the illegal immigration crisis on the southern border. But data coming from his own administration show there is no such crisis. This year, illegal cross-border migration is only about 11% higher than at the same point last year—and the administration said last year was the “lowest level” on record. Not long ago, in December 2017, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released and promoted an upbeat report declaring that illegal entry in the United States had reached historically low levels…. The report reflected reality: Border Patrol apprehensions along the Southwest border plummeted by approximately 80%, from a high of over 1.6 million in FY 2000, to around 300,000 in FY 2017. (Apprehensions are considered a proxy for illegal entry, so the fewer apprehensions, the less illegal entry.)” (Write-up 1/11/19)

**INSIST** that not only will a wall not work—a wall is unnecessary given the Republican Administration’s own data and **ASK** for continued opposition to further wall funding

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

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

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**CONSUMER PROTECTIONS and WORKPLACE RIGHTS**

California’s S.B.18 would establish a legal aid fun for tenants facing eviction or displacement and would require more information regarding tenant rights. (Write-up 1/11/19)

**SPEAK UP** for California renters and urge support for this legislation

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

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

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

**EDUCATION**

From Sleeping Giants: Purdue University Global is a sponsor of Tucker Carlson Tonight. Purdue University Global’s website says “Purdue Global was founded on the belief that every person with talent, regardless of age or circumstance, deserves the chance to develop it.” Carlson has used his show in the past months to argue that immigrants are making America ‘dirtier.’ He has since doubled down on these comments, distributing the same talking points used by white supremacist groups. He's now using his platform to argue that raising women's salaries is contributing to ‘men in decline.’ This doesn't square up. (Write-up 1/11/19)

**ASK** why Purdue University Global is supporting Carlson's sexist and racist rhetoric—likely its own students’ tuition money

• **Dr. Betty Vandenbosch**, Chancellor, Purdue University Global, 550 West Van Buren St., Chicago, IL 60607, (866) 522-7747

The California Federation of Teachers reports, “We applaud Governor Gavin Newsom’s proposed 2019-2020…, which demonstrates his firm commitment to public education. Highlights of his budget include increased funding for schools and colleges, a profound investment in early education and kindergarten, further investment in public employee pensions, and two years of free community college for all students. He also intends to implement statewide policies that hold all charter schools accountable for operational transparency and community engagement. (Write-up 1/11/19)

**THANKS** to the Governor for significant support of education on all levels

• **Governor Gavin Newsom**, c/o State Capitol, Suite1173, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-2841

**ELECTIONS**

*Slate* reports, “In a short unpublished opinion so far garnering only slight media attention, the United States Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit decided on January 7 what may be one of the most consequential cases poised to affect the 2020 elections. The circuit upheld a district court decision ending a court order in effect since 1982 barring the Republican National Committee from engaging in ‘ballot security’ measures designed to intimidate minority voters from voting at the polls. With Trump having taken over (literally: his reelection committee and the RNC have merged) the RNC for the 2020 elections and with this consent decree no longer standing in his way, we should be concerned about a new wave of voter suppression coming from the Republican Party during the upcoming election. This provides us with yet another reason to insist on legislation strengthening voter protections, including H.R.1, which would not provide voter protections, but would also improve campaign finance regulations and tighten ethics standards for candidates. Because of its breadth, H.R.1 is currently with ten (!) house committees. (Write-up 1/11/19)

**ASK** the chairs of the committees considering H.R.1 for swift, positive action on this much needed legislation

• **Representative Nita Lowery** (D-NY), Chair, House Administration Committee, 1016 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3481

• **Representative Adam Schiff** (D-CA), Chair, House Intelligence Committee, Capitol Visitor Center HVC-304, Washington DC 20515-6415, (202) 225-7690

• **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6909

• **Representative Elijah E. Cummings** (D-MD), Chair, House Oversight and Reform Committee, 2471 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5051

• **Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson** (D-TX), Chair, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, 394 For House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6375

• **Representative Bobbie Scott** (D-VA), Chair, House Education and Labor Committee, 2176 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3725

• **Representative Richard Neal** (D-MA), Chair, House Ways and Means Committee, 1139E Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3625

• **Representative Maxine Waters** (D-CA), Chair, House Financial Services Committee, 2129 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4247

• **Representative Ted Deutch** (D-FL), Chair, House Ethics Committee, 1015 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-7103

• **Representative Bennie G. Thompson** (D-MS), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-2616

Now that Elizabeth Warren has announced she’s running for President, the whole media game of questioning the “likeability” of female candidates has begun, along with the usual reporting focusing on trivialities instead of candidate platforms. (Write-up 1/11/19)

