**BASIC DECENCY**

1. Consumer product company Kimberly-Clark has announced that it will use its savings from the new tax law to pay for a restructuring program that includes layoffs and plant shutdowns. The company claims it had been considering the restructuring program before Congress approved the tax legislation; nonetheless, this is not the sort of trickle-down we were promised would result from the changes to tax law.

**COMPLAINTS** and **NOTIFICATIONS** that we will no longer be buying their products to

• **Thomas Falk**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Kimberley-Clark Corporation

• **Michael Hsu**, President and Chief Operating Officer, Kimberley-Clark Corporation

• **Larry P. Allgaier**, President, North American Consumer Business, Kimberley-Clark Corporations

**ALL** of the above can be reached at

Kimberley-Clark World Headquarters, 351 Phelps Dr., Irving, TX 75038, (972) 281-1200

2. Montpelier High School in Vermont became the first high school in the country to fly a Black Lives Matter Flag, following a student movement to achieve this goal. The school is now receiving a host of complaints and threats.

**THANKS** for leadership and a demonstration of democracy in action

**The Student Body and Administration**, Montpelier High School, 5 High School Dr., Montpelier, VT, 05602, [no phone number because we don’t want to interrupt the day-to-day educational operations]

3. Despite the fact that one-third of all residents of Puerto Rico are still without power, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that it is ending food and water aid to Puerto Rico.

**DEMAND** that aid be continued to this American territory and to these American citizens until Puerto Rico has fully recovered from Hurricane María

• **William “Brock” Long**, Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, Washington DC 20472.

• **Senator Rand Paul** (R-KY), Chair, Senate Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management, 167 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4343

• **Senator Gary Peters** (D-MI), Ranking Member, Senate Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management, 724 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6221

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

4. The Economic Policy Institute has issued a new report on the Department of Labor’s (DOL) proposed rule that would make it legal for employers to pocket their workers’ tips, as long as they pay those workers at least the minimum wage. This report is specifically focused on the disproportionate effect of this rule on women workers, who, being both more likely to be tipped workers and to earn lower wages, would lose $4.6 billion of the estimated $5.8 billion of lost wages that would result from the new rule.

**REMIND** those responsible for labor policy that taking away earnings from some of our nation’s lowest paid (and disproportionately female) workers is reprehensible

• **Alexander Acosta**, Secretary of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington DC 20210, (866) 4-USA-DOL

• **Senator Lamar Alexander** (R-TN), Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, 455 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4944

• **Senator Patty Murray** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, 154 Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2621

5. As reported in the *New York Times*, Michael Novogradac, managing partner of a national accounting firm, estimates the new tax law will reduce the growth of subsidized affordable housing by 235,000 units over the next ten years, worsening the already existing shortage. He warns ““It’s the greatest shock to the affordable-housing system since the Great Recession.”

**ASK** those responsible for housing policy how they plan to alleviate the coming scarcity of low-income housing

• **Benjamin S. Carson**, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, **451 7th Street S.W.,
Washington, DC 20410, (202) 708-1112**

• **Senator Michael Crapo** (R-ID), Chair, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 239 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6142

• **Senator Sherrod Brown** (D-OH), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 713 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2315

6. On January 19, paramedics were called to the home of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor to treat her for symptoms of low blood sugar. She is fine now and back to work, but (trust me) severe low blood sugar events can be very frightening and physically exhausting.

**TELL** her that you’re glad she’s doing better again and that you deeply appreciate her work on the court

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

7. Congress’s $36.5 billion disaster relief package for hurricane and wildfire damage included $4.9 billion for Puerto Rico. The relief earmarked for Puerto Rico was, however, unique in that it would come in the form of a loan, rather than as a grant—which was the form of disbursement for all remaining relief recipients. The monies for Puerto Rico were to be distributed through the Community Disasters Loan Program. Now, however, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Treasury Department, which have responsibility for the loan disbursement, have concluded that Puerto Rico is not eligible for the loan because the nation has some $1.7 billion for ongoing operations.

**DEMAND** fair treatment for Puerto Rico

• **Steve Mnuchin**, Secretary of the Treasury, Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20220, (202) 622-2000

• **William B. “Brock” Long**, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C St. SW, Washington DC 20472, (202) 646-2500

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154

• **Senator Thad Cochran** (R-MS), Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee, 113 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5054

• **Senator Patrick Leahy** (D-VT), Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee, 437 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4242

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

8. In a bold move, Senator Tim Scott put a hold on all of the GOP's trade nominees until U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer is more responsive to his concerns. Scott said he had agreed to support Lighthizer because the former Washington trade lawyer had promised to be “open, transparent and available.”

**THANKS** for his willingness to take a hard stand on openness, transparency, and availability of government officials.

• **Senator Tim Scott** (R-SC), 717 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 224-6121

9. Senator Tom Cotton (reportedly Trump’s pick for CIA Director) is sending “cease and desist” letters to who have been contacting him frequently. We’re not his constituents, but we can point out that he has an obligation to listen to the people who are.

**REMIND** him of the importance of listening to constituents “You work for us”

• **Senator Tom Cotton** (R-AZ), 124 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2353

10. Trump plans to appoint Tom Brunell, who literally wrote the book on Gerrymandering (Redistricting and Representation: Why Competitive Elections Are Bad for America), deputy director for the 2020 census. Redistricting, elections, distribution of House seats, the balance of power and social programs are all in jeopardy from this blatantly partisan pick. He had originally planned to nominate Brunell for Census director, but this position requires Senate Confirmation, which is not required for the deputy director.

**SHARE** your disgust with this partisan appointment

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154

11. Good news from the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC), which has ruled that any profits accruing to California utilities via the tax plan passed in December must be converted into lowered consumer payments, rather than dividends to shareholders. The Commissions spokesperson wrote in an email that “at the CPUC’s direction, all of the electric and gas utilities in California are tracking the savings from the tax law changes and will be required to refund the savings to their customers.”

**THANKS** for focusing on consumers, not shareholders

• **Michael Picker**, President, CPUC

• **Carla J. Peterman**, Commissioner, CPUC

• **Liane M. Randolph**, Commissioner, CPUC

• **Martha Guzman Aceves**, Commissioner, CPUC

• **Clifforn Rechtschaffen**, Commissioner, CPUC

**ALL** can be reached at

500 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 703-2782

12. “Food insecurity” (aka “hunger”) afflicts an increasing portion of college students. These students do not have access to food stamps, administered by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program because of the difficulty of meeting federal work requirements for food stamp recipients.

**DEMAND** a plan for ending campus hunger

• Brandon Lipps, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302, (703) 305-2602

• **Senator Pat Roberts** (R-KS), Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4774

• **Senator Debbie Stabenow** (D-MI), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, 731 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4822

• **Representative Glenn Thompson** (R-PA), Chair, House Subcommittee on Nutrition, 124 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5121

• **Representative Jim McGovern** (D-MA), Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Nutrition, 438 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6101

13. Remind our members of Congress that we want the following addressed and funded in any spending bill:  A) CHIP, B) DACA, C) Federally Qualified Health Centers, and D) Puerto Rico

**URGINGS** to stand firm to

• **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

14. Trump’s reference to “shithole countries” was obscene (to say the least), but in general, I think we’re better off pushing for a clean DACA than putting our energy into castigating Trump for his hateful remarks. The exception: Senator Lindsey Graham, who responded immediately to Trump’s remarks, according to several people present at the meeting. Graham apparently told Trump that America is “an idea, not a race”; that diversity is a strength, not a weakness; and that Graham himself was descended from immigrants who came to the United States from “shithole countries with no skills.”

**THANK** Graham for speaking truth to power, when others were appalled, but said nothing

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

15. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has been decrying the Democratic obstruction of Trump’s judicial nominees. Let’s get in touch with Senator McConnell to say: “Obstruction? We remember Merrick Garland.” Gee Senator, hypocrite much?

**CHASTISE**

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

**CIVIL/HUMAN RIGHTS**

1. HR 4508, an immense piece of education legislation, is filled with “First Amendment protections” that would codify discrimination. The bill would allow religious colleges to prohibit same-sex relationships and would let religious student groups deny membership to students not sharing their religion. The bill would also stop colleges from punishing sororities and fraternities that refuse to admit members of the opposite sex. The bill would allow the federal government to withhold funding from colleges that violate these provisions. In December, the bill moved out of committee on a party-line vote, and it now will move to a full vote of the House.

**URGE** our Representative to fight this codification of bigotry within U.S. higher education

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

**TELL** our Senators to be ready to fight companion legislation when/if it is introduced in the Senate

• **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

2. According to a National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs report, 2017 saw an 87% surge in hate-violence homicides of LGBTQ people, with 52 reported incidents.

