**CHURCH-STATE SEPARATION**

Jeff Sessions has announced the formation of a Justice Department Religious Liberty Task Force (RLTF). The task force will be co-chaired by Assistant Attorney General Jesse Panuccio and the Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department’s Office of Legal Policy, Beth Williams. In citing the sorts of religious activities Sessions said the task force would respect, Sessions listed, “We’ve seen nuns ordered to buy contraceptives. We’ve seen U.S. senators ask judicial and executive branch nominees about dogma—even though the Constitution explicitly forbids a religious test for public office. We’ve all seen the ordeal faced so bravely by Jack Phillips. That Jack Phillips, in case you don’t remember, is the Colorado baker who successfully took his case to the Supreme Court after he was found to have violated the state’s anti-discrimination laws for refusing to make a cake for a same-sex wedding. Interestingly, though unsurprisingly, his remarks appear not to have included examples of individuals from any non-Christian faith—because we know how supportive American is for Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus, and others.

**EXPLAIN** to Sessions and his appointees that religious liberties should not include the right to discriminate, which undermines the concept of equality under the law that is the heart of our Constitution, and **REMIND** them that we’re watching

• **Jeff Sessions**, Attorney General, Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania NW, Washington DC 20530, (202) 514-4713

• **Jesse Panuccio**, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania NW, Washington DC 20530, (202) 514-4713

• **Beth Williams**, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy, Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania NW, Washington DC 20530, (202) 514-4713

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

H.R.5658, the “Workplace Choice and Flexibility for Individuals with Disabilities Act,” is one of those pieces of legislation that sounds great until you realize what it’s actually intended to do. Disability rights activist group ADAPT explains in a press release: “ ‘Contrary to its name, this bill is neither about choice or flexibility for people with disabilities,’ said Ami Weidler-Hyten, ADAPT organizer from Topeka Kansas and the Executive Director for Programs and Operations at the Topeka Independent Living Center. ‘The title is doublespeak intended to mislead the public and congress about a bill that will only limit the choices of disabled people and further our segregation.’ The purpose of H.R.5658 is to put money in the pockets of providers and businesses that profit off exploitation and segregation of the Disability Community. This bill resurrects walls of exclusion by segregating people with disabilities both socially and economically, allowing service providers to keep disabled people in workplaces that are isolated from the rest of society, and to pay those workers pennies on the dollar for the value of their work. ‘It is dishonest to equate competitive, integrated, community employment with segregated, sub-minimum-wage work and it is a perversion to call the exploitation of disabled labor “Choice”’, said Kelly Buckland the Executive Director of The National Council on Independent Living.”

**TELL** our Representative not to be fooled by this discriminatory measure

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

Kamala Harris’ web site announces: “With the cost of housing continuing to rise in California and across the country, U.S. Senator Kamala D. Harris today introduced legislation to provide rent relief for working families struggling to pay their bills. The ‘Rent Relief Act’ [S.3250—currently with the Senate Finance Committee]would create a new, refundable tax credit to put more money in the pockets of families at a time when renters’ wages have remained stagnant and housing costs have increased rapidly. Harris was joined in the introduction by Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Maggie Hassan (D-NH). ‘America’s affordable housing crisis has left too many families behind who struggle each month to keep a roof over their head,’ said Senator Harris. ‘This bill will ensure no family is priced out of the basic security of a place to live. Bolstering the economic security of working families would strengthen our country and increase opportunity.’” Similar legislation, H.R.3670, has been introduced in the House; Jimmy Panetta is not a co-sponsor. H.R.3670 is currently with the House Ways and Means Committee.

**THANKS** to Harris and Feinstein for recognizing the struggles of ordinary Americans and for introducing S.3250

• **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

**EXPRESS** your support for S.3250 to key committee members

• **Senator Orrin Hatch** (R-UT), Chair, Senate Finance Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4515

• **Senator Ron Wyden** (D-OR), Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4515

**TELL** Panetta that given housing costs in his House district, we’d like to see him become a co-sponsor of H.R.3670

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

**EXPRESS** your support for H.R.3670 to key committee members

• **Representative Kevin Brady**, Chair, House Ways and Means Committee,1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 205615, (202) 225-3625

• **Representative Richard Nea**l (D-MA), Ranking Member, House Ways and Means Committee,1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 205615, (202) 225-3625

The administration is proposing a new $100 billion tax cut geared solely for the rich, as it would allow inflation to be taken into account when assessing capital gains. The move would require Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and the Treasury Department to redefine “cost” in order to make this new assessment of capital gains possible. Note that the administration is attempting this through regulation, rather than legislation, bypassing Congress while giving more wealth to the already wealthy.