**DEMAND** better than this from our news media

• **ABC News**, 47 West 66th Street, New York, NY 10023, (212) 456-7777

• **CBS News**, 524 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019, (212) 975-4321

• **CNBC**, 900 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632, (201)735-2622

• **Fox News Channel**, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036, (212) 301-3000

• **MSNBC**, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112, (212) 664-2333

• **NBC**, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112, (212) 664-2333

• **PBS**, 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202-3785, (703)739-5000

California’s S.B.27 would require Presidential candidates who wish to be listed on the state ballot to provide their tax returns for the five most recent tax years. The tax returns would then be posted on California’s Secretary of State’s web site. (Write-up 1/11/19)

**TELL** our state legislators that we don’t ever want another “mystery candidate” like Trump

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

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

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

**ENVIRONMENT**

From *Rogan’s List*: “Trump has nominated former coal lobbyist Andrew Wheeler to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. There have been concerns about Wheeler since he was first appointed as Deputy Administrator early last year, through his appointment to Acting-Administrator in July, and as he has continued efforts to de-regulate environmental, emissions, and safety standards. At the same time, a federal court has just ordered the EPA to release thousands of documents involving Wheeler and other top EPA officials' contacts with industry interest groups.” (Write-up 1/11/19)

**REMIND** our Senators that Wheeler is every bit as a reprehensible as he was before his official nomination

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

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

The *New York Times* reports: “Scientists say the world’s oceans are warming far more quickly than previously thought, a finding with dire implications for climate change because almost all the excess heat absorbed by the planet ends up stored in their waters. A new analysis, published… in the journal *Science*, found that the oceans are heating up 40 percent faster on average than a United Nations panel estimated five years ago. The researchers also concluded that ocean temperatures have broken records for several straight years.” (Write-up 1/11/19)

**POINT OUT** our desperate situation and **WARN** that we keep finding the pace of global climate change is faster than our past estimates, so we need substantial—radical, really—action now

• **Andrew Wheeler**, Acting Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460, (202) 564-4700

• **Representative Frank Pallone, Jr.** (D-NJ), Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2322A Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3641

• **Representative Raúl M. Grijalva** (D-AZ), Chair, House Natural Resources Committee, 1329 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6065

• **Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson** (D-TX), Chair, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, 394 For House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6375

• **Senator John Barrasso** (R-WY), Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6176

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) has quietly folded its Climate and Health Program into a branch that studies asthma and expunged the word climate from the name of the newly consolidated office, the agency confirmed [in late December]…. The climate and health office is the agency’s only program meant to help state and local governments prepare for the health consequences of fiercer storms, longer droughts and other extreme weather events. It was also an important contributor to the National Climate Assessment, a landmark government report that detailed new health hazards related rising greenhouse gas emissions. The former head of the unit, George E. Luber, has been reassigned to the agency’s waterborne diseases unit. He also was the subject of a dismissal notice until this week, but the notice was retracted after lawyers for a nonprofit watchdog group said they were considering filing a federal whistle-blower complaint…. Kevin Bell, a staff attorney with the nonprofit group [Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility], said agency managers had hoped to reach a ‘gentlemen’s agreement’ with Dr. Luber to keep the climate program and discussions of climate change below the radar during the Trump years but grew angry when he insisted on trying to keep those issues in the spotlight.” (Write-up 1/11/19)

**DECRY** this step backward at a time when we should be stepping up our efforts to publicize and address climate change and **INSIST** that George E. Luber continue working to address the problems posed by climate change

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

• **Robert R. Redfield, MD**, Director, CDC, 1600 Clifton Rd. NE, Atlanta, GA 30333, (800) CDC-INFO

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

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

• **Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson** (D-TX), Chair, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, 394 For House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6375

The San Francisco Chronicle reports, “The state agency in charge of wildfire cleanup [the California Department of Toxic Substances Control] has awarded a contract worth as much as $250 million to the company at the center of San Francisco’s Superfund scandal—an environmental engineering firm that was caught falsifying soil tests and is being sued by the U.S. Justice Department, whistle-blowers and homeowners. Pasadena-based Tetra Tech Inc. will lead the ‘debris management’ process after Butte County’s devastating Camp Fire, sparking concerns from environmental groups and the office of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that a company accused of widespread misconduct in San Francisco will have such a large role in the state’s wildfire recovery.” (Write-up 1/11/19)

**EXPRESS** grave concerns about this arrangement to

• **Governor Gavin Newsom**, c/o State Capitol, Suite1173, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-2841

• **Meredith Williams**, Acting Director, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, P.O. Box 805, CA 95814-2828, (800) 728-6942

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

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

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

A recent *Washington Post* piece on climate change, suggested the following eleven areas for action.

