2018.06 Final

CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

In a letter, Democrat Senator Jeff Merkley and Republican Senator Pat Toomey have demanded that the FCC investigate identify theft and fraudulent use of the identities of two million Americans—including the two Senators themselves—in public comments for net neutrality. This potentially criminal activity briefly received media attention several months ago, but has long been shoved aside to make room for the disinfotainment of the day.

**JOIN** the Senators in demanding an explanation of how these thefts happened and what impact they had on the FCC’s decision to end net neutrality

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

• **Mignon Clyburn**, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th St. SW, Washington DC 20554, 888-CALL-FCC

• **Michael O’Reilly**, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th St. SW, Washington DC 20554, 888-CALL-FCC

• **Brendan Carr**, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th St. SW, Washington DC 20554, 888-CALL-FCC

• **Jessica Rosenworcel**, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th St. SW, Washington DC 20554, 888-CALL-FCC

From *Rogan’s List*: “Avoid at ALL COSTS any mention or implication of AI,” the chief scientist for A.I. at Google Cloud wrote in an email to colleagues, “Weaponized AI is probably one of the most sensitized topics of AI—if not THE most.” Concern about the implications of military contracts has prompted Google to promise “ethical guidelines” for the development of military AI, though we don’t yet know what they’ll say, and it has been reported now that employees have been told Google will not take on any new military A.I. projects. Meanwhile, Microsoft and Amazon, however, are said to be enthusiastically pursuing lucrative Pentagon work.

**TELL** these tech giants that we do not want artificial intelligence playing any part in warfare:

• **Google**, 1600 Amphitheatre Pkwy, Mountain View, CA 94043, (650) 253-0000 or

• **Amazon**, 410 Terry Ave. North, Seattle, WA 98109-5210, (206) 266-1000 or

• **Microsoft**, 1 Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052, (425) 882-8080

From *Rogan’s List*: We’ve all used testimonials, reviews, etc. to help us make good consumer decisions.  The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) maintains a Consumer Complaint Database that helps us evaluate financial products/services. CFPB’s “acting director Mick Mulvaney told a large crowd of bankers gathered in Washington that he doesn’t have to run a ‘Yelp for financial services, sponsored by the federal government.’” A group of 35 Democratic Senators—including our own Feinstein and Harris—have asked Mulvaney to keep the database public

**INFORM** Mulvaney that we need information that helps us make good decisions about our financial futures

• **Mick Mulvaney**, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G St. NW, Washington DC 20552, (202) 411-2372

**THANK** our Senators for being signatories to this letter

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

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

From *Rogan’s List*: Florida Senators Marco Rubio (R) and Bill Nelson (D) have introduced the “Sober Home Fraud Detection Act” (S. 2828—full title “A bill to develop and identify indicators of potentially fraudulent and disreputable recovery housing operators, and for other purposes”). The bill is seen as a small step forward as lawmakers figure out how to regulate the industry, which has been plagued by misleading marketing and insurance fraud.

**ASK** our Senators to co-sponsor or support S. 2828 to help protect vulnerable consumers

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

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

The *New York Times* reports that “Members of a special team at the Education Department that had been investigating widespread abuses by for-profit colleges have been marginalized, reassigned or instructed to focus on other matters, according to current and former employees.

The unwinding of the team has effectively killed investigations into possibly fraudulent activities at several large for-profit colleges where top hires of Betsy DeVos, the education secretary, had previously worked. During the final months of the Obama administration, the team had expanded to include a dozen or so lawyers and investigators who were looking into advertising, recruitment practices and job placement claims at several institutions, including DeVry Education Group. The investigation into DeVry ground to a halt early last year. Later, in the summer, Ms. DeVos named Julian Schmoke, a former dean at DeVry, as the team’s new supervisor. Now only three employees work on the team, and their mission has been scaled back to focus on processing student loan forgiveness applications and looking at smaller compliance cases.”

**DEMAND** that abuses by for-profit colleges be taken seriously, investigated, and, when appropriate, prosecuted

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

Now that Trump’s man Mick Mulvaney is in charge, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is shutting down the division focused on protecting student loan borrowers from abuses by loan servicers, debt collectors and predatory lenders, undermining protections for 44 million people with student debt. This move resembles Mulvaney’s February decision to fold the CFPB’s fair lending division into the bureau’s consumer education office. He has, of course, the full backing of Betsy DeVos’s Department of Education, which has opposed state efforts to regulate student loan companies and refuses to collaborate with the CFPB in its oversight of loan servicers. Given that student debt in the US has just reached $1.5 trillion, we should loudly protest this move

**PROTEST** this move to make student borrowers easier targets for unscrupulous lenders

• **Mick Mulvaney**, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G St. NW, Washington DC 20552, (202) 411-2372

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

**REQUEST** that our Congresspeople monitor this situation carefully to see that our nation’s students are protected

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

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

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

ETHICS

From *What the Fuck Just Happened Today*: **The White House is not cooperating with the Government Accountability Office (GAO),** the government's chief watchdog**.** The GAO sent a letter to White House counsel Don McGahn earlier this month noting that attorneys for the White House and the National Security Council won't respond to GAO inquiries. The GAO says it has sought information about vacancies at the inspector general's office, the president's security and travel costs, and the NSC's conflict-prevention efforts abroad.

**TEL**L Trump and McGahn to obey the law

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

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

**REQUEST** that our Congresspeople push for investigation of this unacceptable recalcitrance on the part of 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

Add one more item to the list of Jared Kushner’s failures to disclose information he is legally required to provide. In this case, on financial records he filed with the Office of Government Ethics, he failed to disclose his role as a co-director of the Charles and Seryl Kushner Foundation from 2006 to 2015, a time when the group funded an Israeli settlement considered to be illegal under international. *Newsweek* reports that “The latest development follows reports… indicating the White House senior adviser attempted to sway a United Nations Security Council vote against an anti-settlement resolution passed just before Donald Trump took office, which condemned the structure of West Bank settlements. The failure to disclose his role in the foundation—at a time when he was being tasked with serving as the president’s Middle East peace envoy—follows a pattern of egregious omissions that would bar any other official from continuing to serve in the West Wing.”

**CALL** for an investigation of the failure to disclose that is clearly relevant to the work Trump has assigned to Kushner

• **Walter M. Shaub Jr.**, Director, Office of Government Ethics, 1201 New York Ave. NW, Suite 500, Washington DC 20005, (202) 482-9300

The Scotsman reported that Trump’s Scottish resort has received £5,600 in U.S. government funds for VIP visits by administration officials.

**DENOUNCE** this evidence of blatant profiteering and ethical failure by the administration and **CALL** for an ethics investigation

• **Walter M. Shaub Jr.**, Director, Office of Government Ethics, 1201 New York Ave. NW, Suite 500, Washington DC 20005, (202) 482-9300

• **Gene L. Dodaro**, U.S. Comptroller General, Government Accountability Office, 441 G St. NW, Washington DC 20548, (202) 512-3000

• **Representative Trey Gowdy** (R-SC), Chair, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5074

• **Representative Elijah Cummings** (D-MD), Ranking Member, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5074

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) inspector general has announced an investigation of EPA head Scott Pruitt’s use of non-public email accounts to assess whether he is keeping a record of his emails, as is mandated by federal law, and whether the EPA is searching all his accounts when fulfilling public records requests.

**THANKS** for undertaking this investigation to

• **Arthur A. Elkins, Jr.**, Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Mail Code: 2410T Washington, D.C. 20460-0001, (202) 566-0847

The Trump administration affirmed its commitment to nepotism by nominating Gordon Hartogensis to lead the federal agency that pays worker pensions when employers terminate their retirement plans, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). The PBGC runs separate insurance programs for single- and multi-employer pension plans. Both owe more in future liabilities than they have in assets, though the program for single employers is expected to reach balance by 2022. The multi-employer program, however, had assets of only $2.3 billion and liabilities of $67 billion as of September 30, according to congressional testimony by Tom Reeder, current head of the PBGC and an Obama appointee. And back to the nepotism charges—Hartogensis is the brother-in-law of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao (who—nepotism bonus!—are also husband and wife).

**TELL** McConnell that any support he gives Hartogensis’s nomination will only confirm the lack of ethical standards he’s displayed throughout his political career

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

**ASK** our Senators to oppose this appointment if an when it comes for a vote before the full Senate

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

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

The *New York Times* reports, “The new director of the Federal Trade Commission’s consumer protection unit, a watchdog with broad investigative powers over private companies, stands out even in an administration prone to turning over regulatory authority to pro-industry players.

The director, Andrew M. Smith, has recently represented Facebook, Uber and Equifax—all companies with matters before the commission—and plans to recuse himself from dozens of cases now that he has been confirmed for the post…. And in 2012, Mr. Smith was also part of the legal team that defended AMG Services, the payday lender founded by the convicted racketeer Scott Tucker, whose predatory practices against impoverished borrowers eventually led to a $1.3 billion court-ordered settlement, the biggest in the Commission’s history.”

**INFORM** Smith that you and other Americans will be closely following his work in this position

• **Andrew M. Smith**, Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20580, (202) 326-2222

**ASK** careful, critical monitoring of Smith’s work by key Judiciary Committee members

• **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

• **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

• **Senator Lindsey Graham** (R-SC), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

• **Senator Cory Booker** (D-NJ), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

Historically, Senators have returned a “Blue slip” for nominees to the federal judiciary who would be appointed in their states. No blue slip—the nomination didn’t go forward. Senator Chuck Grassley, (R-IA) Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, used the blue-slip process to reject several nominees from President Obama. However, now that the Republicans are in the White House, this is the second time he is ignoring Senate protocol and proceeding with a nomination despite home-state objections, in this case from Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI). In addition, in nominating Brennan, the Trump administration ignored the Wisconsin Federal Nominating Commission, in place since 1979. The Commission vets potential federal judicial nominees, approving the potential nomination of any candidate supported by five out of the six commissioners. Brennan was nominated before the Commission met, and when the Commission met Brennan failed to get the required five out of six votes. Brennan believes that federal judges do not have to honor precedents they disagree with. He has celebrated Supreme Court decisions that have weakened civil rights. Brennan shares with many other Trump nominees a history of troubling comments about women and LGBT people. Nevertheless, Michael Brennan has been confirmed to the judiciary on a 49-46 vote.