**INFORM** the Treasury Secretary that we resent this newest attempt to redistribute wealth from the 99% to the 1%

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

**ASK** our Congresspeople what they can do to block this latest elite-favoring move by the administration

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

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

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

The Military Officers’ Association of America has reported that “More than 80 Congressmen [sic], in a letter to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, are voicing opposition to ‘unacceptable’ changes to the transferability policy for the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill…. The Post-9/11 G.I. Bill was implemented on Aug. 1, 2009 as a commitment to veterans that the government would provide them an education and opportunity in recognition of their service during war. The bill pays tuition and fees directly to the school in which the veteran is enrolled, and includes a monthly housing allowance, up to $1,000 annually, for books and supplies. The transferability to a servicemember's spouse or children was created during the height of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan as a recruitment and retention tool.”

**TELL** Secretary Mattis that serving in the armed forces now is no less dangerous than it was in 2009 and that eliminating benefit transferability is unacceptable

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

**ASK** key members of Congressional committees to oppose this move

• **Senator John McCain** (R-AZ), Chair, Senate Armed Services Committee, 228 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3871

• **Senator Jack Reed** (D-RI), Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, 228 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3871

• **Representative Mac Thornberry** (R-TX), Chair, House Armed Services Committee, 2216 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4151

• **Representative Adam Smith** (D-WA), Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee, 2216 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4151

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), Member, House Armed Services Committee, 2216 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4151

The “21st Century Internet Act,” H.R.6393, would codify free internet regulations into law. Interestingly, it was introduced by a pair of Republican Representatives. The measure would institute the basic outlines of the Federal Communication Commission’s 2015 Open Internet order, which banned the throttling and blocking of content as well as harmful paid prioritization practices.

**ASK** our Representative to support and co-sponsor this legislation

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

From *Rogan’s List*: “While the administration likes to position itself as ‘tough on crime,’ at least when it comes to immigrants, one area in which the White House has totally failed the American people is on enforcing corporate violations. The statistics in [a] new report from Public Citizen show that EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] enforcement penalties plummeted from $23.9 billion in 2016 (last year of Obama) to $1.46 billion in 2017.

**INSIST** to the Attorney General, the Acting EPA Administrator, and our Congresspeople that we’d prefer “law and order” resources be diverted to protect our planet from corporate abuse, rather than to deport and separate hard-working immigrant families

• **Jeff Sessions**, Attorney General, Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania NW, Washington DC 20530, (202) 514-4713

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

• **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

**EDUCATION**

According to the *New York Times*, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos **is planning additional deregulation of for-profit colleges by eliminating rules requiring them to show that their graduates were able to obtain "gainful employment.” The *Times* explains, “**The DeVos proposal, set to go in force a year from now, would replace Obama-era policies that sought to ease access to loan forgiveness for students who were left saddled with debt after two for-profit college chains… were found to have misled their students with false advertisements and misleading claims for years…. Now the Trump administration is proposing new rules that would require borrowers to prove that they have fallen into deep financial distress to file a claim for debt relief, or to prove that the higher education institutions they attended had intentionally misled them. The department would also require that relief applicants divulge personal information that could have impacted their job prospects beyond their college experiences, including drug test results, health concerns and performance evaluations. The proposal would establish a federal standard for what constitutes ‘misrepresentation’ on the part of institutions, requiring that claims show ‘reckless disregard’ through false or deceptive claims.”

**PROTEST** these changes to rules protecting student borrowers

• **Betsy DeVos**, Secretary of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW; Washington, D.C. 20202, (800) 872-5327

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

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

The “Protecting Girls’ Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act,” S.1580, urges the consideration of the educational needs of vulnerable women and girls in designing, implementing, and evaluating U.S. foreign assistance policies and programs, encouraging programs that provide safe primary and secondary education for displaced children; build the capacity of institutions in countries hosting displaced people to prevent displaced children from facing educational discrimination; and help increase the access of displaced children, especially girls, to educational, economic, and entrepreneurial opportunities. S.1580 is currently with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

**EXPRESS** your support for S.1580 to key Senate Foreign Relations Committee members

• **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

**REQUEST** that our Senators support S.1580

• **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

**ELECTIONS**

A.B.216, which has passed the California Senate, would require return ballot envelopes to have prepaid postage. Currently individual counties decide whether or not to provide return postage. The California Assembly has already approved this legislation, but now needs to consider changes made in the Senate before sending the legislation to Governor Brown.