**DEMAND** to know what your Congresspeople are doing to respond to this upsurge in hate and violence

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

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

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

3. The *Washington Post* reports that the new head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), Mick Mulvaney, has placed new limits on the CFPB’s Office of Fair Lending and Equal Opportunity (OFLEO). Previously OFLEO had power to “force payouts in several prominent cases, including settlements from lenders it alleged had systematically charged minorities higher interest rates than they had for whites.” The CFPB’s new head is removing OFLEO’s responsibility for enforcement and day-to-day oversight of companies and instead is directing the OFLEO to focus on “advocacy, coordination, and education.” Since his appointment, Mulvaney has also dropped a lawsuit against payday lenders and promised to reconsider rules the financial industry finds particularly onerous. Mulvaney also updated the bureau’s mission statement to include addressing “outdated, unnecessary, or unduly burdensome regulations.”

**COMPLAINTS** about this reduction in much-needed consumer protection to

• **Acting Director Mick Mulvaney**, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G St. NW, Washington DC 20552, (855) 411-2371

• **Senator Michael Crapo** (R-ID), Chair, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 239 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6142

• **Senator Sherrod Brown** (D-OH), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 713 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2315

• **Senator Patrick J. Toomey** (R-PA), Chair, Senate Subcommittee on Financial Affairs and Consumer Protection, 248 Russell Senate office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4254

• **Senator Elizabeth Warren** (D-MA), Ranking Member, Senate Subcommittee on Financial Affairs and Consumer Protection, 317 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4543

4. Jeff Sessions’ Justice Department has effectively closed the Office for Access to Justice (OAJ). Technically Sessions needs Congressional approval to close the office but he can—and has—starved it of resources: its acting director has left, its staff is much reduced as is its office space, its programs sidelined. The OAJ attempts to “deliver [court] outcomes that are fair and accessible to all, irrespective of wealth and status.”

**DEMAND** continued action to protect the rights of all Americans through the continued functioning of the OAJ

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

• **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

5. The New York Times reports that, “On 5,753 occasions from 2010 to 2016, the United States military asked to review Afghan military units to see if there were any instances of ‘gross human rights abuses.’ If there were, American law required military aid to be cut off to the offending unit. Not once did that happen. That was among the findings in an investigation into child sexual abuse by the Afghan security forces and the supposed indifference of the American military to the problem, according to a report released [January 22] by the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction (SIGAR).” The majority of events reported were sexual abuse of Afghan boys. U.S. is supposed to be immediately terminated if such abuses are found.

**DEPLORE** this callous failure to protect the human rights of children by Afghan military units that receive U.S. funding

• **James N. Mattis**, Secretary of Defense, 1000 Defense Pentagon, Washington DC 20301-1000

• **General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr.**, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, 9999 Joint Staff Pentagon, Washington DC 20318-9999

• **Dr. Mark T. Esper**, Secretary of the Army, 101 Army Pentagon, Washington DC 20310-0101

• **General Mark A. Milley**, Army Chief of Staff, 200 Army Pentagon, Washington DC 20310-0200

• **Senator John McCain** (R-AZ), Chair, Senate Armed Services Committee, 218 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2235

• **Senator Jack Reed** (D-RI), Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, 728 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 29510, (202) 224-4642

• **Representative Mac Thornberry** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Armed Services, 2208 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3706

• **Representative Adam Smith** (D-WA), Ranking Member, House Committee on Armed Services, 2264 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6435

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

6. Professor Philip Alston, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, has released a “Statement on Visit to the USA,” a result to a two-week investigatory visit to the U.S. Among the issues he reports on are the 40 million people in the US living in poverty (1 in 8 Americans or 12.7% of our total population), the use of minor infraction notices “which seem to be intentionally designed to quickly explode into unpayable debt, incarceration, and the replenishment of municipal coffers,” the lack of dental care for the poor, our high rates of opioid addiction, the highest infant mortality rate in the developed world, the growing gap in life expectancy between the US and other developed countries, our position as 36th in the world in terms of access to clean water. He noted US rejection of “the idea that economic and social rights are full-fledged human rights, despite their clear recognition not only in key treaties that the US has ratified (such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination), and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which the US has long insisted other countries must respect.” He contrasts the US narrative of hard-working rich versus “shiftless” poor with the reality in which “many of the wealthiest citizens do not pay taxes at the rates that others do, hoard much of their wealth off-shore, and often make their profits purely from speculation rather than contributing to the overall wealth of the American community.” And all of the preceding is just a fraction of the seventy-one findings in his report.

**QUERY** key cabinet secretaries, committee chairs, and committee ranking members about actions they intend to take to address these findings

• **Eric Hargan**, Acting Secretary of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20201, (877)-696-6775

• **Benjamin S. Carson**, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, **451 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20410, (202) 708-1112**

• **Alexander Acosta**, Secretary of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington DC 20210, (866) 4-USA-DOL

• **Wilber L. Ross**, Secretary of Commerce, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave NW, Washington DC 20230, (202) 482-2000

• **Senator Lamar Alexander** (R-TN), Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, 455 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4944

• **Senator Patty Murray** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, 154 Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2621

• **Senator Michael Crapo** (R-ID), Chair, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 239 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6142

• **Senator Sherrod Brown** (D-OH), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 713 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2315

• **Senator John Thune** (R-SD), Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, 511 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2321

• **Senator Bill Nelson** (D-FL), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, 716 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5274

7. According to Freedom United, “Immigrants detained in a private prison in San Diego allege that they have been subjected to forced labor and threatened with solitary confinementor restricted visitation rights if they refused to work. The complainants say the company that owns the prison, CoreCivic, one of the largest private prison companies in the US, pays at most $1.50 per day, and sometimes nothing at all, for their work as kitchen staff, janitors, barbers and in various other roles. But reports of forced labor are not isolated to immigration detention centers. In Oklahoma, offenders sentenced to rehabilitation end up forced into labor on chicken farms, without any recourse or access to an actual recovery program. Prisoners in California are forced into labor and made to risk their lives fighting the state’s wildfires for a dollar an hour or less.

**DEMAND** an investigation of forced labor at detention centers and prisons, particularly those privately run for profit

• **Mark S. Inch**, Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, 320 First St. NW, Washington DC 20534, (202) 307-3198

• **Judi Simon Garrett**, Assistant Director, Information, Policy, and Public Affairs, Federal Bureau of Prisons, 320 First St. NW, Washington DC 20534, (202) 307-3198

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

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

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

• **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2309 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5431

• **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2109 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5635

8. More than seventy civil rights groups oppose Eric Dreiband’s nomination as Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. Dreiband was first nominated in 2017, but his appointment was not voted on before the winter recess. Now Trump has nominated him once again. According to CNN, when Dreiband was originally nominated, he came “under a wave of criticism from civil rights organizations and LGBT activists because of his work defending major corporations against discrimination lawsuits, and in some cases flip-flopping his position.” The NAACP Legal Defense Fund said that Dreiband's nomination serves to undermine "fundamental civil rights priorities." While in private practice Dreiband has defended companies like R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company in an age discrimination case, Bloomberg in a pregnancy discrimination lawsuit, CVS Pharmacy in an employee severance agreement lawsuit brought by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. A man with a history of defending civil rights violators, should not be the top pick for defending civil rights via the Department of Justice.

**INFORM** members of the Senate Judiciary Committee that Dreiband is an unacceptable nominee

• **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

9. HR 2282 and S 1006 would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation in places of public accommodation. This legislation has many co-sponsors and is stuck in committees.  In the House HR 2282 is before the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. S 1006 is with the Senate Judiciary Committee. All citizens deserve these protections.

**URGE** quick action on this legislation from

• **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 Steve King** (R-IA), Chair, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 2210 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4426

• **Representative Ron DeSantis** (R-FL), Vice Chair, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice,1524 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2706

• **Representative Steve Cohen** (R-TN), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 2404 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3265

10. In what sounds more like the 1960s Civil Rights-era realities, “If an LGBTQ couple drove from Maine to California today, their legal rights and civil rights protections could change more than 20 times at state borders and city lines,” HRC President Chad Griffin said in a statement. Let’s

**TELL** our federal legislators that civil rights protections need to be made country wide for everyone and not left to local discrimination.

• **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

11. The Trump administration has announced it is creating a new Conscience and Religious Freedom Division within Health and Human Services. Policy accompanying the Division’s creation will allow doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers to refuse services that violate their religious or moral beliefs. This not only puts at further risk basic health services like abortion, it will allow healthcare professionals to deny all treatment to any community not approved by their faith. This means LGBTQI people and non-Christians, among others, may find themselves at the mercy of ambulance drivers who refuse to transport them to hospitals, emergency room workers who refuse treatment of potentially fatal injuries and more.

**CONDEMN** this pandering to bigotry

• **Don Wright**, Acting Secretary of Health & Human Services HHS, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20201, (877) 696-6775

• **Roger Severino**, Director, Office for Civil Rights. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, D.C. 20201, (800) 368-1019

12. The Federal Intelligence Surveillance Act has been approved in both the House and Senate, despite provisions that blatantly violate American’s right to privacy. Included among those voting for this legislation were a handful of California Democrats.