**DEMAND** a bipartisan process for all judicial nominations that continues to honor the blue-slip tradition

• **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

From *Rogan’s List*: “Before Jimmy Carter became president, he turned his peanut farm over to a blind trust so there would be no possibility of a conflict of interest. Trump not only refused to do this with his businesses, but he is openly profiting from them while holding office.”

**TELL** Congressional leaders and our Congresspeople that it is time to legislate exactly what a person must do before taking office to maintain the no conflict of interest standard

• **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

The fact that we have an avalanche of ugliness and threats to democracy on our plates shouldn’t cause use to forget the basics.

**REMIND** Trump you still want him to show us his taxes

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

RUSSIA and RELATED SCANDALS

In mid-May Congressional Democrats released 3500+ Facebook Ads that were purchased by Russia's infamous Internet Research Agency. Half of those ads sought to divide us over racial issues, trying to exploit one of our biggest cultural vulnerabilities All indications are that Russia will continue these kinds of information attacks. The Honest Ads Act (S. 1989), a piece of proposed legislation that Mark Zuckerberg himself endorses, “enhance the integrity of American democracy and national security by improving disclosure requirements for online political advertisements in order to uphold the United States Supreme Court’s well-established standard that the electorate bears the right to be fully informed.”

**TELL** our Senators we want to know the source of political advertising we encounter online, just as is currently required of television and radio political advertising

• **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

**Senate Democrats have called for a multi-agency inspector general investigation into the Trump administration's failure to implement mandated sanctions against Russia**. In a letter addressed to the inspectors general of the State Department, Treasury Department and Intelligence Community, Democratic lawmakers said the administration has not complied with the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act.

**ADD** your own call for an investigation of the administration’s refusal to respect the law

• **Steve A. Linick**, Inspector General, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of State, P.O. Box 9778, Arlington, VA 22219, (202) 663-0340

• **Eric M. Thorson**, Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC, 20220, (202) 622-1090

• **Wayne Stone**, Acting Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, Reston 3 room E220, Washington DC 20511, (571) 204-8149

From *Rogan’s List*: Senators Ed Markey (D-MA) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) have called for a Congressional investigation into AT&T’s payments to Trump lawyer Michael Cohen’s shell company, Essential Consultants, raising the question of how this might have impacted the FCC’s decision to repeal net neutrality. Despite vague statements from AT&T and Novartis (another company that made payments to Essential Consultants)—both of which would have benefitted from access to Trump—we don’t yet know what this money paid for. The legal agreements between AT&T and Novartis and Essential Consultants must be disclosed if we are to find out what services they hoped to obtain and what services were in fact provided. Let’s demand that these agreements be made public.

**ASK** our Congresspeople to support the investigation proposed by Markey and Blumenthal and to fight to suspend the repeal of net neutrality regulations until this investigation has been completed

• **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

**INSIST** that AT&T and Novartis explain the nature of their payments to Essential Consultants

• **Randall Stephenson**, CEO, AT&T 208 S. Akard St., Dallas TX 75202, (210) 821-4105

• **Vasant Narasiham**, CEO, Novartis AG, 230 Park Ave., NYC 10169, (862) 778-2100

Things continue to heat up in the Trump/Russia/Election/Obstruction/Corruption investigation. **REMIND** Congressional leaders and our Congresspeople that we want protection for Robert Mueller and Rob Rosenstein

• **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

By time I finish typing this, we’ll probably have had another dozen news flashes… With news breaking almost hourly about ties between Michael Cohen’s shell company, Essential Consultants, and the monies it has received from both Russians and U.S. corporations, we need critical, thoroughgoing attention to all the transactions Essential Consultants has engaged in and all monies the company has received.

**ASK** for an ethics review of Michael Cohen from

• **Sharon Stern Gerstman**, Present, New York State Bar Association, One Elk St., Albany, NY 12207, (518) 463-3200

• **Michael Miller**, President-Elect, New York State Bar Association, One Elk St., Albany, NY 12207, (518) 463-3200

**ASK** for investigation of the legality of Essential Consultants’ activities in California from

• **Xavier Becerra**, California Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, Attn: Public Inquiry Unit, P.O. Box 944255, Sacramento, CA 94244-2550, (916) 445-9555

**TELL** our Congresspeople that we want them to sink their teeth into these activities and not let go

• **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

HEALTHCARE

Dr. Robert Redfield, President Donald Trump’s choice to lead the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has previously expressed his belief that AIDS is God’s judgment upon homosexuals and spread through the U.S. due to lax family values. Redfield also worked closely with the Christian organization Americans for a Sound AIDS/HIV Policy (ASAP) in the 1980s. In the 1990s, Redfield supported H.R. 2788 that would have subjected HIV positive individuals to loss of professional licenses and, effectively, quarantine.

**INSIST** that this kind of ignorance and hatred has no place in the highest levels of our nation’s health care planning and epidemic disease response

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

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

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

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

From *Rogan’s List*: To the great relief of big pharma, Trump’s feeble new plan to lower drug prices forbids Medicare—which represents 60 million people and, in 2015, 30% of all prescription drug spending—from negotiating lower drug prices. Instead, Trump singled out foreign governments that “extort unreasonably low prices from U.S. drugmakers” by using price controls—somehow blaming them for the fact that the US has the world’s highest drug prices.

**EXPLAIN** that the only route to reining in our exorbitant drug costs is to allow Medicare to use its enormous negotiating power

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

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

Congress recently approved funding for CHIP guaranteeing healthcare for the next ten years for the 9 million children in this country who depend on it. They deliberated on this funding for months with children’s lives hanging in the balance. Now CHIP is under attack again. A White House proposal that the *Washington Post* says is motivated by “hope that it will temper conservative angst over ballooning budget deficits” would cancel $5 billion authorized to bolster reimbursements to states for children’s health care costs, and another $2 billion from a contingency fund for states with funding shortfalls because of higher-than-expected enrollment. The White House claims that these cuts would have no effect on children’s healthcare. However, a statement by the American Academy of Pediatrics states that these cuts would violate the bipartisan agreement just reached by Congress. It would cut funding states rely on when natural disasters hit and during times of economic recession when there are spikes in CHIP enrollment. Once the president recommends a rescission, Congress has 45 days to approve the request. It needs only a majority vote in each chamber to pass.

**DECRY** this betrayal of hard-won funds for CHIP and other essential programs and ask our Congresspeople to speak up in opposition to it

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

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

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

**In a move against Planned Parenthood (and affordable healthcare and women and…), the Trump administration has announced it will withhold federal funding for family planning clinics that provide abortions or refer patients to places that perform them** in a change to how Title X family planning funds are awarded. The rule will resurrect a Reagan-era policy that requires abortion services to have "separate personnel" and require a "bright line" of "physical separation" from other family planning services. Title X currently serves about 4 million women a year.

**INSIST** on resistance against this “domestic gag rule” and CONDEMN cutting off funding for women’s health clinics because they educate patients on their full reproductive options from

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

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

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

The *Washington Post Reports*: On May 10, “the top White House official responsible for leading the U.S. response in the event of a deadly pandemic has left the administration, and the global health security team he oversaw has been disbanded under a reorganization by national security adviser John Bolton. The abrupt departure of Rear Adm. Timothy Ziemer from the National Security Council means no senior administration official is now focused solely on global health security. Ziemer’s departure, along with the breakup of his team, comes at a time when many experts say the country is already underprepared for the increasing risks of a pandemic or bioterrorism attack…. White House homeland security adviser Tom Bossert, who had called for a comprehensive biodefense strategy against pandemics and biological attacks, is out completely. He left the day after Bolton took over [in April].” As if to underline the possible consequences of Ziemer’s exit, on the same day the World Health Organization announced a new breakout of Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

**EXPLAIN** (though it shouldn’t be necessary) that the U.S. needs people like Ziemer to lead our response to global disease outbreaks which can easily be spread (including to the U.S.) with the current ease of intercontinental travel

• **John Bolton**, National Security Adviser, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

• **Senator Todd Young** (R-IN), Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy, and Environmental Policy, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

• **Senator Jeff Merkley** (D-OR), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy, and Environmental Policy, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

GUNS

From Rogan’s List: The *Journal of Urban Health* has published analysis which shows that approximately 4.6 million children live in a home with unlocked, loaded guns. Meanwhile, a meta-analysis of available research shows that Child Access Prevention (CAP) laws, are the most effective policies in reducing suicide and unintentional injuries and death. However, there are no CAP laws in place at the federal level, and 23 states do not have CAP laws.

**TELL** our Congresspeople that we want them to introduce legislation to address children's access to firearms.

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

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

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

The Police Office Protecting Children Act, H.R. 2513, would allow off-duty and retired cops to concealed carry a weapon on school grounds or in a school zone — as long as the school authorizes it. The measure would only increase the likelihood of a dangerous or even fatal situation in a school . It also ignores the fact that some school shootings like last year’s in Parkland, Florida occurred even with on-the-job safety officials there. H.R.2513 is currently before the House Judiciary Committee.