**TELL** our Assemblymembers that we want to be sure every vote counts and that A.B.216 will help do this

• **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

**ASK** the Governor for quick approval when A.B.216 reaches his desk

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

The Washington Post reports that many Puerto Ricans who fled the island after Hurricane Maria and are now living in Florida have not yet registered to vote at their new addresses. These are people who have seen the havoc wreaked by the current administration, and we need their voices to be heard in midterm elections.

**URGE** the Chair of the Florida Democratic Party to prioritize voter registration among communities of recently resettled Puerto Ricans

• **Terrie Rizzo**, Chair, Florida Democratic Party, 214 South Bronough St., Tallahassee, FL 32301, 850-222-2411

After a court-ordered release of internal e-mails and documents from Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, it is clear that the motivation for including a citizenship question on the 2020 census is racially-motivated, and originated from Ross himself, Steve Bannon, and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, not the Justice. The e-mails further show how the Commerce Department and Justice Department worked together to push the Census Bureau to include the question on citizenship. Currently a coalition of State Attorneys General, including our own Xavier Becerra, is suing to have the question removed from the census.

**CONTACT** the Department of Commerce, the Attorney General, and the Census Bureau to tell them that we want to see this question removed from the 2020 Census

• **Wilbur Ross**, Secretary of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave NW Washington, DC 20230, (202) 482-2000

• **Jeff Sessions**, Attorney General, Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania NW, Washington DC 20530, (202) 514-4713

• **U.S. Census Bureau** [leadership currently in transition], 4600 Silver Hill Rd., Washington DC 20233, (301) 763-4636

**THANKS** to our Attorney General for taking action on this issue

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

The California Clean Money Action Fund is asking for support of A.B.2188 and S.B.651, the “Social Media DISCLOSE Act” and the “Petition DISCLOSE Act.” A.B.2188 requires political ads on Facebook, Google, Twitter, and other online platforms to link to a list of the top 3 funders of the campaign committee. S.B.651 would require that state ballot measure ads must also follow the California DISCLOSE Act's rules that reveal the real donors even when they hide behind layers of committees.

**TELL** our state legislators that we want action on both DISCLOSE Acts

• **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

H.Res.1033 is another of those Orwellian pieces of legislation that isn’t quite what it seems. The resolution, “Recognizing the Importance of Access to Comprehensive, High-Quality, Life-Affirming Medical Care for Women of All Ages.” Given that the U.S. has the worst maternal mortality record in the developing world, we might like the sound of “life-affirming” medical care. However, in this case “life-affirming” has a narrow meaning: “anti-choice.” The resolution praises the “Pro-Women’s Healthcare Certification Program,” which turns out to only “certify” women’s healthcare centers that refuse to provide abortions or abortion counselling. In other words, this is an association of “crisis pregnancy centers.” Given all we’re facing right now, this resolution might seem like nothing more than a bit of anti-abortion propaganda without teeth, but considering the current Supreme Court nominee and the threats to both choice and women’s healthcare, H.Res.1033 should be treated very seriously.

**URGE** our representative to oppose this deceptive resolution

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

H.J.Res.137 proposes a constitutional amendment that would give the franchise to vote in presidential elections to United States Territories, which include American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**ASK** our Congresspeople to support H.J.Res.137 because every American deserves the right to vote in Presidential elections

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

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

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

**ENVIRONMENT**

The “Off Fossil Fuels Act,” H.R.3671, would transition the U.S. away from reliance on fossil fuels and toward use of clean energy sources. H.R.3671 requires that by 2027: (1) 80% of electricity sold must be generated from clean energy resources, (2) 80% of new vehicle sales from manufacturers must be sales of zero-emission vehicles, and (3) 80% of train rail lines and train engines must be electrified. It requires that by 2035: (1) 100% of electricity must be generated from clean energy resources, (2) 100% of vehicle sales from manufacturers must be zero-emission vehicles, and (3) 100% of train rail lines and train engines must be electrified. This is an audacious piece of legislation, but with the pace of global warming, we need audacious action. This legislation is currently before a multitude of House committees and subcommittees.