**CHASTIZE** these legislators for their willingness to expose Californians (and all of us) to government spying

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

• **Representative Pete Aguilar** (D-CA), 1223 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3201

• **Representative Ami Bera** (D-CA), 1431 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5716

• **Representative Julia Brownley** (D-CA), 1019 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5811

• **Representative Jim Costa** (D-CA), 2081 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3341

• **Representative John Garamendi** (D-CA), 2438 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-1880

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

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

• **Representative Scott Peters** (D-CA), 1122 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-0508

• **Representative Raúl Ruiz** (D-CA), 1319 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5330

• **Representative Adam Schiff** (D-CA), 2372 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4176

• **Representative Eric Swalwell** (D-CA), 129 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5065

• **Representative Mike Thompson** (D-CA), 231 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3311

• **Representative Norma Torres** (D-CA), 1713 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6161

**CYBERSECURITY**

1. As reported on business site Fast Company, last June, when the Senate Intelligence committee was questioning Attorney General Jeff Sessions about Russian election interference, John McCain raised the issue of other hacking threats from Russia. McCain noted an ongoing Russian effort to map U.S. telecommunications infrastructure and power grids with a goal of gaining the ability to hack them via a “cyber-weapon.” Russian hackers have, in fact, hacked many centers of US power, including the State Department, White House, Department of Defense, and the email accounts of U.S. officials—and that some of this hacking occurred as early as 2014. So far, hackers have been able to “enter” these power centers, but not to control them. When McCain asked Sessions whether the U.S. had a plan for dealing with this threat before it becomes even graver, Sessions acknowledged that we do not. The current administration continues to downplay the severity of these instances of “non-Election 2016” hacking.

**ASK** what actions the government has taken since last June and TELL them that not having a plan is inexcusable

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

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

• **Senator Richard Burr** (R-NC), Chair, Senate Intelligence Committee, 217 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3154

• **Senator Mark Warner** (R-VA), Vice-Chair, Senate Intelligence Committee, 703 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2023

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

2. The Government Accountabilty Office (GAO) is launching an investigation into fake comments filed with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the period leading up to the FCC’s decision to end net neutrality. Several studies have found that thousands of comments (mostly supporting an end to net neutrality) were falsely filed during the comment period under invented identities or the fraudulent use of identities of individuals who did not file comments.

**THANKS** for requesting this investigation to

• **Representative Gregory Meeks** (D-NY), 2234 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3641

• **Representative Elijah Cummings** (D-MD), 2163 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4741

• **Representative Frank Pallone**, Jr. (D-NJ), 237 Cannon House Office Building, Washingto DC 20515, (202) 225-4671

THANKS for conducting this investigation to

• **Comptroller Gene L. Dorado**, Government Accountability Office, 441 G St. NW, Washington DC 20549, (202) 512-5500

3. Speaking to the Council on Foreign Relations, Joe Biden said that Mitch McConnell rejected Obama administration efforts to warn the public about Russian election Interference. Obama felt that any announcement that was not bipartisan would serve the Kremlin’s interest in dividing the country. McConnell refused to sign such a bipartisan statement.

**CASTIGATION** for putting party before the American people and American democracy itself• **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541

4. Reuters reported that “Senior U.S. congressional Democrats urged social media companies on [January 23] to investigate reported actions by automated Russia-linked accounts in connection with a Republican memorandum that was said to be critical of special counsel Robert Mueller’s probe of President Donald Trump’s ties with Russia.”

**THANK** our Senator for her role in petitioning for this action

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

**TELL** social media companies we want to see follow-through on this request

• **Mark Zuckerberg**, Founder, Chairman, and CEO, Facebook, 1601 Willow Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025, (650) 543-4800

• **Sheryl Sandberg**, Chief Operating Officer, Facebook, 1601 Willow Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025, (650) 543-4800

• **Jack Dorsey**, Chief Executive Officer, Twitter, 1355 Market St, Ste. 900, San Francisco, CA, (866) 924-2008

• **Anthony Notto**, Chief Operating Officer, Twitter, 1355 Market St, Ste. 900, San Francisco, CA, (866) 924-2008

5. Consumer rights advocate Senator Elizabeth Warren has introduced S2289, which calls for the development of cyber security practices to be required of Consumer reporting agencies (the folks who give us all credit ratings) and that imposes penalties for practices that put the security of consumer information at risk. S2289 is currently before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

**SHARE** your enthusiasm for this proposed legislation

• **Senator Michael Crapo** (R-ID), Chair, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 239 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6142

• **Senator Sherrod Brown** (D-OH), Ranking Member, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 713 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2315

• **Senator Elizabeth Warren** (D-MA), Member, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 317 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4543

**EDUCATION**

1. Regulators from the Department of Education have determined that by setting caps on the percentage of students who could receive special education services Texas has illegally led the state’s schools to deny thousands of students needed therapy, tutoring, and counselling. While previous state and national averages for students receiving these services had been approximately 12%, Texas limited these services to a maximum of 8.5%, penalizing districts that went over the cap. This policy resulted in some 150,000 students being denied educational support services to which they were entitled.

**DEMAND** a strong federal response to this outrage

• **Secretary Betsy DeVos**, U.S. Department of Education, 7W301 LBJ Building, Mail Number 0100, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington DC 20202, (202) 401-3000

• **Senator Lamar Alexander** (R-TN), Chair, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, 405 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4944

• **Senator Patty Murray** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, 154 Russell Senate Office Building. Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-262

**ELECTIONS**

1. Since July, the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2017, HR 2978, has been sitting with the House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice. Among other things, HR 2978 tracks violations of voting rights within states, and states with multiple violations will be subject to remedies outlined in the Act.

**PRESS** for swift passage of HR 2978 in committee and its move to the full House

• **Representative Steve King** (R-IA), Chair, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 2210 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4426

• **Representative Ron DeSantis** (R-FL), Vice Chair, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice,1524 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2706

• **Representative Steve Cohen** (R-TN), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 2404 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3265

• **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2309 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5431

• **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2109 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5635

2. The Secure Elections Act, S 2261, would allow states to assess the weaknesses of their voting systems and to implement proven measures that protect voting integrity. S 2261 will provide a line of defense against foreign interference in future elections. It is currently before the Senate Rules and Administration Committee.

**ASK** that this legislation be moved quickly through committee

• **Senator Richard Shelby** (R-AL), Chair, Rules and Administration Committee, 304 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5744

• **Senator Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN), Ranking Member, Rules and Administration Committee, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3244

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

**THANK** cosponsor

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

3. The K.O.C.H. (Keep Our Campaigns Honest) Act, HR 1439, directs the FCC to require disclosure announcements that reveal the names of significant donors to the PACs paying for broadcast and cablecast matter of a political nature. This legislation is currently before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

**URGE** swift movement of this legislation through committee

• **Representative Marcia Blackburn** (R-TN), Chair, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, 2266 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 224-2811

• **Representative Michael Doyle** (D-PA), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, 239 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2135

**ASK** our representative to become a co-sponsor

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

4. S 1231 and HR 2669 would amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to allow all eligible voters to vote by mail in federal elections. S 1231 is currently before the Senate Rules and Administration Committee. HR 2669 is before the House Administration Committee and the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

**URGE** swift movement of these pieces of legislation through committee

• **Senator Richard Shelby** (R-AL), Chair, Rules and Administration Committee, 304 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5744

• **Senator Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN), Ranking Member, Rules and Administration Committee, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3244

• **Representative Gregg Harper** (R-MI), Chair, House Administration Committee, 2227 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5031

• **Representative Robert Brady** (D-PA), Ranking Member, House Administration Committee, 2004 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4731

• **Representative Trey Gowdy** (R-SC), Chair, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, 2418 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 224-6030

• **Representative Elijah Cummings** (D-MD), Ranking Member, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, 2163 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4741

**THANK** our Senators for cosponsoring S 1231

• **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

**ASK** our representative to become a co-sponsor

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

5. The Restore Democracy Resolution, HR 343, would express the sense of the House that the Citizens United ruling has opened the door to the corrupting influence of money in politics, asserts that regulation of the raising and spending of money and in-kind gifts in federal elections should be the purview of Congress, and that all political contributions should be publicly disclosed so voters know the sponsors of political advertising. It is currently before the House Administration Committee, the House Rules Committee, and the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice.

**URGE** swift movement of this resolution through committees

• **Representative Gregg Harper** (R-MI), Chair, House Administration Committee, 2227 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5031

• **Representative Robert Brady** (D-PA), Ranking Member, House Administration Committee, 2004 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4731

• **Representative Pete Sessions** (R-TX), Chair, House Rules Committee, 2233 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2231

• **Representative Louise McIntosh Slaughter** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Rules Committee, 2469 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3615

• **Representative Steve King** (R-IA), Chair, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 2210 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4426

• **Representative Ron DeSantis** (R-FL), Vice Chair, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice,1524 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2706

• **Representative Steve Cohen** (R-TN), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 2404 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3265

6. A number of bills regarding redistricting reform with the aim of ending gerrymandering are currently before the House. These include HR 1102, HR 711/722, HR 713, and HR 151.