**TELL** leaders of the House Judiciary Committee that you want them to oppose this dangerous legislation

• **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

**ASK** our Representative to fight it, should it come to the floor of the House

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

S.2009, the Background Check Expansion Act would, as its name suggests, require a background check for every gun sale. The American people overwhelmingly want universal background checks and want them now. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, however, id blocking any gun control legislation from coming to the floor of the House.

**ASK** our Representative to do use whatever tools he has at his disposal to work around Paul Ryan to ensure that this matter comes to a vote

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

**DEMAND** that Ryan bring S.2009 to the floor of the House

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

Simple fact, as reported by the Washington Post: More people have been killed at schools this year than have been killed while serving in the military. Soldiers realize they may be putting their lives at risk through military service. Children should not face the same risk in order to attend school.

**SHARE** this datum with key political figures, including

• **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 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

INTERNATIONAL

Trump has **nominated immigration hard-liner Ronald Mortensen to become the next assistant secretary of state for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. Mortensen is a fellow at the immigrant-hostile Center for Immigration Studies (CIS). Among Mortensen’s more egregious acts as part of CIS—he has written that Dream Act recipients should pay restitution to U.S. taxpayers for illicit use of Social Security numbers, has claimed a link between undocumented (not the adjective he chose to use) immigrants living in the U.S. and identity theft, and has called “the myth of the Law-abiding illegal alien… just that: a myth.” Someone with these attitudes is the last person who should be in charge of programs for immigrants and refugees.**

**REQUEST** that our Senators to do all they can to oppose his confirmation

• **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

Tony Perkins, notorious as head of the anti-LGBT Family Research Council and vociferous in his anti-Muslim sentiments, has been appointed to the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) by Senator Mitch McConnell. Perkins is just the latest Republican appointment to the USCIRF since Trump took office to attract condemnation from LGBTQ and civil rights advocates.

**TELL** McConnell and the Chair of USCIRF what we think of this appointment

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

• **Daniel Mark**, Chair USCIRF, 32 North Capitol St NW, Washington, DC 20002, (202) 523-3240

As the U.S. opened its new Israeli Embassy in Jerusalem, endorsing the view that Jerusalem is solely the capital of Israel (contrary to positions held by the United Nations and the European Union ) and reversing decades-long US policy, the Israeli army was killing Palestinian protestors. The protests—and killings—marked the “Nakba,” commemorating the more than 700,000 Palestinians who fled or were expelled from their homes in 1948 with Israel’s creation. The more than 50 people killed included an eight-month-old infant, teen teenagers, and adults ranging in age from twenty to thirty-nine. Claiming the blame should be placed on Hamas, the U.S. subsequently blocked a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an investigation of these killings. Afterwards, Rupert Colville, a United Nations Human Rights official, called for an independent probe into the Israeli killing of Palestinian protestors. Israel is the largest recipient of US foreign assistance, receiving $3.8 billion in taxpayer-funded weapons each year; this and the move of the US embassy legitimizes Israel’s apartheid regime.

**TELL** our Congresspeople that we do not want to fund state-sanctioned Israeli violence against Palestinians

• **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

**CALL** for an end to U.S. funding of Israel as long as killings, repression, and unauthorized settlements in Palestinian territory persist

• **Representative Ed Royce** (R-CA), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4111

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

• **Senator Bob Corker** (R-TN), Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6225, (202) 224-4651

• **Senator Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6225, (202) 224-4651

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has appointed Tony Perkins, head of the Family Research Council (FRC) for a spot on the Commission on International Religious Freedom. The Southern Poverty Law Center considers the FRC to be a hate group, and Perkins has a long history of anti-LGBT and anti-Muslim activities.

**EXPLAIN** that “International Religious Freedom” means accepting and respecting that many faiths don’t share your homophobic biases and that Islam is a major world faith

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

**SHARE** your concerns about effect Perkins’ appointment will have on the global view of the U.S. and our ability to work across differences on an international level

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

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

**The Senate confirmed Gina Haspel as the next CIA director**, approving her nomination in a 54 to 45 vote despite bipartisan concerns about her role in the agency's detention and interrogation (aka *torture*) programs.

**TELL** our Congresspeople and key Intelligence Committee members that we expect them to closely monitor leadership for practices that violate international law and will bring shame on the U.S. globally

• **Senator Richard Burr** (R-NC), Chair, Senate Intelligence Committee, 211 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-1700

• **Senator Mark Warner** (R-VA), Vice Chair, Senate Intelligence Committee, 211 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-1700

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

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

• **Representative Devin Nunes** (R-CA), Chair, House Intelligence Committee, Capitol Visitor Center HVC-304, U.SD. Capitol Building, Washington DC 20515-6415, (202) 225-4121

• **Representative Adam Schiff** (D-CA), Ranking Member, House Intelligence Committee, Capitol Visitor Center HVC-304, U.SD. Capitol Building, Washington DC 20515-6415, (202) 225-7690

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

The Foreign Policy headline pretty much says it all: “Ebola Is Back. And Trump is Trying to Kill Funding for It.” Trump is recommending recission of this part of the budget—a process by which previously committed funding is withdrawn. *Foreign Policy* sees this move as another of Trump’s attempts to undo Barak Obama’s legacy explaining “Trump’s anti-Obama motive becomes apparent in rescission R18-27, which cuts $252 million in emergency response funding that had been set aside in the 2015 fiscal year during the Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea, which claimed more than 11,300 lives. Obama, recognizing that the West African epidemic had the potential to become a national security crisis at home, asked Congress for roughly $1 billion in emergency funds to help the three affected countries combat the virus, deploy U.S. armed forces personnel, and sustain an all-hands-on-deck Centers for Disease Control and Prevention response that lasted well over a year. The $252 million that remained in the fund in 2018 had been reserved for use in building local capacities to spot and react to future Ebola outbreaks all over Africa.” Note that just such an outbreak is currently occurring in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and has moved from rural areas to Mbandaka, a provincial capital with a population over one million, making the disease’s movement into other regions (and, perhaps, nations) more likely.

**DEMAND** continued funding for the global fight against this horrific disease and **INSIST** that we have the resources both to see to our children’s health and to fight disease outbreaks in other parts of the world (which can easily travel to our part of the world in just hours, given the speed of air transportation)

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

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

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

In yet another isolationistic move taken against the advice of many who know better, Trump has withdrawn the US from the Iran nuclear deal. There will be consequences, not just in terms of our relationship with Iran, but also in our relationships with European nations that were also a part of this agreement

**TELL** our Congresspeople this is not normal, the world will be less safe, and the consequences will be steep. The American people do not want war.

• **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

**CONTACT** key members of the Senate and House Foreign Affairs Committees to ask how they plan to protect the American people from the fallout (I didn’t mean “fallout” as a pun when I started typing this sentence) this decision creates

• **Representative Ed Royce** (R-CA), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4111

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

• **Senator Bob Corker** (R-TN), Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6225, (202) 224-4651

• **Senator Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6225, (202) 224-4651

ENVIRONMENT

The Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) has recommended a review of the EPA’s move to roll back an Obama-era policy on auto emissions and a review of a number of other EPA policy rollbacks.

**JOIN** them in telling Pruitt you want a review of these rollbacks

• **Scott Pruitt**, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 1101A, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington DC 20460, 202-564-4700

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra has filed his 33rd suit against the Trump administration—this one over the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) decision to reverse and Obama-era rule requiring agricultural companies to train their workers about the hazards of pesticides. Californians know how essential agricultural workers are to the quality of life in our state and how dangerous many of the material they work with can be. Helping raise and harvest California’s crops should not threaten a worker’s health or life.

**COMPLAIN** about this destructive and irregular move by the EPA

• **Scott Pruitt**, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 1101A, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington DC 20460, 202-564-4700

**THANK** our Attorney General for staying on top to the many Trump administration threats posed to the quality of our lives in the state of California

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

The *Huffington Post* reports that “the Trump administration [has] proposed rolling back a 2015 rule that bans aggressive predator control tactics in national preserves in Alaska, including shooting bear cubs and wolf pups in their dens ― a move immediately blasted by environmental groups. The proposal… would amend the National Park Service’s current regulations to again allow for controversial sport hunting and trapping techniques on roughly 20 million acres of federal lands in Alaska. The proposed rule would allow hunters to lure brown and black bears with bait, hunt black bears and their cubs using artificial lights, shoot bear cubs and wolf and coyote pups in their dens, and use dogs to hunt black bears. It would also allow hunters to shoot swimming caribou from motorboats.

**CONDEMN** this un-sporting proposal

• **Ryan Zinke**, Secretary of the Interior, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C St. NW, Room 5665, Washington DC 20240, (202) 209-3801

Rather than concentrate on the health and well-being of citizens, particularly considering the Flint, Michigan, water crisis, it appears that the White House and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chose to cover up a study that shed light on nation-wide water contamination issue rather than share the information, in fear of a “public relations nightmare.”

**EXPLAIN** that we don’t solve problems by hiding them; we solve problems by taking action—and that includes Flint

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

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

Restore the Delta reports that a rider included in the draft House Federal Year 2019 (FY19) Interior Appropriations bill “would exempt California WaterFix from judicial review, including preempting state law to preclude litigation under state laws. California WaterFix is a proposal to reroute water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to southern California. This dangerous precedent would prevent anyone with standing from suing the Delta Tunnels project…. [and] would affect numerous cases already filed in state and federal courts including state law claims under the California Environmental Quality Act (20 cases filed) or the California Endangered Species Act (3 cases filed), as well as litigation under the federal Endangered Species Act (2 cases filed) or NEPA (no cases yet filed because the Bureau has not yet issued a Record of Decision).” The *Sacramento Bee* observes, “the language would also prevent future legal challenges to any aspect of the twin tunnels, including how they are operated. Under this language, the state Department of Water Resources could take as much Sacramento River water as it wanted and send it to southern California and there would be no legal recourse to stop it. It would allow DWR to ignore federal and state environmental laws and state water law, including northern California water rights.”