ASK for support of H.R.3671 from members of the committees and subcommittees currently considering it

• **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

• **Representative Jeb Hensarling** (R-TX), Chair, House Financial Services Committee, 2228 Rayburn House office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3484

• **Representative Maxine Waters** (D-CA), Ranking Member, House Financial Services Committee, 2228 Rayburn House office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3484

• **Representative Kevin Brady**, Chair, House Ways and Means Committee,1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 205615, (202) 225-3625

• **Representative Richard Nea**l (D-MA), Ranking Member, House Ways and Means Committee,1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 205615, (202) 225-3625

• **Representative Virginia Foxx** (R-NC), Chair, House Education and the Workforce Committee, 2176 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527

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

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

• **Representative** **Fred Upton** (R-MI), Chair, Subcommittee on Power, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Pete Olson** (R-TX), Vice-Chair, Subcommittee on Power, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Bobby Rush** (D-IL), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Power, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Randy Webber** (R-TX), Chair, Subcommittee on Energy, House Science Space, and Technology Committee, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6371

• **Representative Steve Knight** (R-CA), Vice-Chair, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6371

• **Representative Marc Veasey** (D-TX), Ranking Member, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6371

• **Representative Lou Barletta** (R-PA), Chair, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446

• **Representative A. Drew Furguson IV** (R-GA), Vaice-Chair, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446

• **Representative Dina Titus** (D-NV), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446

• **Representative Jeff Denham** (R-CA), Chair, Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446

• **Representative John J. Faso** (R-NY), Vice-Chair, Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446

• **Representative Michael E. Capuano** (D-MA), Ranking Member, Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446

• **Representative Garret Graves** (R-LA), Chair, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446

• **Representative Brian J. Mast** (R-FL), Vice-Chair, Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446

• **Representative Grace F. Napolitano** (D-CA), Ranking member, Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446

**URGE** our Representative to become a cosponsor of H.R.3671

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

According to its official summary, the “Stop Arctic Drilling Act,” S.991, “declares that it is the policy of the United States that the Arctic Ocean should be managed for the best interests of the people of the United States, including by keeping fossil fuels in the ground to avoid the dangerous impacts of climate change. The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act is amended to prohibit the Department of the Interior from issuing or renewing a lease or any other authorization for the exploration, development, or production of oil, natural gas, or any other mineral in the Arctic Ocean, including the Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea Planning Areas.” This legislation is currently with the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Kamala Harris is a co-sponsor; Dianne Feinstein is not.

**EXPRESS** your support for S.991 to key committee members

• **Senator Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK), Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC20510, (202) 224-4971

• **Senator Maria Cantwell** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC20510, (202) 224-4971

**THANK** Harris for co-sponsoring S.991

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

**URGE** Feinstein to become a co-sponsor of S.991

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

Kamala Harris’ website announces: “Today,U.S. Senators Kamala D. Harris, Dianne Feinstein (both D-CA), and thirty-two of their colleagues introduced a Senate concurring resolution [S.Con.Res.42] in response to the Trump Administration’s proposal to roll back the federal fuel economy and greenhouse gas emissions standards. The resolution asserts California’s authority to set its own tailpipe emissions standards. Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) has introduced the companion resolution in the House of Representatives and is joined by 60 cosponsors. [Jimmy Panetta is a co-sponsor of the House legislation.] ‘California has long served as a model for the nation in the fight against climate change and efforts to ensure we can all breathe clean air,’ said Senator Harris. ‘The administration has again put a target on California’s back and they have chosen to protect pollution over people. Rolling back the fuel economy and greenhouse gas emissions standards will jeopardize air quality improvements and efforts to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. This decision is not based on scientific evidence and will ultimately cost Americans money at the pump. I will fight for California’s waiver and support policies that move the industry forward, provide savings for consumers, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and help combat climate change.’”