**REMIND** our Representative that we’re deeply concerned about gerrymandering and want him to take every possible action to oppose it

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

7. Senators Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) have introduced the “Defending Elections from Threats by Establishing Redlines (DETER) Act,” which names specific foreign actions against U.S. elections that warranting penalties from the federal government. The Hill reports that Van Hollen said that the bill would send “an unequivocal message to Russia and any other foreign actor who may follow its example: if you attack us, the consequences will be severe.”

**ASK** our members of Congress to support this bipartisan effort

• **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

**8. A Senate Foreign Relations Committee report says the US is not prepared to defend against possible Russian meddling** in the 2018 midterm elections or the 2020 presidential contest.

**DEMAND** immediate action from our elected representatives to protect the integrity of our elections from foreign interference (particularly the Russians)

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154

• **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2401

• **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5876

• **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

9. In January, two Democratic Senators released key information on possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia and on Russian interference in European and American democracy. Senator Benjamin Cardin released a report, “Putin’s Asymmetric Assault on Democracy in Russia and Europe: Implications for U.S. National Security.” Senator Feinstein released a transcript of testimony by Glenn Simpson, founder of the investigation agency Fusion GPS, given before the Senate Judiciary Committee about possible Trump Campaign-Russia collusion in our most recent Presidential election.

**THANK** these Senators for keeping the American public informed

• **Senator Benjamin L. Cardin** (D-MD), 509 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4524

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

10. The dissolution of the Pence/Kobach Commission on Voter Integrity was good news, but it does not end Trump’s offensive.  Kobach says he will now work with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to study “election integrity.” The DHS, however, has no statutory authority to investigate voter fraud; moreover, Kobach wants to use data from DHS’s Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) to raise allegations of non-citizens voting. Using this data could inaccurately flag thousands of people as illegal voters.

**DECRY** this unauthorized and potentially highly inaccurate investigation

• **Secretary Kris Kobach**, Kansas Secretary of State, Vice-Chair Presidential Advisory Committee on Election Integrity, Memorial Hall, 1st Floor, 120 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612

**REQUEST** careful monitoring of any actions taken by Kobach from

• **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

**ENVIRONMENT**

1. The Los Angeles Times reports that the Trump administration is threatening to scrap the Desert Renewable Energy Plan (DREP), which covers almost eleven million acres of desert and guides proposed development solar- and wind-energy installations to parcels where they are least likely to cause environmental damage. Scrapping DREP could also expose vulnerable desert ecosystems to off-roading, mining, and grazing.

**DEMAND** that this destructive and unnecessary weakening of desert protections be abandoned

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

• **Senator Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK), Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 522 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6665

• **Senator Maria Cantwell** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 511 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3441

2. Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) has introduces S 2354, the America’s Natural Treasures of Immeasurable Quality Unite, Inspire, and Together Improve the Economies of States Act (ANTIQUITIES Act) of 2018. This bill, co-sponsored by 18 other Democratic senators, codifies into law the boundaries for over 50 national monuments and validates that only Congress has the authority to reduce or diminish national monuments. Both California Senators have signed on as co-sponsors.

**THANKS** to

• **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

3. At the end of January, the *Washington Post* reported that the Trump administration plans to seek a 72% cut to the budget of Department of Energy programs related to energy efficiency and renewable energy. The proposal would resultin “sharp reductions in research spending, including an 82 percent cut to research on fuel efficient vehicles, an 82 percent cut on research into bioenergy technologies and a 78 percent cut for solar energy technology research. It would also slash funding for research into alternative energy sources like wind, hydro and geothermal power.” This move comes in the face of new Department of Energy studies showing that more Americans are employed in solar energy than in oil, coal, and gas combined. In fact, solar power employed 43 percent of the Electric Power Generation sector's workforce in 2016, while fossil fuels combined accounted for just 22 percent.

**CONDEMN** the administration’s short-sighted favoring of fossil fuels

• **Rick Perry**, Secretary of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20585, (202) 586-5000

• **Senator Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK), Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 522 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6665

• **Senator Maria Cantwell** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 511 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3441

• **Senator Cory Gardner** (R-CO), Chair, Senate Subcommittee on Energy, 354 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5941

• **Senator Joe Manchin, III**, (D-VA), Ranking Member, Senate Subcommittee on Energy, 306 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3954

4. On January 24, the state of California filed suit against the federal government demanding reinstatement of Obama-era fracking guidelines. The suit alleges that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s move to repeal fracking regulations represents a threat to public health and the environment. Attorney General Xavier Becerra called the repeal “governmental overreach,” observing that “the risks of fracking to our health and to our environment are real ... from the evaporation of toxic chemicals, to low level seismic events, to the contamination of our drinking water.”

**THANKS** for taking action to protect our health and homes to

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

5. Trump has imposed a 30% tariff on imported solar panels, supposedly to protect American manufacturing jobs from cheaper Chinese imports, but industry analysts warn that the move also threatens tens of thousands of jobs that Trump has vowed to protect, because companies that install solar panels will probably trim their workforces in response to higher costs.

**TELL** Trump what you think of this move

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

**ASK** our representatives to do all they can to keep solar energy affordable

 • **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

6. Kirstjen Nielsen, Director of Homeland Security, is waiving environmental regulations to accelerate construction of the proposed U.S.-Mexico border wall.

**PROTEST** putting a pointless and expensive wall over the welfare of our environment

• **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495

**ASK** the leaders of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works to do their job and see that environmental regulations are honored

• **Senator John Barrosso** (R-WY), Chair, Environment and Public Works Committee, 307 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6411

• **Senator Thomas R. Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Environment and Public Works Committee, 513 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2441

7. Plastic bottle caps are a major environmental problem both on terra firma and in our planet’s oceans. California AB 319, which would come into full effect in 2020, authored by Santa Cruz’s own Mark Stone, requires that all single-use beverages sold in the state have bottlecaps that are tethered to their containers to improve the likelihood that they will be recycled.

**THANKS** and **MESSAGES** of local pride to

• **Assemblymember Mark Stone** (Santa Cruz), State Capitol, PO Box 982049, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 319-2029

8. According to *Science* magazine, The U.S. Interior Department will now funnel certain grants through a political screening intended to ensure the federal dollars “better align” with the administration's “priorities.” The move empowers a senior Interior Department adviser named Steve Howke, to review grants potentially “circumventing the secretarial priorities or the review process.” Note that Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke's priorities include securing our southern border, ensuring “American energy is available to meet our security and economic needs” to cutting restricted access (i.e. mining) provisions that apply to many public lands. The Public Lands, Forestry, and Mining Subcommittee of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has oversight in this area.

**DENOUNCE** this inappropriate review process

• **Senator Mike Lee** (R-UT), Chair, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, 361A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5444

• **Senator Ron Wyden** (D-OR), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, 225 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5244

9. Albert Kelly, a senior adviser at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has a troubled history. The Intercept reports that “Before becoming an EPA senior adviser in May, Kelly was chair of SpiritBank, a community bank in Oklahoma that made loans to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. Though Kelly had no experience with environmental issues, Pruitt hired him and tasked him with oversight of the agency’s Superfund program – just two weeks after the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation fined him $125,000 for making a loan not approved by the banking regulator. In July, he was banned from the banking industry for life.” This spring Kelly led the Superfund Task Force, producing a list of recommendations with no documentation whatsoever of the Task Force’s procedures or the materials it considered. Given shrinking EPA budgets and the need for highly qualified leadership, Kelly seems to be a particularly inappropriate choice. By the way, his annual salary at the EPA? $172,100.

**DENOUNCE** the apparent cronyism that places an unqualified and morally questionable individual high up in the EPA

• **EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**, Mail Code 1101A, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460

• **Senator John Barrasso** (R-WY), Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 307 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6441

• **Senator Thomas Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 513 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2441

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

10. Our water system is under threat from the Farm Regulatory Certainty Act, HR 848, which amends the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, so that animal waste, manure, and fertilizer originating from or used by agricultural operations will be exempted from the requirements of the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act. HR 848 is currently before the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on Environment and the Economy.

**URGE** swift movement of this legislation through committee

• **Representative John Shimkus** (R-IL), Chair, Subcommittee on the Environment and the Economy, 2217 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5271

• **Representative Paul** Tonko (R-NY), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on the Environment and the Economy, 2463 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5076

**ASK** for support for HR 848 when it reaches the House floor

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-286

11. The California State Water Board (CSWB) has prepared rules to be voted on this summer intended to protect California from the Trump administration’s rollback of Clean Water Act protections for seasonal streambeds, isolated pools, and other transitory wetlands.