-Set local emissions goals

-Be smart about your air conditioner

-Encourage electric vehicles

-Be smart about nuclear power

-Make it easier to live without cars

-Prevent wasted food

-Incentivize carbon farming

-Curb the effects of meat and dairy

-Adopt a carbon tax

-Open electric markets to competition

-Pass a New Green Deal (Write-up 1/11/19)

**CHOOSE** your favorites and **SHARE** them with politicians on every level

• **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), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

• **Governor Gavin Newsom**, c/o State Capitol, Suite1173, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-2841

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

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

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

**ETHICS and SEPARATION of POWERS**

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is refusing to allow a vote on any legislation that the President would veto. In particular, he’s looking at efforts to reopen the government without forking over billions to Trump for his costly, ineffective wall—including reconsideration of a bill the Senate passed in December that did not become law. This is a betrayal of McConnell’s responsibility as one of the leaders of the legislative branch of our government, which is explicitly supposed to work as a check on the executive branch. (Write-up 1/11/19)

**DEMAND** that McConnell reflect and defend the will of the Senate, not the President and **INSIST** that votes on legislation that would reopen the government not be blocked any longer.

• **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader, 217 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541

From *Rogan’s List*: “We know that Trump doesn't care about good governance or the Constitution, but the rest of us sure do! The Constitution requires, as an explicit and deliberate check on presidential power, that cabinet officials be confirmed by the Senate, so the ‘greater flexibility’ Trump gets by keeping unconfirmed officials in an ‘acting’ role is exactly a power that he does not, and should not, have.” (Write-up 1/11/19)

**INSIST** that every Congressperson condemn this abuse of power in the strongest terms,

• **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), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

Also from *Rogan’s List* (because sometimes Susan Rogan says things better than anyone else can): “Smithsonian museums are closed. There are no federal staffers to answer tourists' questions at the Lincoln Memorial. And across the United States, national parks are cluttered with trash. Yet despite the federal government shutdown, a historic clock tower at the Trump International Hotel remained open for its handful of visitors, staffed by green-clad National Park Service rangers. ‘We're open!’ one National Park Service ranger declared around lunchtime, pushing an elevator button for a lone visitor entering the site through a side entrance to ride to the top of the 315-foot-high, nearly 120-year-old clock tower in the nation’s capital. The Trump administration appears to have gone out of its way to keep the attraction in the federally owned building that houses the Trump hotel open and staffed with National Park Service rangers, even as other federal agencies shut ‘all but the most essential services.’ How convenient that this ‘PARK’ in a Trump hotel is open while our beautiful national parks are not being staffed. (Write-up 1/11/19)

**DEMAND** to know why this ‘PARK is open!

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

• **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader, 217 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541

• **Representative Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA), Speaker of the House, 1236 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4965

The Department of the Interior (DOI) has proposed a rule change which would make it more difficult to submit Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests by giving agencies more power to turn down requests, allowing the government to function with impaired transparency. (Write-up 1/11/19)

**COMMENT** on the proposed rule change using Docket No. DOI-2018-0017 in your message

• **Executive Secretariat—FOIA Regulations**, Department of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240

**GENERAL DECENCY**

While running for Governor, Gavin Newsom promised progress in a number of areas: homelessness, construction of new homes, tenant protections, healthcare for all, universal preschool, gun control, apprenticeships, earned income tax credit, wildfire prevention, private prisons, and monetary bail. (Write-up 1/11/19)

**CHOOSE** your favorites and **REMIND** him you expect follow-through on these promises

• **Governor Gavin Newsom**, c/o State Capitol, Suite1173, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-2841

The Associated Press reports: “Thousands of requests by men to bring in child and adolescent brides to live in the United States were approved over the past decade, according to government data obtained by The Associated Press. In one case, a 49-year-old man applied for admission for a 15-year-old girl. The approvals are legal: The Immigration and Nationality Act does not set minimum age requirements for the person making the request or for that person’s spouse or fiancee. By contrast, to bring in a parent from overseas, a petitioner has to be at least 21 years old. And in weighing petitions, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services goes by whether the marriage is legal in the spouse or fiancee’s home country and then whether the marriage would be legal in the state where the petitioner lives. The data raises questions about whether the immigration system may be enabling forced marriage and about how U.S. laws may be compounding the problem despite efforts to limit child and forced marriage. Marriage between adults and minors is not uncommon in the U.S., and most states allow children to marry with some restrictions.”