THANKS to our Congresspeople for standing up for California’s emission standards

• **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 *New York Times* reports: “The lawyer nominated to run the Superfund toxic cleanup program is steeped in the complexities of restoring polluted rivers and chemical dumps. He spent more than a decade on one of the nation’s most extensive cleanups, one involving Dow Chemical’s sprawling headquarters in Midland, Mich. But while he led Dow’s legal strategy there, the chemical giant was accused by regulators, and in one case a Dow engineer, of submitting disputed data, misrepresenting scientific evidence and delaying cleanup, according to internal documents and court records as well as interviews with more than a dozen people involved in the project. The lawyer, Peter C. Wright, was nominated in March by President Trump to be assistant administrator at the Environmental Protection Agency overseeing the Superfund program, which was created decades ago to clean up the nation’s most hazardous toxic waste sites. He is already working at the agency in an advisory role as he awaits congressional approval. If confirmed, Mr. Wright would also oversee the emergency response to chemical spills and other hazardous releases nationwide.”

**URGE** our Senators to fight Wright’s nomination and POINT OUT that he would be managing a program with which he’s been in an adversarial relationship for years

• **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 *Salt Lake Tribune* via *Rogan’s List* reports: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wrote in a report released in July that Utah’s Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument has helped shield archaeological sites from vandalism, bolstered tourism and spurred scientific discovery all without displacing cattle operations that have long used these public lands. *Then* the BLM pulled this report and then re-released with these references redacted. Critics contend the redactions were made because the material undermined Interior’s rationale for shrinking monuments.

**WARN** the Secretary of the Interior that we are on to his manipulation of information to benefit big business and damage our national monuments and we’re not going to stop paying attention

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

# The *Los Angeles Times* reports: “The Trump administration… tossed out a rule on marine protection for whales and sea turtles caught in fishing nets off the West Coast. The rule change was made *despite the fishing industry's having proposed the measures in the first place*, according to the Associated Press. [Emphasis added.] The National Marine Fisheries Service [also known as NOAA Fisheries], a division within the Commerce Department, said it decided the new protection rules were not warranted. ‘Under the proposed regulations, caps would have been established for five marine mammal species and four sea turtle species,’ the agency explained in a final action published in the Federal Register…. ‘When any of the caps were reached, the fishery would have been closed for the rest of the fishing season and possibly through the following season.’ The rules were proposed in 2016 under the Obama administration. The federal agency said the decision was based on an extensive federal study. ‘As a result of its analysis of the effects of the proposed rule, NMFS has decided that the changes covered in the proposed rule from 2016 are not warranted at this time.’ Some conservation groups called the action one of the first by the administration to target protections for threatened species off the Pacific coast, according to AP.”

# DENOUNCE this move to

# • Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave NW Washington, DC 20230, (202) 482-2000

# • Chris Oliver, Director, NOAA Fisheries, 1315 East-West Highway, 14th Floor, Silver Springs, MD 20910, (301) 427-8000

# • Samuel D. Rauch III, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NOAA Fisheries, 1315 East-West Highway, 14th Floor, Silver Springs, MD 20910, (301) 427-8000

# ETHICS

# A group of four Senators (Warren, Whitehouse, Carper, and Blumenthal) is calling for an investigation by the inspectors general of the president’s Air Force One trips, claiming that many of the invited guests have been people with whom the Trump family has ongoing business relationships, which would represent a conflict of interest.

# ENCOURAGE our Senators to join this group in demanding transparency and ethical conduct from the current 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

# California Democratic Party Chair Eric C. Bauman announced… that the CDP will no longer be accepting contributions from companies or trade associations that operate private prisons, private detention centers or other incarceration services that should be provided by publicly-accountable government entities. Additionally, Chair Bauman announced that the contributions the Party has already received since his election as chair on May 21, 2017 will be donated to organizations fighting to assist and protect immigrants whose lives are being endangered by the policies of the Trump Administration and organizations dedicated to assist and rehabilitate people coming out of prison and looking to reestablish their lives.