**THANKS** for preparing these rules and ENCOURAGEMENT for swift passage

• **Felicia Marcus**, Chair, CSWB

• **Steven Moore**, Vice Chair, CSWB

• **Tam M. Doduc**, Member, SCWB

• **Dorene d’Adamo**, Member, SCWB

• **E. Joaquin Esquivel**, Member, SCWB

**ALL** can be reached at

California Water Board, State Water Resources Contol Board, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100, (916) 341-5615

12. The Senate is currently considering a House-approved bill that would provide $81 billion to aid recovery efforts related to our recent hurricanes and wildfires, but in typical GOP fashion, there are a couple of provisions that have little to do with disaster relief and a lot to do with gutting safeguards. One provision would make the National Flood Insurance Program, which enables development in areas prone to flooding (e.g. sensitive wetlands), exempt from the Endangered Species Act.

**ASK** for opposition to unrelated, environment-harming provisions

• **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

13. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra wrote a NYT opinion piece on proposed new coastal drilling that stated “We [Californians] don’t wake up in the morning looking to pick a fight with this administration. But we won’t sit back when our Constitution, our laws, our people or our 800 miles of pristine coastline in California are threatened.”

**THANKS** to

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

14. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), a branch of the Department of Interior, declared the Canadian lynx recovered last week and said the wild cats no longer need special protections.  FWS said it will begin drafting a rule to revoke the lynx’s threatened listing across the lower 48 states under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This despite the fact that global warming is likely to put this species at further risk due to changes in its habitat.

**DEMAND** continued protection for the Canadian lynx from

• **Greg Sheehan**, Principle Deputy Director, FWS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240, (202) 208-6541

• **Senator John Barrasso** (R-WY), Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 307 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6441

• **Senator Thomas Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 513 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2441

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

• **Senator John Boozman** (R-AZ), Chair, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water and Wildlife, 141 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-4843

• **Senator Tammy Duckworth** (D-IL), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water and Wildlife, 524 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2854

15. In the 1980s, when the federal government last opened California Coastal waters to offshore drilling, the city of Santa Cruz came up with a clever way of hindering drilling that other cities and counties soon began following: Santa Cruz banned the building of any new onshore oil facilities, including pipelines, without a public vote. The logic was that offshore drill permits would be much less attractive to oil companies if they were unable to bring that oil to shore and to build facilities to process it. This ban was challenged by oil companies in court in the 1990s and upheld. Now the California Senate and Assembly both have before them bills that would institute such a policy statewide, SB 834 and AB 1775.

**URGE** your California Senator and Assemblyperson to support these bills

• **Senator Bill Monning**, 701 Ocean St., Suite 318A, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-5124

• **Assemblymember Anna Caballero** [Watsonville, Hollister, Salinas], 275 Main St., Suite 400, Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 768-3035

• **Assembly Member Mark Stone** [Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St., 318B, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-1503

16. Trump has re-nominated unqualified climate change denier Kathleen Hartnett to lead the White House Council on Environmental Quality after her nomination was returned to the President when the Senate closed the first session of the 115th Congress. We may recall that Hartnett White had a disastrous hearing last year. As Moyers & Co. reported in November “[Hartnett] falsely claims that climate science is ‘highly uncertain,’ characterizes it as the ‘dark side of a kind of paganism, the secular elite’s religion,’ and argues that the ‘climate crusade,’ if unchecked, would essentially destroy democracy.” Hartnett also promotes benefits of carbon emissions, claiming carbon dioxide “has none of the characteristics of a pollutant that could harm human health.” Hartnett wasn’t an appropriate choice in 2017. She’s an equally inappropriate choice in 2018.

**TELL** the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and your Senators to stand by their objections to this inappropriate appointment

• **Senator John Barrasso** (R-WY), Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 307 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6441

• **Senator Thomas Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 513 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2441

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

**ETHICS**

1. With reports from the New York Times that President Trump attempted to remove Special Counsel Robert Mueller last June, we need legislation that would prevent him from being able to do so. The Senate Judiciary Committee has held hearings on two bipartisan proposals, S 1735 and S 1741. Meanwhile, Senator Mitch McConnell claims that he isn’t hearing from people who want action taken to protect the special counsel.

**URGE** our Senators to support S 1735, S 1741, and any similar legislation

• **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

**CLARIFY** for Senator McConnell that a great many people *do* want special counsel protection

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

2. When he took office, Trump promised to donate any profits from spending by foreign governments at his self-branded hotel to the U.S. Treasury. In the past year, many foreign governments, particularly the governments of Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, and Kuwait, have spent significant sums for lodging and events in Trump’s Washingto DC hotel, but no donations to the Treasury have been forthcoming.

**REMINDERS** about this promise to

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

**QUESTIONS** about how they’re ensuring that Trump keeps his promises and avoids conflicts of interest to

• **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

3. Following the passage of the new tax bill, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan had a massive influx of cash, courtesy of the Charles Kock and his wife. Thirteen days after the tax plan passed, both Charles Koch and his wife made $247,000 donations to Team Ryan, which raises money for the congressman, the National Republican Congressional Committee and a political action committee run by Ryan. On the same day, they each also donated $237,000 to the Republican National Campaign Committee.

**CASTGATE** the Speaker for lining his own pockets and handing over our democracy to the highest bidder

• **Representative Paul Ryan** (R-WI), Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House office building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3031

4. Daniel Craig, senior vice-president of the disaster recovery firm Adjusters’ International was very briefly a nominee for a top Federal Emergency Management Agency post until NBC News revealed he had been under federal investigation for falsifying government travel and timekeeping records in 2005, when he worked for the Bush administration. He has remained working for Adjusters’ which—surprise, surprise—has just been awarded a $133 million contract for hurricane clean-up in Puerto Rico. The contact is funded by FEMA.

**DECRY** this conflict of interest

• **William B. “Brock” Long**, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C St. SW, Washington DC 20472, (202) 646-2500

• **John Kelly**, Acting Inspector General, Department of the Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security, Mailstop 0305, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0305, (800) 323-8603 (false claims reporting number)

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323

• **Senator Claire** McCaskill (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154

• **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2401

• **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5876

5. A photo shows Secretary of Energy Rick Perry embracing coal company executive Robert E. Murray at the end of a meeting. Additional photos from the same meeting show Perry holding a document on Murray Energy Corporation letterhead titled “Action Plan.” The photographer, Simon Edelman, has been fired from his position as a Department of Energy photographer since these images have surfaced in the press. He is currently challenging his dismissal under regulations protecting “whistle blowers.”

**REMINDERS** that he works for us and **DEMANDS** for reinstatement of Edelman

• **Rick Perry**, Secretary of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20585, (202) 586-5000

6. Over the winter holiday week, the Trump administration quietly waved fines owed by five banks for manipulating global interest rates. One of these was Deutsche Bank, which just happens to be owed $130+ million by Trump and his business empire and has been fined in the past for its role in Russian money laundering.

**REMIND** Trump we see what he’s up to

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

**URGE** your members of Congress to ask for an investigation of this unethical-appearing move by the administration

• **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

**GUNS**

1. School shooting, including suicides and shootings with multiple fatalities have already reached the double digits in 2018 (and that’s the number of *events*, not the number of people affected).

**ASK** Congressional leaders if we can try a remedy other than ‘Thoughts and prayers” and **CALL** for real action on gun legislation

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

• **Representative Paul Ryan** (R-WI), Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House office building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3031

**HEALTH**

1. While budget negotiations have saved the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for another six years, funding for the country’s 12,000 Community Health Centers, which provide low-cost healthcare to 25 million of us who do not qualify for Medicaid OR CHIP, is still in limbo.

**REMIND** our representatives and Congressional leaders that health insurance is meaningless without health centers at which to receive care

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

• **Representative Paul Ryan** (R-WI), Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House office building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3031

• **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

2. The RAISE (Recognize, Assist, Include, Support and Engage) Family Caregivers Act would direct Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop a national family caregiving strategy and establish a National Family Caregiving Council to advise HHS on family caregiving policy. The Act has been passed in the Senate and the House and awaits Trump’s signature.

**THANKS** to the bipartisan group responsible for this legislation

• **Senator Susan Collins** (R-ME), 413 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2523

• **Senator Tammy Baldwin** (D-WI), 709 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5653

• **Representative Gregg Harper** (R-MS), 2227 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5031

• **Representative Kathy Castor** (D-FL), 2052 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3376

**URGE** immediate signing

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

3. The Senate Finance Committee has moved the confirmation of Alex Azar as head of Health and Human Services to a vote of the full Senate. Azar is a former Eli Lilly executive, who opposes the Affordable Care Act and supports converting Medicaid from an entitlement program covering everyone who is eligible into block grants.

**TELL** our Senators to reject this nominee who will probably be more concerned about industry profits than the health of

• **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

4. In a move that defies logic (though there’s been a lot of that going around lately), the Trump Administration has halted a program that evaluates the effectiveness of substance abuse and behavioral health therapies. The National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs (NREPP) and Practices has been operated by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration the since 1997. NREPP maintained a database of 400+ programs treating substance abuse, teen depression, and parenting that have been validated by rigorous outcomes measures. No new body has been suggested to replace the NREPP or carry on its essential work.