**URGE** our Senators to stand up for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and to protect the many species it is home to should this short-sighted, destructive proposal remain in the FY19 Interior Appropriations bill

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

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

The Rainforest Action Network reports that PepsiCo is hastening the extinction of the Sumatran Tiger by purchasing palm oil being grown in the tigers’ destroyed habitat. And what is the world getting at the expense of the Sumtran Tigers’ habitat?: Pepsi, Mountain Dew, Gatoraid, Lay’s, Doritos, Tostitos, and Ruffles chips, Starbucks’ ready-to-drink beverages and the like.

**TELL** PepsiCo that you have more than enough snack and beverage options and are choosing options that don’t threaten Sumatran tigers through supply-chain habitat destruction

• **Indra Nooyi**, CEO, PepsiCo, 700 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase, NY 10577-1401, (914) 253-2000

*The Hill* reports: “Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) staff can no longer advise builders they need to obtain a permit mandated by law to maintain endangered species habitat, according to new Interior Department guidance. An April 26 memorandum sent from FWS Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan to regional directors wrote that it was ‘not appropriate’ for personnel to tell private parties when it's required under the law for them to seek an incidental take permit (ITP). [Instead,] [b]usinesses and individuals must request an ITP if they believe their developments could interfere with the habitat of endangered species, under the 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA)…. ‘They [the builders] may proceed (at their own risk) as planned without a permit, modify their project and proceed without a permit, or prepare and submit a permit application,’ Sheehan's letter reads. ‘The biological, legal, and economic risk assessment regarding whether to seek a permit belongs with the private party determining how to proceed.’ One wildlife expert equated the memo to putting a ‘leash’ on employees. ‘This new memorandum essentially muzzles FWS biologists from telling private landowners that they need to apply for an incidental take permit when they will harm threatened or endangered species even though it is FWS’s job to ensure listed species are not harmed,’ said Noah Greenwald, endangered species director at the Center for Biological Diversity.”

**TELL** Sheehan what you think of this attempt to help builders sneak past environmental regulations

• **Greg Sheehan**, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240, (800) 344-WILD

**SHARE** your concerns about the way this policy will make protection of habitats and species more difficult with

• **Senator John Boozman** (R-AR), Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water and Wildlife, 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6176

• **Senator Tammy Duckworth** (D-WI), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water and Wildlife, 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6176

California has become the first state to require all new homes to have solar panels after a unanimous vote by the California Energy Commission. This new requirement will take effect in two years.

**THANKS** to the California Energy Commission for taking this step and showing leadership to all states regarding alternative energy sources

• **Robert B. Weisenmiller**, Ph.D., Chair, California Energy Commission, c/o Media and Communications Office, 1516 9th St., MS-29, Sacramento, CA 95814-5512, (916) 654-4287

• **Karen Douglas**, J.D., Commissioner, California Energy Commission, c/o Media and Communications Office, 1516 9th St., MS-29, Sacramento, CA 95814-5512, (916) 654-4287

• **David Hochschild**, Commissioner, California Energy Commission, c/o Media and Communications Office, 1516 9th St., MS-29, Sacramento, CA 95814-5512, (916) 654-4287

• **J. Andrew MacAllister**, Ph.D., Commissioner, California Energy Commission, c/o Media and Communications Office, 1516 9th St., MS-29, Sacramento, CA 95814-5512, (916) 654-4287

• **Janea A. Scott**, J.D., Commissioner, California Energy Commission, c/o Media and Communications Office, 1516 9th St., MS-29, Sacramento, CA 95814-5512, (916) 654-4287

From *Rogan’s List*: Whether or not Scott Pruitt is fired for his blatant corruption, the EPA under Trump is likely to continue to be on the side of big business instead of the planet. So states will need to step up. In the wake of Pruitt’s decision to roll back the Obama-era ban on the use of chlorpyrifos, a pesticide that scientists believe carries a high risk of causing brain damage in children, state legislators have taken up the banner. This month Hawaii became the first state to ban chlorpyrifos.

**ENCOURAGE** California legislators to do the same

• **Senator Bill Monning**, Member, Senate Budget Committee 3, 701 Ocean St. #318a, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-0401

• **Assemblymember Mark Stone** [Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St., #318b, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-1503

• **Assemblymember Anna Caballero** [Watsonville], 275 Main St., Suite 400, Watsonville, CA 95076, (813) 768-3035

From *Rogan’s List*: When it comes to climate change, everyone is talking about the Paris Agreement these days. Can we keep warming to under 2˚ Celsius? Will it cost too much? Should we even try? What gets lost in all this noise is the fact that climate scientists agree that Paris is a *minimum* commitment and note that the difference between 2˚ and 1.5˚ is 150,000,000 premature deaths by the year 2100!

**DEMAND** that our Congresspeople (and everyone else) prevent as many of those deaths as possible by pushing as hard as possible to reduce use of fossil fuels, shift to carbon-neutral/negative energy sources, and develop carbon-capture technology

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

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

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

From *Calvin’s List* via *Rogan’s List*: "The Senate is now due to weigh in on H.R.23, the “Gaining Responsibility on Water Act of 2017.” This basically aims to take the legs out from under California’s stricter conservation law aimed at protecting fish and other aquatic life (and in doing so, allow for the complete draining of 60 miles of river!), and to end programs aimed at restoration and protection of native fishes like salmon. This bill is strongly opposed by sportsman advocacy groups, [as well as environmental watchdogs].” H.R.23 has already passed the House, so our only hope of preventing it from becoming law is to convince the Senate to reject it. At the moment, H.R.23 is before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

**ASK** our Senators to oppose this environmentally unfriendly pro-agribusiness bill

• **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

**INFORM** key committee members that you oppose this legislation that both threatens wildlife and states’ rights

• **Senator Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK), Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4971

• **Senator Maria Cantwell** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4971

**THANK** our Representative for voting no when H.R.23 was before the House

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

CONSTITUTION and CIVIL and HUMAN RIGHTS

A gay, 22-year-old Amtrak passenger was found critically injured near the train tracks in Truckee, California, with injuries that included severe beating about the face, a broken pelvis, and brain stem damage—it also appears that his thighs and crotch were set on fire. Amtrak is calling these injuries the result of an apparent suicide attempt. His family disputes their analysis, pointing out in particular that the burning of groin and thighs is not consistent with a suicide attempt. Roughly an hour before Aaron Salazar’s body was found, he texted his grandmother to say he had made a friend on the train and that they were planning to hang out together during a ten-hour layover. If Salazar made a new friend on the train, other passengers almost certainly saw the two men together and overheard them talking during the day Salazar spent on the train. If the Amtrak Police Department isn't in the process of tracking down and interviewing every last person on the train that day, they aren't trying to find the person or persons who attempted to murder Aaron Salazar. The House Railroads, Pipeline, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has jurisdiction over Amtrak.

**DEMAND** that Amtrak treat this as a murder investigation

• **Neil Trugman**, Chief of Police, Amtrak Police Department, 60 Massachusetts Avenue NE—2E113, Washington, D.C. 20001

• **Richard H Anderson**, President and CEO, Amtrak, Amtrak Headquarters, 60 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington DC 20002, (202) 906-3000

• **Eleanor D. Acheson**, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Amtrak, Amtrak Headquarters, 60 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington DC 20002, (202) 906-3000

• **Kenneth Hylander**, Executive Vice President and Chief Safety Officer, Amtrak, Amtrak Headquarters, 60 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington DC 20002, (202) 906-3000

•**Scot Naparstek**, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Amtrak, Amtrak Headquarters, 60 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington DC 20002, (202) 906-3000

• **Anthony R Coscia**, Chairman of the Board, Amtrak, Amtrak Headquarters, 60 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington DC 20002, (202) 906-3000

**ASK** for a Congressional investigation of this horrific attack and Amtrak’s response

• **Representative Jeff Denham** (R-CA), Chair, Railroads, Pipeline, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, 2029 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-0727

• **Representative Michael E. Capuano** (D-MA), Ranking Member, Railroads, Pipeline, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, 2029 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-0727

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

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

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has called for the removal of Fred Fleitz from his position as Executive Secretary and Chief of Staff for the National Security Council (NSC). Up until his NSC appointment, Fleitz was Senior Vice President of the Center for Security Policy (CSP), which the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has identified as a hate group that is "a conspiracy-oriented mouthpiece for the growing anti-Muslim movement in the United States." Fleitz has in the past expressed “concern" about "enclaves of Muslim communities in Michigan and Minnesota.”

**JOIN** CAIR in pointing out Fleitz’s unsuitability for this position

• **John Bolton**, National Security Adviser, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

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

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has sued Albertsons Cos., accusing one of their San Diego stores of discriminating against Latino employees for their policy forbidding workers to speak Spanish around non-Spanish speakers, even when on break or helping Spanish-speaking customers.

**SHARE** your dislike of this racist policy with

• **Bob Miller**, Chairman and CEO, Albertsons Cos., 250 East Parkcenter Blvd., Boise City, ID 83706, (208) 395-6200

• **Andy Scoggin**, EVP, Human Relations, Labor Relations, Public Affairs, and Government Affairs, Albertsons Cos., 250 East Parkcenter Blvd., Boise City, ID 83706, (208) 395-6200

• **Shane Dorcheus**, President, Southern California, Albertsons Cos., 250 East Parkcenter Blvd., Boise City, ID 83706, (208) 395-6200

From *Rogan’s List*: In a case of job training vs. child safety, the Trump administration wants to roll back “decades-old youth labor protections by allowing teenagers to work longer hours under some of the nation’s most hazardous workplace conditions. New types of work open to teenagers would include running meat slicers, grinders, and industrial trash compactors. According to Reid Maki, coordinator of the Child Labor Coalition, “When I started doing this kind of work 20 years ago, we were losing 70 kids a year at work, and now we are losing usually 20 or less. We’ve made substantial progress, and I think that the tightened hazardous occupations rules have played a role in the lowered death tolls for teenage workers. So I would not be in favor of relaxing any of these standards; I think it would be a tragic mistake and would lead to the death of teenage workers.”