# THANKS for this ethical move to

# • Eric C. Bauman, Chair, California Democratic Party, 1830 90th St., Sacramento, CA 95811, (916) 442-5707

# FAMILY SEPARATION, DENATURALIZATION, and IMMIGRATION

# Trump has been threatening to shut down the government if he doesn’t get funding for his border wall.

# URGE our Congresspeople to stand firm—not 1¢ for a border wall

# • 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

# One way of dealing with the abuses and disfunction of Immigrations and Custom Enforcement (ICE) would be to eliminate ICE, shifting “all essential functions of ICE that uphold the Constitution and maintain high human rights standards pursuant to the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees of 1967 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights” to other appropriate federal agencies, making sure that these agencies comply with “the Constitution and maintain high human rights standards pursuant to the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees of 1967 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, … ensuring that all immigration enforcement carried out by Federal agencies administer asylum requests in a prompt and timely manner, and in full compliance with all relevant Federal statutes and international laws, such as the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees of 1967 and the Convention Against Torture.” [Long-ish stretch of official language there, but it matters.] This is exactly what H.R.6361, the “Establishing a Humane Immigration Enforcement Act,” would do. This legislation currently has only eight co-sponsors and our Jimmy Panetta is not among them. It is with the House Judiciary Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security of the House Homeland Security Committee.

# URGE our Representative to become a co-sponsor of this legislation

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

# CALL FOR swift, positive action on this legislation by key members of the committees considering it

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

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

# • Representative Kevin Brady (R-TX), Chair, House Ways and Means Committee, 1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3625

# • Representative Richard Neal (D-MA), Ranking Member, House Ways and Means Committee, 1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3625

# • 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

# A year ago, the Trump administration ended the Central American Minors Program, which allowed Central Americans residing legally in the U.S. to be joined by any minor children still in their country of origin. The law’s goal was to prevent Central American children from attempting a dangerous, unaccompanied journey to the U.S. to join their parents. In July, a class-action lawsuit was filed in California on behalf of those affected by the program’s termination. The lawsuit alleges that the government secretly ended the program days after Trump took office in January 2017, but didn’t publicly announce the decision until that August, violating their constitutional rights to due process and equal protection. During this time the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service continued to accept funds from applicants, which ranged from $100 for medical exams, $400 for DNA testing, and $1400 for each child’s plane ticket. When the program was ended, 2,700 children who had conditional approval to enter the U.S. lost that approval.

# INSIST on an investigation into this unconstitutional process that took money from immigrants under false premises and CALL FOR the reinstatement of the Central American Minors Program

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

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

# GENERAL DECENCY

# S.3262, the “U.S. Territories Relief Act,” would provide debt relief for Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories that currently face debt crises, which were many years in the making. Our Kamala Harris is one of the original four co-sponsors; Dianne Feinstein is not a co-sponsor. This legislation is currently with the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

# THANKS for co-sponsoring this legislation to

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

# ASK for support of S.3262 from both Feinstein and key Energy and Natural Resources Committee members

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

# • Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC20510, (202) 224-4971

# • Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC20510, (202) 224-4971

# GUNS

# Both the Senate and the House are considering legislation in response to the possibility of 3-D printed guns. The “Undetectable Firearms Modernization Act,”—S.533 in the Senate; H.R.2033 in the House—would prohibit firearms or significant firearm components not detectable to metal detectors. Feinstein is a co-sponsor of S.533; Harris is not. S.533 is currently with the Senate Judiciary Committee. Jimmy Panetta is not a co-sponsor of H.R.2033, which is currently with the House Judiciary Committee.

# THANKS to Feinstein for co-sponsoring S.533

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

# REQUEST strong support for S.533 from Harris [she’s on the Judiciary Committee] and the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee

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

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

# REQUEST support for H.R.2033 from Jimmy Panetta and key House Judiciary Committee members

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

# • 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

# HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS

# The bipartisan “Civil Rights Cold Case Collection Act,” S.3191 calls for the collection and preservation of the records of all civil rights cold cases and for public access to these records, making these documents an accessible part of the historical record. Kamala Harris is an original co-sponsor of this legislation; Feinstein is no a co-sponsor. S.3191 is currently with the Senate’s Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

# THANKS for co-sponsorship to

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

# REQUEST co-sponsorship from

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

# URGE quick action to bring S.3191 to the Senate floor by key members of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