**ADVOCATE** for the continued existence of this program

• **Senator Lamar Alexander** (R-TN), Chair, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, 405 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4944

• **Senator Patty Murray** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, 154 Russell Senate Office Building. Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2621

• **Senator Patrick J. Toomey** (R-PA), Chair, Finance Subcommittee on Healthcare, 248 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4254

• **Senator Debbie Stabenow** (D-MI), Ranking Member, Finance Subcommittee on Healthcare, 731 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4822

5. The Trump administration is beginning to grant waivers to states that want to require that Medicaid recipients work in order to receive benefits. Healthcare is a basic right; people shouldn’t have to prove they “deserve” it. While California will likely not be requesting a waiver, we can still let our officials know how we feel.

**ASSERT** a commitment to support access to healthcare by NOT requesting a waiver to add work rules

• **Mari Cantwell**, Chief Deputy Director, Health Care Programs, California Department of Healthcare Services, 1501 Capitol Ave., 6th floor, MS 0000, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 440-7418

• **Governor Edmund G. Brown**, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 558-3160

• **Senator Bill Monning**, 701 Ocean St., Suite 318A, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-5124

• **Assembly Member Anna Caballero** [Watsonville, Hollister, Salinas], 275 Main St., Suite 400, Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 768-3035

• **Assembly Member Mark Stone** [Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St., 318B, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-1503

**IMMIGRATION**

1. In a reprehensible display of hate and disrespect, Representative Paul Gosar called for the arrest of all Dreamers attending Trump’s State of the Union (or “Uniom”) Address.

CASTIGATION and REMINDERS that Dreamers are among the best of this nation’s people to

• **Representative Paul Gosar** (R-AZ), 2057 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2315

2. Since September 5, when Trump rescinded DACA, 122 DACA recipients have lost their protection every day

**REMIND** our Senators that any budget action without DACA is unacceptable

• **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

3. The Justice Department has demanded that sanctuary cities, counties, and states turn over documents on whether local law enforcement agencies are illegally withholding information from U.S. immigration authorities—and have said they will issue subpoenas is responses are not full and immediate. Watsonville is one of the cities receiving such a demand, as are San Francisco, Fremont, Berkeley, and Los Angeles. Demands have also been issued to Sonoma, Sacramento San Francisco, and Monterey counties.

**CONDEMN** this attack on the wishes of local governments and communities

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

• **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

4. Thank Harris and Feinstein for being among the eighteen Senators who stuck with “No DACA; no deal” during the January 22 Senate vote to extend the federal budget for an additional three weeks.

**THANKS** to

• **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

5. The Department of Homeland Security has announced (less than a week after the President’s “shithole” remarks) that Haitians will no longer be eligible for visas given to low-skilled workers.

**DECRY** this bigoted new policy that has nothing to do with “securing” the “homeland”

• **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154

• **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2401

• **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5876

6. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra has issued a reminder to California businesses not to violate the law by divulging employees’ private information to ICE

**THANKS** to

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

7. Border Patrol agents are supposed to ask a series of questions to ascertain whether an undocumented person is in danger. Supposed to. But often they don’t, resulting in deaths of individuals who had a right to asylum in the U.S. A team of a New Yorker writer and 12 graduate students have identified over sixty cases in which deportees were killed after being returned to their country of origin.

**DEMAND** adherence to practice that protects immigrants deserving asylum

• **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495

• **Thomas D. Homan**, Acting Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20536, organization public affairs (202) 732-4242

• **Derek Banner**, Acting Executive Associate Director, Homeland Security Investigations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20536, organization public affairs (202) 732-4242

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154

• **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2401

• **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5876

8. Recently Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raided 98 Seven-11 stores in 17 states, resulting in the arrests of 21 workers suspected of illegal employment.

**OBJECT** to this use of our taxes while vital federal functions languish for lack of funding

• **Thomas Homan**, Acting Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St. SW, Washington DC 20536, (888) 351-4024

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154

• **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2401

• **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5876

9. Two bills are currently before the California Senate that would strengthen protections for undocumented Californians. SB 183 prohibits actions by immigration agents in buildings owned or operated by the State of California. SB 691 requires that California educational institutions do not discriminate on the basis of immigration status.

**ENCOURAGE** support for this crucial legislation

• **Senator Bill Monning**, State Capitol, Room 313, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4917

10. Several recent news reports have highlighted border patrol agent’s routine vandalization of water, blankets, and supplies left in the desert for migrants, putting those attempting to cross the border in increased mortal risk. Daytime desert temperatures put migrants at risk of death due to dehydration. Nighttime deserts temperatures put migrants at risk of fatal hypothermia. Enforcing immigration law is one thing; deliberately exposing other to risk of death is another.

**TELL** the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Custom Enforcement that the American people do not want blood on their hands

• **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495

• **Thomas D. Homan**, Deputy Director and Senior Official, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20536, organization public affairs (202) 732-4242

• **Michael E. Horowitz**, Inspector General, Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 4706, Washington DC 20530

• **John V. Kelly**, Acting Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security, Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495

**ASK** our members of Congress to investigate this vandalism by border patrol agents, which is funded by our tax dollars

• **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

11. Representative. Debbie Dingell has invited Cindy Garcia, the wife of a 39-year-old Lincoln Park man deported to Mexico, as her guest at President Donald Trump’s State of the Union speech.

**THANKS** for keeping America’s immigrants in the public eye to

• **Representative Debbie Dingell** (D-MI), 116 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4071

12. Trump’s Department of Homeland Security has removed —or is considering removing—Temporary Protection Status (TPS) from Haitians, Hondurans, Nicaraguans, Salvadorans, and Sudanese. TPS is granted to nationals from countries badly hit by natural disasters or violent conflict and is considered a form of humanitarian aid. The TPS program was initiated by the Reagan administration. Since then, Presidents have consistently allowed those who qualify for TPS to remain in the U.S., so many recipients of TPS have been living in the U.S. for decades. They are productive members of our communities; many of their children have known no home other than the United States. While the granting of status may be tied to a particular event—say, an earthquake or a civil war—the fact is that many of these countries are unable to recover from disaster or are caught in violence due to U.S. interference. Countries in Central America in particular have suffered generations of mistreatment at U.S. hands in the form of U.S.-backed puppet governments and authoritarian regimes, of “aid” from the U.S.-run School of the Americas that often goes to keeping dictators in place, and of U.S. seizure of or underpayment for natural resources. To end TPS and to force people to return to homelands (which they may never have set foot in) that have been decimated by U.S. abuses exacerbates our already destructive role in this hemisphere.

**DEMAND** that the U.S. continue to welcome individuals qualifying for TPS

• **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154

• **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2401

• Representative Bennie Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5876

13. On January 10, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) executed a nationwide raid at ninety-eight 7-11 stores, in an attempt to round up undocumented workers, under Acting Director Thomas Homan's authority (currently under consideration as Director of ICE). Acting head of ICE’s Homeland Security Investigations Derek Banner threatened that “This is what we’re gearing up for this year and what you’re going to see more and more of is these large-scale compliance inspections, just for starters."

**DEMAND** an end to raids like this and (in the case of the Senators) opposition to Thomas Homans’ appointment

• **Thomas D. Homan**, Acting Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20536, organization public affairs (202) 732-4242

• **Derek Banner**, Acting Executive Associate Director, Homeland Security Investigations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20536, organization public affairs (202) 732-4242

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154

• **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2401

• **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5876

• **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

14. Representatives. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and Ruben Gallego (D-AZ) have called on the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) to enact standards to prevent the sort of abuses that led to Motel 6 allegedly profiling immigrants in Washington and Arizona and providing their names to Immigration and Customs Enforcement in violation of consumer rights and basic decency. Tell the AHLA that you share these Congressmembers’ concerns.

**DEMAND** immediate development and implementation of appropriate privacy standards from

• **American Hotel and Lodging Association**, 1250 Eye St.m NW, Suite 1100, Washington DC 20005, (202) 289-3100

15. Representative Nydia Velazquez’s HR4253, the American Promise Act of 2017, would allow most U.S. residents with Temporary Protection Status with a process to become permanent residents. Those who seek permanent status would be issued work permits while their requests were pending. The change in status would also apply to parents, children, and spouses of those granted permanent residency. HR4253 is currently before the Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee

**ADVOCATE** support for HR4253 from

• **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2309 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5431

• **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2109 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5635

• **Representative Raúl Labrador** (R-ID), Chair, House Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, 1523 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6611

• **Representative Zoe Lofgren** (D-CA), Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, 1401 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3072

**THANKS** to our Representative for cosponsoring HR 4253

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

16. The Trump administration has approved a plan to separate parents from their children when families are caught entering the country illegally. The move is meant to discourage border crossings, but immigrant groups have denounced it as inhumane. Currently, families are kept intact while awaiting a decision on whether they will be deported. The policy under discussion would send parents to adult detention facilities, while their children would be placed in shelters designed for juveniles or with a “sponsor.” In November, 7,000 “family units” were apprehended, as well as 4,000 “unaccompanied minors,” or children traveling without an adult relative. This fall, the White House convened a group of officials from two of its own offices — the National Security Council and the Domestic Policy Council — as well as from Homeland Security, the Department of Justice and the State Department, to look into ways to curtail border crossings, particularly those of children.