**URGE** our Congresspeople to fight any roll back that could result in the death of children

• **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

California Senator Kamala Harris, who was scheduled to deliver U.C. Berkeley’s commencement address, cancelled her appearance in support of U.C. workers who are striking over wages and health benefits. The strikers include cafeteria workers, custodians, and other service workers who are crucial to the functioning of the University, but are undervalued, and underpaid, by the administration.

**THANKS** for an honorable decision that no doubt brought plenty of criticism her way to

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

From *Chop Wood, Carry Water*: President Trump has announced a "gag rule" on health care providers that participate in Title X, the nation’s program for affordable birth control and reproductive health care that four million people rely on each year. If enacted, the "gag rule" would prohibit ANY Title X health care provider from referring patients for abortion—even if that’s what the patient wants and even if withholding that information threatens their health. It would destroy the trust between patients and doctors and would put the health care of the four million people who depend on Title X at risk. The gag rule is also designed to make it impossible for reproductive health care providers like Planned Parenthood to serve patients in the program. This could block the 41 percent of Title X patients who rely on Planned Parenthood health centers from care, leaving them without access to life-saving services like cancer screenings, birth control, wellness exams, and more. We know that the gag rule is intended to block people from accessing care and honest information.

**CONDEMN** this deliberate blow to healthcare for four million Americans

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

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

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

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

Kenneth Marcus has been nominated for the position of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education—unfortunately his record shows disdain for the civil rights of students and others. The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of more than 200 national organizations committed to promoting and protecting the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States has spoken out against his nomination. He has written supporting the use of disparate impact claims, which are used to address unequal distribution of educational resources within a district. An amicus brief filed by the Brandeis Center, an organization for which Marcus is founder and president, argued that public institutions should not be allowed to use race-conscious admissions programs to address discrimination. His responses during a confirmation hearing suggest that he is unclear on the right of immigrant children to a public education as required both by the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The list goes on including support of programs using gender stereotyping, hostility to the rights of LGBTQ+ students, and a poor understanding of disability rights.

**REQUEST** that our Senators to do all they can to oppose his confirmation

• **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

May saw the formation of the Congressional Freethought Caucus, promoting “sound public policy based on reason, science, and moral values” rather than religion, protecting “the secular character of our government by adhering to … the separation of church and state” and opposing “discrimination against atheists, agnostics, humanists, seekers, religious and nonreligious persons.”

**THANKS** to this group committed to protecting the rights of all Americans and defending our tradition of separation of church and state

• **Representative Jared Huffman** (D-CA), 1406 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5161

• **Representative Jamie Raskin** (D-MD), 431 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5341

• **Representative Jerry McNerney** (D-CA), 2265 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-1947

• **Representative Dan Kildee** (D-MI), 227 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3611

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

**REQUEST** that our Representative join this important group

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

Our Senator Kamala Harris is one of a group of three Senators who introduced S.2918, the “Do No Harm Act.” According to the Human Rights Campaign Fund: “The Do No Harm Act clarifies that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act is intended to protect religious freedom without allowing the infliction of harm on other people. It would amend RFRA in order to restore the original intent of the legislation by specifically exempting areas of law where RFRA has been used to bypass federal protections. These include well-settled areas of law designed to protect our most vulnerable populations including child labor and abuse, equal employment and non-discrimination, health care, federal contracts and grants, and government services. The Do No Harm Act therefore ensures that religious freedom is used as a shield to protect the Constitutional right to free exercise of religion and not a sword to discriminate.”

**THANKS** for introducing this legislation to

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

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

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

**THANKS** for signing on as a co-sponsor to

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

In an effort to stifle protests again racial injustice and police brutality, the NFL has instituted a new rule that bars players from kneeling on the field during the national anthem. Players/teams violating this rule will be fined. Instead, players who do not wish to stand for the anthem are being told to wait in the locker room until after the anthem is played. New York Jets chairman Christopher Johnson has announced that should players continue to protest by kneeling during the anthem, he or the team will pay their fines. “I do not like imposing any club-specific rules,” Johnson said. “If somebody [on the Jets] takes a knee, that fine will be borne by the organization, by me, not the players. I never want to put restrictions on the speech of our players. Do I prefer that they stand? Of course. But I understand if they felt the need to protest. There are some big, complicated issues that we’re all struggling with, and our players are on the front lines. I don’t want to come down on them like a ton of bricks, and I won’t. There will be no club fines or suspensions or any sort of repercussions. If the team gets fined, that’s just something I’ll have to bear.”

**THANKS** for his defense of free speech to

• **Christopher Johnson**, Chairman, New York Jets, Atlantic Health Jets Training Center, One Jets Dr., Florham Park, NJ 07932

**CRITICISM** for the policy can be sent to

• **Roger Goodell**, NFL Commissioner, National Football League, 345 Park Ave., New York, NY 10154

The *Southern Poverty Law Center* reports: “‘Pro-Islamophobia Saves Lives!!’ one anti-Muslim Facebook group reads. Its cover photo is an image of a charred, blackened body. According to Facebook’s Community Standards, posts depicting ‘charred or burning people’ are prohibited. However, after an academic researcher flagged the group, an automated response was generated and provided to Hatewatch: ‘We looked over the group you reported and though it doesn’t go against one of our specific Community Standards, we understand that the group or something shared in it may still be offensive to you.’ In early April, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) identified 33 anti-Muslim Facebook groups that use violent imagery, including weapons, in their cover photos.” All this comes at a time when a *New York Times* report has traced how riots and lynchings around the world are linked to propaganda and hate speech being spread on Facebook.

**TELL** Facebook you know they can do better than this—and that you expect them to do so

• **Mark Zuckerberg**, Chief Executive Officer, Facebook, 1601 Willow Rd, Menlo Park, CA 94025, (650) 308-7300

• **Sheryl Sandberg**, Chief Operating Officer, Facebook, 1601 Willow Rd, Menlo Park, CA 94025, (650) 308-7300

Senators Bob Corker (R-TN) and Tim Kaine (D-VA) released a proposal, S.J.Res.50 for a new Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) bill, which would replace the 2001 and 2002 versions which were used to authorize the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. While it is expected to be challenging gaining enough bipartisan support for it to pass, and it is likely to go through multiple revisions before a final bill is voted on, this is still an important first step. There’s at least one other big problem: according to Rep. Barbara Lee, the only member of Congress to vote against the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force, the new AUMF negotiated by Bob Corker and Tim Kaine “further limits Congress’s role in war-making by requiring a veto-proof majority to block military action from the President.” This time Lee is not alone; others believe the Corker-Kaine AUMF would flip [Congress’s] constitutional power on its head.” Meanwhile, Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis did argue forcibly, though unsuccessfully, that Trump needed to get Congressional approval for bombing Syria.

**ASK** for support for S.J.Res.50 and **INSIST** that the section requiring a veto-proof majority to bloc military action from the President be eliminated

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

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

From *Rogan’s List*: “Dubbed Project Maven, Google is designing an AI system meant to ‘speed up analysis’ of military drone footage by ‘automatically classifying images of objects and people,’ according to the tech news website Gizmodo. About a dozen of the project’s staff have walked out over concerns about the ethics of the program; 4000 employees have signed a petition asking Google to drop the project and promise not to develop ‘technology for war’; 400 ‘technology academics and researchers from around the world’ have signed an open letter to Google to the same effect.

**JOIN** these people in demanding that Google terminate its contract with the DoD, commit not to develop military technologies, and pledge to neither participate in nor support the development, manufacture, trade or use of autonomous weapons:

• **Sundar Pichai**, CEO, Google Inc., 1600 Amphitheatre Pkwy. Mountain View, CA 94043, (650) 253-0000

• **Larry Page**, CEO of Alphabet, Google Inc., 1600 Amphitheatre Pkwy. Mountain View, CA 94043, (650) 253-0000

From *Rogan’s List*: Patrick Wyrick, who is on Trump’s Supreme Court shortlist in spite of having only served as a judge since last year, has been nominated to be a federal judge in the Western District of Oklahoma. A member of the ultra-conservative Federal Society, Wyrick repeatedly worked with Scott Pruitt to sue the EPA, defended unconstitutional limits on contraception, and was accused of actively misleading the Supreme Court on a death penalty case.

**INSIST** that our senators hold him accountable and fight his confirmation

• **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

Neophyte judge Britt Grant has been nominated for a spot on the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals Grant has a record of defending unconstitutional restrictions on the right to choose and undermining the Voting Rights Act, along with fighting collective bargaining for public sector workers.

**SHARE** our view that this is the sort of ultraconservative record we don’t need in our federal courts

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

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

From *Rogan’s List*: Donald Trump has nominated J. Campbell Barker to be a federal judge in the Eastern District of Texas. He has a long record of defending discriminatory voter ID laws and bigotry against the LGBT community and opposing protections for immigrants and the environment.

**ASK** our Senators to oppose his confirmation

• **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

Federal District Court Judgeship nominee Thomas Farr has made his career working to disenfranchise voters of color through unconstitutional gerrymandering and illegal voter suppression efforts. The district where he’s nominated to be a judge roughly one-quarter African-American.