# • 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

# The *Daily Herald* (Chicago) reports: “When immigration officials asked a Guatemalan father to sign a sheet of paper in English several weeks ago, he had no idea what it said. The man, a migrant who primarily speaks the Mayan language Akatek, knows no English, barely understands Spanish and is completely illiterate, according to his lawyer. But he is clear about what he wants most - to reunite with his 8-year-old daughter, from whom he was separated at the border in May. So the father was stunned to learn, from an attorney in a New Mexico immigration processing center, that he signed a form waiving his right to do just that. The Guatemalan man is one of many migrant parents separated from their children who may have unknowingly signed away their reunification rights, lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union wrote in court documents filed Wednesday. Some parents said they thought they were signing paperwork that would, in fact, allow them to reunite with their children, according to their immigration lawyers. Others described being crowded into rooms with dozens of people, given only a few minutes to fill out forms that would determine whether they would reunite with their children or leave them behind in the United States. They signed the forms out of fear, or confusion, or a belief that they had no other choice, lawyers wrote in the court filing.”

# OBJECT to this outrageous violation of human rights and DEMAND immediate investigation with repercussions for those responsible

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

# • Ronald Vitiello, Acting Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St. SW, Washington D.C. 20536, (866) DHS-2-ICE

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

# • Steven Wagner, Acting Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, (202) 401-9200

# • Scott Lloyd, Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Mary E. Switzer Building, 330 C ST SW, Washington DC 20201, (202) 401-9246

# • 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 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

# ****INTERNATIONAL****

# **The White House has announced it will no longer publish public summaries of Trump's phone calls with world leaders and has not done so since mid-June**. It's unclear if the change will be temporary or permanent. According to *CNN*, “Calls with world leaders are highly coordinated events that in the past have required careful planning by the President's national security team. Leaders are typically patched through the Situation Room, and sometimes aides listen in. Once the call is over, both sides typically publish a readout of what was discussed. However, readouts have been known to differ between governments…. Tony Blinken, who served as the deputy secretary of state in the Obama administration from 2015 to 2017, said there are two main reasons why issuing the readouts are important. ‘One is transparency,’ Blinken told CNN. ‘There is a public interest in knowing who he talked to and what they talked about. Secondly, these readouts help shape the narrative. If we aren't doing a readout, but the other country is, their narrative is going to prevail.’”

# OBJECT to this break with precedent that will leave both the public and Congress less informed about actions by the President

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

# • 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

# H.R. 3030, the “Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act,” would, according to the official summary, “establish that it shall be the policy of the United States to regard the prevention of genocide as a core national security interest and would specifically: affirm the importance of coordinating U.S. government actions to prevent genocide and mass atrocities; mandate training of U.S. Foreign Service Officers in atrocities prevention; and require an annual report to Congress on administration actions to prevent and respond to potential genocides and mass atrocities, and the identification of countries at risk of such genocide or mass violence.” This legislation is currently with the House Foreign Affairs and Intelligence Committees. H.R.3030 has 117 co-sponsors; Jimmy Panetta is not one of them.

# REQUEST strong support for this essential legislation both from our own Representative and from key members of the committees considering it

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

# • 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

# • 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) 225-4176

# The bipartisan “North Korea Policy Oversight Act,” S.3142, would, according to the *GovTrack* summary, “mandate that any deal that the U.S. strikes with North Korea be subject to congressional approval and oversight. The president would be required to submit any such deal to Congress within five days, to be voted on as a treaty — a requirement facing a tough two-thirds threshold for approval.” Given the sifting reports of agreements between the U.S. and North Korea that Trump has brokered, careful oversight like this is necessary. This legislation is currently with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Neither of our Senators is a co-sponsor.

# REQUEST vocal, uncompromising support for this legislation from the Chair of the Judiciary committee our Senators [Feinstein is Judiciary Ranking Member; Harris is a member]

# • 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), 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

# If the thought of Donald Trump launching nuclear strikes seems both terrifying and all too possible, you will want to support S.200 and H.R.699, both titled the “Restricting the First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act.” This act prohibits the President from using the armed forces to conduct a first-use nuclear strike, unless this strike follows a Congressional declaration of war authorizing such a strike. S.200 is with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Feinstein is a co-sponsor; Harris is not. H.R.699 is with the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Jimmy Panetta is a co-sponsor.

# THANK Feinstein for co-sponsoring S.200

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

# ASK Harris to become a co-sponsor of S.200

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

# URGE strong support for and quick action on S.200 from key Senate Foreign Relations Committee members

# • 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

# THANKS for co-sponsoring H.R.699 to

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

# URGE strong support for and quick action on H.R.699 by key members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee

# • 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