**COMPLAINTS** to

• **H. R. McMaster**, National Security Adviser, White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, comment line (202) 353-1555

• **Andrew P. Bremberg**, Director, Domestic Policy Council, Room 469, Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20502, 202-456-5594

• **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495

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

• **Secretary Rex Tillerson**, US Department of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520, (202) 647-4000

**INTERNATIONAL**

1. Trump’s reference to a number of countries as “shitholes” is deeply irresponsible and embarrassing to our country

**TELL** these countries that we don’t share Trump’s hateful views of them and **APOLOGIZE** for his ignorance and incivility

• **Her Excellency Ambassador Claudia Ivette Canjura**, Salvadoran Embassy, 1400 16th St., Washington DC 20036

• **His Excellency Ambassador Paul G. Altidor**, Embassy of Haiti, 2311 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20008

• **His Excellency Ambassador Babacar Diagne**, Senegalese Embassy, 2215 M St. NW, Washington DC 20037

• **His Excellency Ambassador David John Newman**, Embassy of the Republic of Botswana, 1531-1533 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington DC 20036

• **His Excellency Ambassador Ahmed Isse Awad**, Embassy of Somalia, 1705 DeSales St. NW, Ste. 300, Washington DC 20036-4421

• **His Excellency Dr. Barfuor Adjei-BarwuahGhana**, Embassy of Ghana, 3512 International Dr. NW, Washington DC 20008

• **The Honorable Sylvanus Adiewere Nsofor**, Ambassador, Embassy of Nigeria, 3519 International Ct. NW, Washington DC 20008

• **His Excellency Ambassador Martin Andjaba**, Namibian Embassy, 1605 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington DC 20009

• **His Excellency Mninwa Johannes Mahlangu**, Ambassador to America, Embassy of South Africa, 3051 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20008

• **His Excellency Ambassador Oliver Wonekha**, Embassy of the Republic of Uganda, 5911 16th St. NW, Washington DC 20011

• **His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat**, Chairperson, African Union Commission, Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations, 305 East 47 st., 5th Floor, New York, New York 10017

2. The New York Times has reported that the Pentagon has offered for the President’s signature a policy “that would allow the launch of nuclear weapons to respond to a wide range of devastating but non-nuclear attacks on American infrastructure, including what current and former government officials described as the most crippling kind of cyberattacks.”

**OBJECT** to this insanity and insist that the “button” must not be pushed, no matter how big it is

• **Senator John McCain** (R-AZ), Chair, Senate Armed Services Committee, 218 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2235

• **Senator Jack Reed** (D-RI), Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, 728 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4642

• **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

3. The bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Freedom of the Press has written to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson requesting that the State Department urge Burma to drop charges against and to release Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Seo Oo, who have been reporting on the plight of the Rohingya. Their letter reads in part” [The] arrest shows that the Burmese military is attempting to silence the atrocities it cannot deny. [J]ournalists have helped keep international pressure on Burma to end its violence. That is why we believe press freedom is essential to end this crisis.”

**GIVE SOME BACKUP** to the Caucus for the Freedom of the Press and ask Secretary Tillerson to take action

**• Secretary** Rex Tillerson, US Department of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520, (202) 647-4000

**INTERNET**

1. In 2017, the Federal Communications Commission assembled a Broadband Deployment Advisory Group. While sixty-four city and state officials were nominated for the panel, but the agency initially chose only two: Sam Liccardo, mayor of San Jose, California, and Kelleigh Cole from the Utah Governor’s Office. FCC head Ajit Pai later appointed another city official, Andy Huckaba, a member of the Lenexa, Kansas, city council, bringing the total representation for city and state representatives to 3. Business nominees appear to have had a much easier time finding a seat at the table. More than three out of four seats on the BDAC are filled by business-friendly representatives from the biggest wireless and cable companies such as AT&T Inc., Comcast Corp., Sprint Corp., and TDS Telecom. Crown Castle International Corp., the nation’s largest wireless infrastructure company, and Southern Co., the nation’s second-largest utility firm, have representatives on the panel. Also appointed to the panel were broadband experts from conservative think tanks who have been critical of FCC regulations such as the International Center for Law and Economics and the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

**DECRY** the domination of a committee that should serve the public by industry representatives

• **Ajit Pai**, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th St. SW, Washington DC 20554, 888-CALL-FCC

• **Senator John Thune**, Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, 511 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510

• **Senator Bill Nelson**, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, 716 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510

• **Senator Roger Wicker** (R-MS), Chair, Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet Subcommittee, 555 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6253

• **Senator Brian Schatz** (D-HI), Ranking Member, Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet Subcommittee, 722 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3934

2. In the wake of the repeal of net neutrality, California is considering its own net neutrality legislation. Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León on Thursday introduced his own bill (SB 460) to force Internet service companies operating within the state to adhere to net neutrality rules that were overturned nationally last month by the Federal Communications Commission. Senator Scott Wiener introduced a similar bill (SB 822) co-authored by a dozen state Senate and Assembly members.

**URGE** our state Assemblymembers and Senators to support net neutrality legislation

• **Senator Bill Monning**, State Capitol, Room 313, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4017

• **Assemblymember Anna Caballero** [Watsonville, Salinas, Hollister], State Capitol, PO Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0300, (916) 319-2030

• **Assemblymember Mark Stone** [Santa Cruz], State Capitol, PO Box 982049, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 319-2029

3. While many in Congress—and many of us ordinary Americans—fight to restore net neutrality, Representative Marsha Blackburn has introduced HR4682, the deceptively titled “Open Internet Preservation Act.” This legislation would prohibit net neutrality laws from being enacted, thereby relying on internet providers to self-regulate. HR4682 currently has 21 Republican cosponsors; no Democratic Representatives have signed on as cosponsors. The legislation is currently before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

**DENOUNCE** this business giveaway that will wind up costing almost every American

• **Representative Greg Walden** (R-OR), Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2185 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6730

• **Representative Joe Barton** (R-TX), Vice Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2107 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2002

• **Representative Frank Pallone**, Jr. (D-NJ), Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 237 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4671

**CHASTISE** the one California cosponsor (who should know better, given the role of the state in the development of the internet)

•**Representative Stephen Knight** (R-CA), 1023 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-1956

4. Following up on its repeal of net neutrality, the Federal Communications Commission is proposing changes to the definition of “broadband” that are both misleading and potentially expensive for consumers. As Motherboard explains, “Currently, the FCC defines broadband connection as 25Mbps download speeds and 3Mbps upload speeds minimum. The new proposal would keep these minimums in place for fixed wireline broadband but also expand the definition to include cell phone data coverage. This would not only camouflage many of the communities in the US with no access to the internet, but could prevent them from getting necessary funding to build that access. Cell service is often slower, more expensive, and comes with data caps, and even tethering a computer to a phone for internet isn’t a long-term solution, especially for families with multiple people trying to log on at once to do homework, or work, or watch Netflix.”

**TELL** the FCC Commissioners what you think of this proposal

• **FCC Chair Ajit Pai**

• **Commissioner Michael O’Rielly**

• **Commissioner Brendan Carr**

• **Commissioner Mignon Clyburn**

• **Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel**

**ALL** of the above can be contacted at

Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th St. NW, Washington DC 20554

**ALERT** your members of Congress that if this rule change goes through, you want formal Congressional Review Act resolution to overturn the new definitions

• **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

**JUDICIARY**

1. According to Sen. Cory Booker, Thomas Farr, currently up for a position as a federal judge, “has spent much of his legal career undermining civil rights and voting protections for people of color.” As an attorney, Farr has defended biased redistricting and voter ID laws. He was also employed by the late Senator Jesse Helms. Like several other nominees, he has been re-nominated this year after his appointment did not go through in 2017.

**TELL** the Senate Judiciary Committee that Farr is no more acceptable in 2018 than he was in 2017

• **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

2. Jeff Sessions is preparing to enforce federal marijuana laws in state that have approved the use of marijuana for medical and/or recreational use through votes of the people.

**TELL** him to focus on something that’s a real threat (maybe Civic Rights violations?)

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

3. In an attempt to rush through less-than-ideal nominees for federal judge positions around the country before a possible government shutdown, Sen. Grassley is getting some heat. The fact that so many of these nominees are anti-civil rights is also alarming.

**TELL** Senate Judiciary Committee to tell them we do not want any more judicial confirmations until resolution of Mueller investigation.