**TELL** your Congresspeople that you find this policy deeply disturbing and **ASK** them to consider proposing alternatives

• **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), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

From *Rogan’s List*: “HUD’s [the Department of Housing and Urban Development] oversight failures are profound, and they have left thousands of children and their families, seniors and people with disabilities living in unsafe housing for years. As landlords have slapped paint over mold, cardboard over holes, and hid problems behind walls and ‘Do Not Enter’ signs, the agency has often looked the other way.” Both Republicans and Democrats have let this happen.

**TELL** our Congresspeople that we expect investigations into this, and legislation to fix it

• **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), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

From *Rogan’s List*: “The Census Bureau is closed as a result of the government shutdown, adding to the problems it faces in organizing the 2020 census—Is there enough money? Can the Bureau overcome the 2010 undercount of communities of color and other ‘hard-to-count’ populations? Can they hire enough workers? Is the new digital census secure? And, of course, what about the citizenship question?” (Write-up 1/11/19)

**URGE** our Congresspeople to guarantee the accuracy and reliability of the complete population count mandated by the Constitution

• **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), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

In its latest issue, quarterly magazine *Santa Cruz Style* captioned a picture of a white supremacist “keep Santa Cruz weird” [a popular slogan for those who appreciate the city’s uniqueness and diversity]. *Santa Cruz Style* removed the photo from online and plan to issue an apology in the next issue, but meanwhile thousands of print copies, which is free, have been distributed across the county. (Write-up 1/11/19)

**EXPLAIN** hate is not “weird” it’s reprehensible and TELL the magazine it needs to review its practices to avoid similar incidents

• **Santa Cruz Style Magazine, LLC**, P.O. Box 822, Capitola, CA 95010, (831) 475-7325

**GUNS**

H.R.8 and S.42, both titled “To Require a Background Check for Every Firearm Sale,” are currently with the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. H.R.8 has 178 co-sponsors: 173 Democrats and 5 Republicans. This legislation should be able to move through the House without much trouble. The fate of S.42 in the Senate is another matter—but even if it doesn’t pass the Senate it will allow voters another clear illustration of which legislators are (and aren’t) responding to the 97% of the public who want stricter background checks. Our Jimmy Panetta is among the co-sponsors for H.R.8. Feinstein and Harris are both co-sponsors for S.42 (both sit on the Senate Judiciary Committee). (Write-up 1/13/19)

**ASK** for quick action on this important legislation from the House and Senate Judiciary Committees

• **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6909

• **Senator Chuck Grassley**, 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

**TELL** your Senators and Representative you want their vocal support for this legislation when it reaches the House floor

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

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS**

The summary for California’s S.B.31 reads: “The bill would provide that no person shall be subject to civil arrest in a courthouse while attending a court proceeding or having legal business in the courthouse. The bill would also authorize the Attorney General to bring a civil action to obtain equitable and declaratory relief for a violation of this section, and it would allow a party in a successful action to enforce liability for a violation of this section to recover court costs and reasonable attorney’s fees.” In other words, S.B.31 allows undocumented residents of the state to attend and participate in court proceedings without fear of arrest. Witnesses should not have to fear deportation when they testify. (Write-up 1/13/19)

**TELL** our California Senator that we want to see active support for S.B.31

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

From the *Guardian*: The Trump administration has stopped cooperating with UN investigators over potential human rights violations occurring inside America, in a move that delivers a major blow to vulnerable US communities and sends a dangerous signal to authoritarian regimes around the world. Quietly and unnoticed, the state department has ceased to respond to official complaints from UN special rapporteurs, the network of independent experts who act as global watchdogs on fundamental issues such as poverty, migration, freedom of expression and justice. There has been no response to any such formal query since 7 May 2018, with at least 13 requests going unanswered. Nor has the Trump administration extended any invitation to a UN monitor to visit the US to investigate human rights inside the country since the start of Donald Trump’s term two years ago in January 2017. Two UN experts have made official fact-finding visits under his watch—the special rapporteurs on extreme poverty and privacy—but both were invited initially by Barack Obama, who hosted 16 such visits during his presidency. (Write-up 1/13/19)

**COMPLAIN** to the State Department, the chairs of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, and your Congresspeople about our failure to hold ourselves accountable for human rights violations

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

• **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6909

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

• **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), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

In the mess that was the end of the 20117-18 legislative session, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was allowed to expire. (Write-up 1/13/19)

**INSIST** that we want renewal of VAWA to be prioritized in the new legislative session

• **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6909

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

• **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), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861