**TELL** our Senators that Farr’s repeated attacks on voting rights make him unfit to serve as a federal judge and that we want them to be vocal in opposing his appointment

• **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

Ryan Bounds is a nominee for a judgeship on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. This federal appeals court has been a bulwark against Trump’s policies, striking down his Muslim ban and protecting sanctuary cities. In college, Bounds authored writings criticizing multiculturalism and student ethnic organizations. In another piece, Bounds characterized serious punishment of campus rapists as mere “political correctness,” writing, “Expelling students is probably not going to contribute a great deal toward a rape victim’s recovery; there is no moral imperative to risk egregious error in doing so.” Bounds’ Senators and his state’s bipartisan nominating commission have said no to his nomination. In a break with tradition, Trump and McConnell are going ahead anyway.

**INFORM** our Senators that we find this unacceptable and want them to speak out against Bounds’ confirmation

• **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

**EXPLAIN** to McConnell how much you resent his unwillingness to honor state nominating commissions and his refusal to listen to his fellow Senators when it comes to lifetime judicial appointments

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

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said that it’s up to individual schools to decide whether to call U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement if they suspect their students are undocumented. Apparently DeVos did not realize that this is unconstitutional. Lorella Praeli, director of immigration policy and campaigns at the American Civil Liberties Union, said in a statement, “The Supreme Court has made clear that every child in America has a right to a basic education, regardless of immigration status. Secretary DeVos is once again wrong.”

**REMIND** De Vos that we have a Constitution and the she’s legally obligated to honor it

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

**The EPA barred the Associated Press and CNN from a national summit on harmful water contaminants** convened by Scott Pruitt. One AP reporter was grabbed by the shoulders and forcibly removed from the building after asking to speak to a public affairs representative. “This was simply an issue of the room reaching capacity,” said EPA spokesperson Jahan Wilcox. Community groups were also excluded from this summit‚ but there was room for the American Chemistry Council and the FluoroCouncil. The summit follows the revelation that the EPA and the White House—on the grounds that releasing it would be a “potential public relations—tried to suppress a report from the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), which indicated that levels of the chemicals the EPA previously deemed “safe” may actually harm people.

**EXPLAIN** to Pruitt that there are two things we hate more than his over-spending on luxury items and travel: having information pertinent to our own health withheld and violations of the right to Freedom of the Press

• **Scott Pruitt**, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 1101A, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington DC 20460, 202-564-4700

From *Rogan’s List*: It has been over a year since the Disability Integration Act (S.910) was introduced, and it has still not been heard in committee. The bill would ensure that people who qualify for long-term support services get the help that they need through community-based services and programs, rather than having to resort to institutionalization. In May, disability-rights group ADAPT secured support for this bipartisan bill from Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee Patty Murray, while Chairman Lamar Alexander refused to meet with ADAPT members.

**INFORM** Senator Alexander that we want him to support the Disability Integration Act and that it's time for the bill to move through the HELP Committee

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

**URGE** our two senators to become co-sponsors of S.910—they currently aren’t

• **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

In May, the Supreme Court ruled that employers may require individual arbitration for employee complaints. What this means is that when an employer underpays, discriminates against, or violates the civil rights of a class of employees, the do not have the right to seek redress through class action. Instead, each employee is required to pursue her case individually, regardless of the number of workers affected.

**TELL** our Congresspeople and key members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee that the right to class action complaints against employers are essential to fair labor/management relations and that we need legislation as soon as possible to guarantee these rights

• **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

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

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

• **Senator Elizabeth Warren** (D-MA), Member, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee,428 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5375

From *Rogan’s List*: Dallas activist Rakem Balogun, finally released from prison after 5 months during which he was denied bail, is believed to be the first person targeted and prosecuted under a secretive US surveillance effort to track so-called “black identity extremists” (BIE), an effort based on an FBI counter-terrorism assessment that ignores government crime data showing an overall decline in police deaths since 2001 and the fact that most of those who shoot officers are white men. Balogun was monitored continuously after attending an Austin TX rally against police violence in 2015, a rally the FBI admitted it discovered on *Infowars*; the FBI had no evidence of Balogun making any specific threats about harming police.

**DEMAND** an end to this targeting of “BIE”s

• **Director Christopher Wray**, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20535-0001, (202) 324-3000

• **Attorney General Jess Sessions**, Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20530, (202) 514-2000

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) has introduced the “Department of Homeland Security Accountability and Transparency Act” (DATA), S.2832, which would create a formal, record-keeping process for all Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) stops and searches. Currently, there is no required record-keeping process for officers making a patrol stop or inspection, except in cases of arrest or use of force by an officer. Border patrol agents have broad authority to question anyone within 100 miles of a U.S. land or coastal border about their immigration status, which covers most of the population of the United States. Border patrol agents routinely question passengers on Amtrak and passenger buses about their immigration status without having to keep a formal record of the majority of these stops. This legislation is cosponsored by Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Tom Udall (D-NM), and Jeff Merkley (D-OR). S.2832 is currently before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

**THANKS** for introducing S.2832 to

• **Senator Kirsten Gillibrand** (D-NY), 478 Russell House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4451

**INFORM** key members of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affair Committee that CBP and ICE are out of control and that you want to see this necessary legislation given immediate, serious attention

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

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

*LGBTQ Nation* reports that “Life just got harder for transgender prisoners after the Trump administration revoked Obama-era guidance protecting them from rape and violence from other prisoners. The administration has ordered the Bureau of Prisons to use “biological sex” in determining how transgender prisoners are assigned housing, putting them at significant risk of sexual abuse, assault, and other types of discrimination. Prisoners’ biological sex would be used when screening, housing, and offering programming services to transgender inmates. It also inserts the word “necessary” in guidance on medical care and hormone therapy indicating officials will be allowed to decide whether or not inmates will receive medically appropriate services for gender transition…. LGBTQ Media Director Lucas Acosta explains that “With this decision, transgender individuals will be at risk of increased rates of abuse, discrimination, assault, rape, and possibly even death. The Trump-Pence administration has prioritized the politics of its base over the well-being of LGBTQ Americans.’”

**OBJECT** to this move that threatens the health and safety of all transgendered prisoners

• **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

• **Hugh J. Hurwitz**, Acting Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, 320 First St. NW, Washington DC 20534, (202) 307-3198

• **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

• **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

• **Senator Lindsey Graham** (R-SC), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

• **Senator Cory Booker** (D-NJ), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

Barbara Lee’s Concurrent Resolution “Supporting a Bold and Sustained Expansion of Federal Investments in Affordable Rental Homes,” (H.Con.Res.120) is a thing of beauty. Concurrent resolutions don’t have the power of law. Instead, they are used for internal Congressional actions and as statements of shared beliefs or principals. H.Con.Res.120 affirms that access to housing improves the lives of children, families, and communities, states that no one should be forced to choose among housing, healthcare, and food, and calls for an expansion of federal investment in affordable housing. In our current House, where Paul Ryan sets the agenda, it is unlikely to come up for a vote, let alone be passed, but we can nonetheless express support for the values it reflects. H.Con.Res.120 is currently before the House Financial Services Committee.

**THANKS** for introducing this Resolution to

• **Representative Barbara Lee** (D-CA), 2267 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2661

**EXPLAIN** to our Representative that these are the values you’d like to see prioritized by the House as it enacts legislation and **REQUEST** co-sponsorship of H.Con.Res.120

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

**EXPLAIN** to the Speaker of the House and key members of the House Financial Services Committee that you want to see H.Con.Res.120 seriously considered by the House and that attention to basic needs and services like these is far more important than tax breaks for the already rich and the unravelling of consumer protections

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

• **Representative Jeb Hensarling** (R-TX), Chair, House Financial Services Committee, 2129 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-7502

• **Representative Patrick T. McHenry** (R-NC), Vice Chair, House Financial Services Committee, 2129 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-7502

• **Representative Maxine Waters** (D-CA), Ranking Member, House Financial Services Committee, 2129 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-7502

The House has been having difficulty getting information from the Bureau of the Census regarding the process by which a citizenship question has been added to the 2020 census. The Census Bureau has not been forthcoming, which has led to the introduction of H.Res.877, “Of inquiry directing the Secretary of Commerce to provide certain documents in the Secretary's possession to the House of Representatives relating to the decision to include a question on citizenship in the 2020 decennial census of population.” H.Res.877 was introduced by California’s Jimmy Gomez. While H.Res.877 currently (as of 5/11/18) has seventy cosponsors, Jimmy Panetta is not among them.

**THANKS** for introducing H.Res.877 to

• **Representative Jimmy Gomez**, 1226 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6235

**REQUEST** that our Representative join the cosponsors of H.Res.877

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

From *What the Fuck Just Happened Today*: In 2015 in *Time*, Trump claimed that he would never take away reporters’ credentials if elected. However, in a recent tweet Trump asked, “Why do we work so hard in dealing with the media when it is corrupt? Take away credentials? [sic]” These questions came after a Fox and Friends report on a Media Research Center Report, a right-wing media watchdog group, that 91% of network news stories about him are negative. Welcome to life in the White House, Mr. Trump. H.R.4935, the “Journalism Protection Act,” would protect journalists from threats of violence and intimidation.

**REMIND** Trump of the promise he made in 2015 and about the First Amendment in the Constitution

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

**ASK** our Representative to actively support and speak on behalf of H.R.4935

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

**TELL** our Senators we are concerned about this threat to our Bill of Rights and EXPLAIN that you would like to see the Senate take up legislation similar to H.R.4935

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

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

California has some of the country’s most restrictive laws when it comes to informing the public about police misuse of force and misconduct. Police departments may not provide information on investigations into officers who kill or who are found guilty of sexual assault or planting of evidence. Currently the public has no way to find out how a police department is handling such problems. S.B.1421 will allow public access to police investigations, findings, and discipline related to police officers’ serious use of force, use of deadly force, proven sexual assault, and proven dishonest conduct in investigating, reporting, or prosecuting crimes. This bill has been approved by the California Senate Appropriations Committee and can now move to a full votes of the Senate.