• **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

4. Anti-gay, pro-torture Howard C. Nielson, Jr., has fought efforts to ensure equality in education for people of color; has advocated against regulating greenhouse gases; has frequently litigated against the Affordable Care Act; and has defended severe burdens on women’s exercise of their reproductive rights. Now he’s Trump’s nominee for a federal judgeship in the Utah district. His nomination is currently before the Senate Judiciary Committee

**OPPOSE** the appointment of this bigot to a lifetime position as a Federal Judge

• **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

5. Democratic vacancies on the Senate Judiciary Committee have finally been filled. The appointees, Senators Harris and Booker, are the first African Americans to serve on this Committee since the 1990s.

**WELCOME** new Judiciary Committee members

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

• **Senator Cory A. Booker** (D-NJ), 359 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3224

6. Ruth Bader-Ginsburg gave us all a lift when she announced she’s hired law clerks through 2020, letting both her fans and the Trump administration know that they can continue counting on her to defend both our Constitution and our basic human dignity.

**THANKS** to

• **Justice Ruth Bader-Ginsburg**, Supreme Court of the United States, 1 First St. NE, Washington DC 20543, (202) 479-3000

7. Trump is asking Congress to once again consider one of his most controversial nominees for a federal judgeship. Thomas Alvin Farr, was nominated to serve on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. Farr is a former protégé of Jesse Helms with strong ties to white supremacists. As counsel for Mr. Helms’s Senate campaigns, Farr participated in racist tactics to intimidate African-American voters. A New York Times op-ed notes that “Mr. Farr has carried on Mr. Helms’s legacy by helping North Carolina’s Republican-led Legislature create and defend in court discriminatory voting restrictions and electoral districts, which were eventually struck down by numerous federal courts that found them to be motivated by intentional racism. In fact, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit found that the state’s 2013 voter suppression law was aimed at blacks with ‘almost surgical precision.’” In 2017 Farr’s nomination passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on a party-line vote, but was not approved by the full Senate. Now, his nomination is once more before the Judiciary Committee.

**ARGUE** that bigotry of this kind has no place on the federal bench

• **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

8. Donald Trump has resubmitted 21 judicial nominees to the Senate whose nominations expired in 2017―including two rated “not qualified” to be federal judges by the American Bar Association (ABA). Charles Goodwin and Holly Teeter are among those in the president’s re-nominations. The ABA has rated Goodwin, Trump’s nominee to a lifetime seat on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, unqualified to fulfill the demands of a federal judge given his “work habits.” The ABA also rated Teeter, Trump’s nominee to a lifetime seat on the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, not qualified based on her lack of trial court experience.

**DEMAND** that the Senate Judiciary Committee reject these unqualified nominees

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

**RUSSIA**

1. The Senate voted 98-2 for the Russia Sanctions bill.  The House voted 419-3 for the Russia Sanctions bill. Trump, saying there is no need for action, has now missed two deadlines for implementing the sanctions required by these passed bills, which were to punish Russia for past election meddling and to help stave off future meddling. By not taking the voted-upon sanctions seriously, Trump is aiding and abetting the Russian hack on our Democracy all while the CIA has already said that Russia will interfere with our 2018 elections.

**TELL** Trump to honor the separate powers outlined in the Constitution and to follow through on these bills

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

**DEMAND** that Senate and House leadership pressure Trump to follow through on sanctions

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

• **Representative Paul Ryan** (R-WI), Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House office building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3031

**ASK** our Congresspeople to keep attention on this issue and to continue pushing for sanctions

• **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

2. In a recent press conference, Sarah Huckabee Sanders claimed that “poll after poll” says that nobody cares about the Trump-Russia investigation, this despite dozens of reliable polls showing this issue to be of deep concern to Americans. She’s also stated that “Americans are sick and tired of being inundated with ‘Russia fever.’”

**QUESTION** what polls she has been looking at and **TELL** her it’s the cover-up we’re tired of, not the investigation

• **Sarah Huckabee Sanders**, White House Press Secretary, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, White House comment line (202) 456-1111

3. In response to the poorly documented and partisan Nunes memo, House Minority Leader Adam Schiff has written his own memo, laying out the inaccuracies and omissions in the Nunes memo.

**THANK** Schiff for producing his memo and defending integrity in government

• **Representative Adam Schiff** (D-CA), House Minority Leader, 2372 Rauburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4176

**TELL** Nunes to release the Schiff memo now

• **Representative Devin Nunes** (R-CA), Chair House Intelligence and Oxymorons Committee, 1013 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2523

4. Let Paul Ryan know Devin Nunes is unfit to chair the House Intelligence Committee because of his lack of respect for security and his partisan use of the position.

NOTIFICATIONS to

• **Representative Paul Ryan** (R-WI), Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House office building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3031

**SCIENCE**

1. The Huffington Post reported that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), headed by Scott Pruitt, issued a directive in October 2017 prohibiting anyone receiving funding from the agency from serving on its advisory panels. The Union of Concerned Scientists and Dr. Elizabeth Sheppard, a professor at the University of Washington and member of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee are suing, arguing that the directive amounts to delegitimizing science in violation of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Because in many fields of environmental science, the EPA is essentially the only available source of funding, this directive neatly excises scientists not funded independently (in other words, by corporations), eliminating important voices critical of corporate polluters.

**PROTEST** this exclusion from advisory panels of many of our most knowledgeable scholars and researchers

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

• **Senator John Barrasso** (R-WY), Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 307 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6441

• **Senator Thomas Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 513 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2441

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

2. A major Trump donor and climate change denier, Rebekah Mercer, has joined the board of trustees of the American Museum of Natural History, inspiring an outcry from scientists and tenured curators. Boards of Trustees are usually composed of the wealthy, which Mercer certainly is, but she has also deliberately rejected scientific consensus, which makes her an inappropriate trustee for any organization with a scientific mission.

**URGE** that Mercer be removed from the board

• **Lewis W. Bernard**, Chairman, Board of Trustrees, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., NY, NY 10024-5192, Museum contact number (212) 769-5192

• **Ellen V. Futter**, President, Board of Trustrees, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., NY, NY 10024-5192, Museum contact number (212) 769-5192

3. Trump’s nominee for the head of NASA has been approved by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on a 14-13 party-line vote. The full Senate will now have to vote on the appointment. The nominee, Representative Jim Bridenstine (R-OK) would be the first member of Congress to oversee NASA, politicizing the position in a way that hasn’t been done before. Bridenstine has been a climate-change denier, who has previously proposed legislation to remove Earth Science from NASA’s mission. He has now acknowledged that climate change exists, but questions the significance of humans’ role in this.

**SHARE** your concerns about Bridenstine’s ability to serve effectively in a position for which he lacks the scientific qualifications with

• **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

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE**

1. Senator Dianne Feinstein’s (D-CA) S 534, Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, requires amateur athletics governing bodies to report sex-abuse allegations and otherwise protects young athletes from abuse. It passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent on November 14, 2017.  The House’s similar version of the bill, HR 1973, passed in May, but nothing has been done to reconcile these bills, a process that must happen before this legislation can be sent on for the President’s signature. Children’s lives and futures are at stake. It’s up to Paul Ryan and Mitch McConnell to schedule reconciliation.

**INSIST** that reconciliation for S 534and HR 1973 be prioritized

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

• **Representative Paul Ryan** (R-WI), Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House office building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3031

2. Senator Mazie Hirono, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has stated on Twitter that she’s asking nominees to our courts, under oath, whether they have a history of sexual assault or harassment. We can’t compel honesty, but we can make the repercussions for lying as significant as possible.

**THANK**

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

3. In an innovative move, Texas (yes, Texas!) has begun allowing driver’s license applicants to make a donation of $1 or more to a fund dedicated to processing the state’s backlog of rape test kits. The program went into effect on January 8 and had already raised over $25,000 by January 25. California does have a rape kit backlog, though it’s hard to find details on the size of the backlog. California already allows donations to select nonprofits via state tax forms—certainly rape kit processing deserves being brought to the public’s attention in a similar way.

**CONTACT** state representatives and officials to encourage legislation/policy offering Californians to make a difference in the way Texans currently can

• **Senator Bill Monning**, State Capitol, Room 313, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4017

• **Assemblymember Anna Caballero** (Watsonville), State Capitol, PO Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0300, (916) 319-2030

• **Assemblymember Mark Stone** (Santa Cruz), State Capitol, PO Box 982049, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 319-2029

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

4. Jackie Speier’s HR 4396, the ME TOO Congress Act,calls for tough anti-sexual harassment measures that include providing a victims-supportive environmentallowing victims of sexual harassment to get legal counsel paid for by Congress, and mandating that harassers repay the federal government within 90 days for any settlements. Failure to make a repayment would result in garnishing of wages, retirement plans, and, if necessary, Social Security. Jimmy Panetta has signed on as one of 150 co-sponsors.

**THANKS** to

• **Representative Jackie Speier** (D-CA), 2465 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3531

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