**TELL** the California Senate President that you want to see swift action on this essential legislation

• **Toni G. Atkins**, President, California Senate, State Capitol, Room 205, Sacramento, CA 95814-4900, (916) 651-3133

**TELL** you Senator you expect strong support for S.B.1421

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

Fair housing advocates are suing Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Ben Carson for suspending the “Assessment of Fair Housing” rule enacted during the Obama administration that requires communities receiving federal housing dollars to examine and address barriers to racial integration. HUD claims the rule was suspended because one-third of the 49 community studies they had received thus far were incomplete or inconsistent with fair housing law—which actually demonstrates the need for the rule. What is needed is more enforcement, not less. As the Washington Post reports, “[i]n 2008, the National Commission on Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, led by former HUD secretaries Jack Kemp, a Republican, and Henry Cisneros, a Democrat, reported that ‘HUD requires no evidence that anything is actually being done as a condition of funding.’ In 2009, HUD found that many communities could not produce documentation of their efforts to assess and address fair-housing concerns. A 2010 report by the Government Accountability Office revealed that nearly a third of jurisdictions had not completed an analysis within five years. Of the ones that had, the GAO found that most were limited to aspirational statements of vague goals without defined time frames.”

**INSIST** that Carson and members of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Development committee ensure that the Assessment of Fair Housing Rule is upheld

• **Ben Carson**, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th St. SW, Washington DC 20410, (202) 708-0417

• **Senator Mike Crapo** (R-ID), Chair, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 534 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-7391

• **Senator Sherrod Brown** (D-OH), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 534 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-7391

IMMIGRATION, DETENTION, and SANCTUARY

*Newsweek* reports that, sadly, the abuse of refugees, including children, by border patrol agents is not new to the Trump administration. A report by the ACLU and the International Human Rights Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School on the treatment of children in Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) custody from 2009 to 2014 alleges that beating, sexual violence, and threats. In a call with reporters on Wednesday, ACLU staff and researchers from the International Human Rights Clinic said that the allegations, which took place during the presidency of Barack Obama, are especially alarming now that President Donald Trump has vowed to beef up the detentions of undocumented immigrants. "The fact that these children were already so vulnerable—most traveling alone in hopes of escaping violence and poverty in their home countries—made the unlawful and inhumane actions reflected in the documents even more distressing,” Claudia Flores, faculty director of the International Human Rights Clinic at University of Chicago, said in a statement to Newsweek. While we should have done something earlier, it is imperative that we do something now.

**DEMAND** a Congressional investigation of these abuses and legislation to protect child migrants and refugees

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

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

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

**INFORM** the Secretary of Homeland Security that she must ensure that abuses of this sort are not perpetrated by the current administration

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

The Humane Enforcement and Legal Protections (HELP) for Separated Children Act, S.2937, will protect children who have been abandoned at home or at school after their parents have been arrested or detained by US immigration authorities. The protections this bill will provide include allowing detained parents to make phone calls to arrange for care of children, allowing parents to participate in family court hearings affecting their children, protecting children from being forced to serve as translators for their parents in immigration enforcement actions, requiring Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to consider the best interests of children in detention, release, and transfer decisions affecting their parents. Kamala Harris has signed on as a co-sponsor of this legislation; Dianne Feinstein has not yet done so.

**THANK** Harris for being a co-sponsor of this legislation

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

**REQUEST** that Feinstein also become a co-sponsor

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

Remember when Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf protected her community’s immigrant population by making an announcement in advance of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raid? That’s the kind of move that gets this Congress to write a law in your “honor.” H.R.5884, which is being referred to as the “Libby Schaaf Act,” would allow for the prosecution of any local or state government officials who alert residents to pending immigration raids, and those convicted could face up to five years in prison. This legislation is currently before the House Judiciary Committee.

**TELL** leaders of the House Judiciary Committee that you want them to oppose this dangerous legislation

• **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

**ASK** our Representative to fight it, should it come to the floor of the House

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

The Department of Health and Human Services is evaluating four military installations in Texas and Arkansas for their suitability to “shelter” unaccompanied minors and children the administration separates from their parents as part of its ongoing human rights-violating procedures for dealing with refugees and undocumented immigrants. Showing the kind of warm-heartedness typical of the administration, when asked about the cruety of the proposal White House Chief of Staff John Kelly told National Public Radio, “I wouldn't put it quite that way. The children will be taken care of — put into foster care or whatever.”

**ASK** Congress to use its oversight authority to stop separating families at the U.S. border and to put an end to this proposed warehousing of children on military bases

• **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 Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

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

• **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Homeland Security Committee, H2-176 FHOB, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8417

• **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Homeland Security Committee, H2-176 FHOB, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8417

Companion bills in Congress aim to increase oversight and put a moratorium on the additional construction of immigration detention centers. The Detention Oversight Not Expansion Act (DONE), introduced by Representative Pramila Jayapal and our own Senator Kamala Harris is in part a response to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) request to build five new facilities in the Midwest. Detention centers are essentially prisons and more than 170 people have died in ICE's custody since 2003. The DONE Act would require the Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Inspector General to conduct unannounced inspections of ICE detention centers. Facilities not in compliance would receive cuts in funding. DHS received more than 1,400 allegations of sexual assaults between 2012 and 2018, as well as complaints about insufficient medical care in facilities, where at least three pregnant women had miscarriages last year. The bill also would require DHS to cut in half its inmate quota, which is currently 3,400 people per day. Jayapal says most of the people in detention aren't safety risks to the community and increasingly include mothers and children; “Alternatives to detention actually allow for families to stay together as they go through whatever process they need to go through, and almost 100 percent compliance rate with these alternatives.” The DONE Act would dedicate an additional $45 million to federal oversight of detention centers. In the Senate this legislation is S.2849 and is currently before the Judiciary Committee. In the House, it is H.R.5820 and is currently before the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees.

**THANKS** for introducing this legislation to

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

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

**URGE** swift movement of S.2849 through committee from

• **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

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

**URGE** swift movement of H.R.5820 from

• **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Homeland Security Committee, H2-176 FHOB, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8417

• **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Homeland Security Committee, H2-176 FHOB, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8417

• **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA) Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

*Politico* reports that “Centrist House Republicans are defying Speaker Paul Ryan and planning to force a floor vote shielding Dreamers from deportation, a last-ditch attempt at securing a deal on immigration. By filing a discharge petition [in May], the five centrists who work closely on immigration issues are hoping to pressure President Donald Trump and GOP leaders into working with Democrats to codify Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.”

**THANKS** to these Representatives (two of whom are from California) willing to reach across the aisle to defend our Dreamers

• **Carlos Curbelo** (R-FL), 12851 SW 42nd Street, Suite 131, Miami, FL 33175, (202) 225-2778

• **Mario Diaz-Balart** (R-FL), 8669 NW 36th Street, Suite 100, Doral, FL 33166, (202) 225-4211

• **Will Hurd** (R-TX), 1104 West 10th, Del Rio, TX 78840, (202) 225-4511

• **Jeff Denham** (R-CA), Sisk Road, Suite 202, Modesto, CA 95356, (202) 225-4540

• **David Valadao** (R-CA), 2700 M Street, Suite #250B, Bakersfield, CA 93301, (202) 225-4695

From *Americans of Conscience*: ICE is the only law enforcement agency with a detention quota. With ICE detention costing $134 per day per bed, people who pose no risk to the public can be monitored at much lower expense to taxpayers outside of these facilities. The bed quota enriches private prison operators without making us safer.

**REQUEST** an end to this mandate that warehouses legal asylum seekers and enriches private prison operators

• **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

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) has introduced the “Department of Homeland Security Accountability and Transparency Act” (DATA), S.2832, which would create a formal, record-keeping process for all Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) stops and searches. Currently, there is no required record-keeping process for officers making a patrol stop or inspection, except in cases of arrest or use of force by an officer. Border patrol agents have broad authority to question anyone within 100 miles of a U.S. land or coastal border about their immigration status, which covers most of the population of the United States. Border patrol agents routinely question passengers on Amtrak and passenger buses about their immigration status without having to keep a formal record of the majority of these stops. This legislation is cosponsored by Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Tom Udall (D-NM), and Jeff Merkley (D-OR). S.2832 is currently before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

**THANKS** for introducing S.2832 to

• **Senator Kirsten Gillibrand** (D-NY), 478 Russell House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4451

**INFORM** key members of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affair Committee that CBP and ICE are out of control and that you want to see this necessary legislation given immediate, serious attention

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

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

**Trump referred to some undocumented immigrants as "animals,"** saying "these aren't people. These are animals." Trump also suggested that the mayor of Oakland, California, should be charged with obstruction of justice for warning her constituents about ICE raids in February. "You talk about obstruction of justice," said Trump. "I would recommend that you look into obstruction of justice for the mayor of Oakland."

**INFORM** Trump and company the immigrants are valued members of our communities and that it’s time for ICE to honor California’s sanctuary laws

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

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

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

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen signed a memo in early May that directs the department to refer all suspected border-crossers to the Justice Department for prosecution under a federal statute that prohibits illegal entry. **This memo also calls for** separating parents from their children, instead of keeping them in detention together. These children will be placed with the Department of Health and Human services which recently admitted it has “lost track of” some 1500 immigrant children for which it has responsibility, leaving them vulnerable to abuses and human trafficking. “If you are smuggling a child then we will prosecute you, and that child will be separated from you as required by law,” Jeff Sessions said. “If you don't like that, then don't smuggle children over our border. What Sessions doesn’t mention is that pushing asylum seekers back into dangerous situations where they may face persecution is a violation of US obligations under refugee law.

**CASTIGATE** Homeland Security and the Department of Justice for these inhumane policies that will cause inestimable suffering and significantly damage the U.S.’s international reputation

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

• **Cameron Quinn**, Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494

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

White House Chief of Staff John Kelly claims that the majority of immigrants in the U.S. illegally “don’t have skills” and won’t “integrate well” into American society. Our own Representative Jimmy Panetta has responded to Kelly’s remarks with an invitation, “to see, or better yet work alongside of, the men and women who work so hard with specialty crops in the Salad Bowl of the World.”

**THANKS** for defending the skilled agricultural workers of the Central Coast to

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

**SHARE** with Mr. Kelly the contributions undocumented immigrants are making in our community

• **John Kelly**, Chief of Staff, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke has announced that he will be deploying U.S. Park Police and National Park Service Police to patrol U.S.-Mexico border on May 13. This is, Zinke says, "the first of many steps Interior will take to secure the homeland."

**INSIST** that these Park Systems employees keep doing the jobs they were hired to do

• **Ryan Zinke**, Secretary of the Interior, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C St. NW, Room 5665, Washington DC 20240, (202) 209-3801

**ASK** key members of Congressional Committees overseeing the Park Services what they’re doing to block this inappropriate move by Zinke

• **Senator Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK), Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4971

• **Senator Maria Cantwell** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4971

• **Representative Rob Bishop** (R-UT), Chair, House Committee on Natural Resources, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2761

• **Representative Louie Gohmert** (R-TX), Vice Chair, House Committee on Natural Resources, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2761

• **Representative Raúl Grijalva** (D-AZ), Ranking Member, House Committee on Natural Resources, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2761

From *Rogan’s List*: “ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] has issued a directive (11072.1) calling for arrests of non-citizen immigrants within courthouses (where immigrants must go as part of the process for obtaining citizenship). ICE is also stepping up actions in locations like hospitals, churches, and schools. The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, H.R.1815, is crucial to keeping America safe.… According to the ACLU: ICE and CBP have dramatically increased their presence at courthouses. As a result, many immigrants are afraid to go to court or to make police reports which has made domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual assault cases harder to investigate and prosecute. [In addition] We are not a nation of barbarians. Families should be able to take their kids to school, to religious services, to obtain emergency services, to seek protective orders and to request police assistance without ICE lying in wait. H.R.1815 is currently before the House Judiciary Committee

**REQUEST** cosponsorship of and support for H.R.1815 from

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

**URGE** quick movement through committee for H.R.1815 from key committee members

• **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

The “Protect American Families Act,” S.54, would prevent the federal government from creating any “immigration-related” registry programs based on religion, race, gender, ethnicity or nationality. This legislation is currently with the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**EXPRESS** your support of this humane, necessary (though it shouldn’t be) legislation to key Judiciary Committee members, including California’s two Senators

• **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

• **Senator Lindsey Graham** (R-SC), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

• **Senator Cory Booker** (D-NJ), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

H.R.1006, “To clarify the rights of all persons who are held or detained at a port of entry or at any detention facility overseen by U.S. Customs and Border Protection or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement,” sets guidelines for the treatment of those attempting to enter the U.S.: “The holding or detention of individuals at a port of entry or at any holding or detention facility overseen by U.S. Customs and Border Protection or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall: (1) be limited to the briefest term and the least restrictive conditions practicable, (2) be consistent with the rationale for such holding or detention; and (3) shall include access to food, water, and rest room facilities.” In addition, it places restrictions on actions that can be taken against individuals who have been denied access to counsel. H.R.1006 currently has 62 cosponsors and is before the Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee and the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee of the House Homeland Security Committee.

**REQUESTS** that our Representative join the cosponsors and to support this important legislation to

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

**ASK** for swift, positive action on this legislation from key subcommittee members

• **Representative Raúl Labrador** (R-ID), Chair, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Ken Buck** (R-CO), Vice Chair, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Zoe Lofgren** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Martha McSally** (R-AZ), Chair, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, H2-176 FHOB, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-3399

• **Representative Filemon Vela** (R-TX), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, H2-176 FHOB, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-3399

From *Postcards to America*: “Sensing that DACA could be in danger, colleges and universities have sought to address the impact that ending it would have on their campuses and assess their role in responding to students worried that they could be forced to leave school and even the country. This Bill would withhold Federal funding from Sanctuary Campuses. ‘The rhetoric of the Trump campaign was filled with threats of mass deportation and so a natural response to that was trying to find a way of expressing a refusal to cooperate with what was then described as a new deportation force,’ said Michael Roth, president of Wesleyan University, which was one of the first schools to declare itself a sanctuary campus and continues to use the term. ‘I have read other presidents saying that the concept of sanctuary campuses has no basis in law. I’m not a lawyer, but it is pretty clear to me that mass deportation doesn’t have any basis in American law.’” The “No Funding for Sanctuary Campuses Act,” H.R.483, would amend title IV (federal financial aid funds) to make an institution of higher education that is a sanctuary campus ineligible for funds under title IV. This legislation is currently before the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

**URGE** a “no” vote both to protect our children and to stop this persecution of immigrants from

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

**INFORM** key members of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce about your feelings regarding this violation of academic freedom

• **Representative Joe Wilson** (R-SC), Chair, House Committee on Education and the Workforce, 2176 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527

• **Representative Duncan Hunter** (R-CA), Vice Chair, House Committee on Education and the Workforce, 2176 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527

• **Representative Robert C. “Bobby” Scott** (D-VA), Ranking Member, House Committee on Education and the Workforce, 2176 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527

The *American Immigration Council* has announced that “The American Civil Liberties Union, American Immigration Council, and the Women’s Refugee Commission [have] filed a Freedom of Information Act request… with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for documents related to its detention of pregnant women. The request comes in response to a directive ICE issued in December 2017 and made public in March 2018, which ended the presumption that pregnant women should be released from detention except in extraordinary circumstances. The public’s response to the policy shift—including from medical experts and members of Congress—has been significant…. Detaining pregnant women poses dangerous health risks for the woman and her pregnancy. [Previously] the groups filed an administrative complaint with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and DHS Office of Inspector General documenting the harmful and dangerous conditions that pregnant women face while in ICE custody. Those reports include women who suffered miscarriages in detention, experienced verbal and physical abuse and serious delays in emergency care and prenatal treatment. The complaint also documents ICE’s track record of failing to meet the medical and mental health needs of individuals in its custody.”

**JOIN** the voices of reason and decency by expressing your objections to detention of pregnant women to

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

• **Cameron Quinn**, Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494

• **John Kelly**, Acting Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494

The Congressional summary of H.R.3440, the “Dream Act of 2017” reads as follows: “This bill directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to cancel removal and grant lawful permanent resident status on a conditional basis to an alien who is inadmissible or deportable or is in temporary protected status who: (1) has been continuously physically present in the United States for four years preceding this bill's enactment; (2) was younger than 18 years of age on the initial date of U.S. entry; (3) is not inadmissible on criminal, security, terrorism, or other grounds; (4) has not participated in persecution; (5) has not been convicted of specified federal or state offenses; and (6) has fulfilled specified educational requirements.” H.R.3440 currently has 201 cosponsors, including our own Jimmy Panetta.

**THANKS** for vocal and consistent support of our Dreamers to

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

The Trump administration has been cancelling the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) of one group after another, including Sudan, Haiti, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Nepal. Now Hondurans living in the U.S. are also losing their TPS. Individuals from Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras make up the vast majority of those currently in the U.S. under TPS. Temporary Protected Status is granted to individuals from countries that have experienced severe natural disasters or violence. H.R.4384, the “ASPIRE-TPS Act of 2017” would create a pathway to citizenship for all U.S. residents who had TPS as of January 1, 2017. In order to qualify for permanent residency (and, ultimately, to gain citizenship), individuals with TPS would have to show a judge that they would experience extreme hardship if they returned to their country of origin. This legislation currently has twenty cosponsors. This legislation is currently before the House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security. Legislation in a similar vein include the American Promise Act (H.R.4253—Panetta is a cosponsor), which offers protections for those with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or Deferred Enforced Departure, and the SECURE Act (S. 2144—both Feinstein and Harris are cosponsors), which protects current TPS holders. H.R.4253 is currently before the House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security. S.2144 is currently before the Senate Judiciary Committee

**THANKS** for cosponsoring H.R.4253 and **REQUESTS** that our Representative join the cosponsors of and support H.R.4384

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

**SHARE** your support for these Americans being unreasonably deported from our nation and for H.R. 4384 and H.R. 4253 with key subcommittee members

• **Representative Raúl Labrador** (R-ID), Chair, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Ken Buck** (R-CO), Vice Chair, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Zoe Lofgren** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

**THANKS** for cosponsoring S.2144 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

**SHARE** your support for these Americans being unreasonably deported from our nation and for S.2144 with key committee members

• **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

• **Senator Lindsey Graham** (R-SC), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

• **Senator Cory Booker** (D-NJ), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

*From Chop Wood, Carry Water*: Also on the topic of the Trump administration’s decision to deliberately separate families attempting to enter the country without documents. There are two people you’ll want to contact, in addition to D.C. folks. Toby Don Sosbe is the Border Community Liaison for U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP). Gregory J. Archambeault is the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) San Diego Field Office Director.

**INSIST** that CBP follow U.S. national detention standards, which require processing families together and maintaining family unity

• **Toby Don Sosbe**, Community Liaison for U.S. Customs and Border Enforcement, San Diego Field Office, 610Ash Street West, Suite 1200, San Diego, CA 92101, (619) 685-4300

**INSIST** that ICE immediately reunite separated families and provide alternatives to detention for all families while their claims are processed

• **Gregory J. Archambeault**, Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, San Diego Field Office, 680 Front St. #2232, San Diego, CA 92101, (916) 557-6343