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

The “Rent Relief Act”—S.3250 in the Senate and H.R.3670 in the House—would give a tax credit to anybody who spends more than 30 percent of their income on rent plus utilities. The Senate version of the legislation was introduced by our own Kamala Harris; Dianne Feinstein is a cosponsor. S.3250 is with the Senate Finance Committee. H.R.3670 is with the House Ways and Means Committee. Jimmy Panetta is no a cosponsor and perhaps should be, given housing costs in the Santa Cruz area.

**THANKS** to Harris for introducing S.3250 and to Feinstein for cosponsoring

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 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

**URGE** support for S.3250 from key Senate Finance Committee members

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

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

**QUESTION** Panetta about his reasons for not cosponsoring H.R.3670 and say you hope he’ll actively support it

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

**URGE** support for H.R.3670 from key House Ways and Means Committee members

• **Representative Kevin Brady** (R-TX), 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 “Workflex in the 21st Century Act,” H.R.4219, would allow employers who offer “workflex plans” exemption from state and local employment laws. It would also allow employers to deny workers requested sick time if this would “unduly disrupt” their business. While some aspects of “workflex” could benefit some workers, the end run around state and local laws will certainly be disastrous. The legislation is currently with the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

**INFORM** key House Education and Workforce Committee members that undermining local laws under the guise of “flexibility” and **EXPLAIN** that if they want to benefit workers the should focus on national paid family and medical leave

# • 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

# REQUEST that our Representative keep an eye out for this legislation and oppose it forcefully should it reach the House floor

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

# From *Rogan’s List*: “The U.S. is in dire need of paid family leave, not only for new parents and postpartum recovery, but also for adult caregivers who are taking care of their aging parents or sick family members. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO) have introduced a bill which would provide paid leave, however, individuals would be drawing from their Social Security payments, leaving them to gamble their future financial security against their current medical. The bill would also only cover new parents, not caregivers or those who take medical leave.” [On the other hand] the Family and Medical Insurance Leave, or FAMILY, Act, S.337 in the Senate and H.R.947 in the House, which would create a trust fund from which individuals could receive benefits while on leave to care for relatives, their newborn babies, or to recover from their own health conditions S.337 is with the Senate Finance Committee. Feinstein and Harris are co-sponsors. H.R.947 is with the House Ways and Means Committee. Jimmy Panetta is a co-sponsor.

# THANKS for co-sponsoring the FAMILY Act to

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

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

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

# URGE key members of the Senate Finance Committee to support S.337

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

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

# URGE key members of the House Ways and Means Committee to support H.R.947

# • 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

# EDUCATION

# The Republicans’ main bill to reduce college costs is H.R.4508, the “PROSPER Act” [Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform Act]. Under this legislation, loans would be allowed to accrue interest while the student is still attending school — something that can’t be done under current Stafford loan. The bill “makes financing a college education harder for low- and middle-income students, dramatically reducing available grant aid and making student loans more expensive,” according to a group of House Democrats, who note that “The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that H.R. 4508 will reduce direct spending in the Pell Grant and Student Loan programs by $14.6 billion over ten years. While the bill makes college less affordable, it makes federal student aid more generous for for-profit institutions, at the expense of taxpayers and students. H.R. 4508 eliminates necessary guardrails and dilutes consumer protections that safeguard students and taxpayers. [It] expands and creates loopholes that will allow ineligible providers access to federal student aid without adequate oversight to ensure quality, and in some cases, even without compliance with any federal law.” H.R.4508 is currently with the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

# EXPLAIN to key members of the House Education and the Workforce Committee that we want legislation that doesn’t allow interest to accrue while students are still in school and that has safeguards in place to keep for-profit institutions from profiting by encouraging excessive student loans

# • 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

**ELECTIONS**

From *Rogan’s List*: “Donald Trump clearly can't be counted on to stop Russia from interfering in our elections, making the DETER Act, S.2313—which makes punishment for such actions automatic, taking it out of Trump's—crucial. This should be common sense legislation, and a litmus test for anyone who believes the intelligence agencies and not Putin.” This bipartisan legislation is currently with the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee.

**ASK** our Senators what they are doing to force a vote on it S.2313

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 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** key members of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee that we need automatic punishments because our President has repeatedly demonstrated that he refuses to accept the conclusions of our intelligence agencies and prefers “assurances” from Putin

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

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

From Rogan’s List: “August 6 was the 53rd anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. Over the years, Congress has voted to impinge on many of the facets of the original bill. Let’s tell Congress that we want to celebrate this important anniversary by having it fully restored.

In a democracy there is no right more important than the right to vote. We used to protect it with the Voting Rights Act, but ever since key parts of that law were gutted by the Supreme Court in 2013, our right to vote has been under steady and increasing attack by moneyed interests and opportunistic politicians. Congress has introduced new legislation to restore these lost protections, the Voting Rights Advancement Act (S.1419 and H.R.2978).” These bills are with the Judiciary Committees of their respective houses. S.1419 and H.R.2978 need more sponsors to advance, but we can thank all three of our Congresspeople for already being cosponsors.

**THANKS** for fighting to restore and preserve voting rights to

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

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

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

# ASK key members of both Judiciary Committees to step up for the franchise and to support

# • 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

# • 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 *Tampa Bay Times* reports: “Russian operatives have ‘penetrated’ some of Florida's voter registration systems ahead of the 2018 midterms, U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson said Wednesday, adding new urgency to concerns about hacking…. ‘They have already penetrated certain counties in the state and they now have free rein to move about,’ Nelson told the *Tampa Bay Times* before a campaign event in Tampa…. Nelson and Florida's other senator, Republican Marco Rubio, wrote a July 2 letter to the 67 county election supervisors about potential threats. But that letter lacked the specificity Nelson laid out. ‘County election boards should not be expected to stand alone against a hostile foreign government,’ the lawmakers wrote in recommending ‘a wide range of services’ from the Department of Homeland Security. ‘We were requested by the chairman and vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee to let the supervisors of election in Florida know that the Russians are in their records.’ [However, a spokesperson for the Florida Department of State claims they have] ‘received no information from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the Florida Department of Law Enforcement that corroborates Senator Nelson's statement and we have no evidence to support these claims’…. [Nelson’s] account was partly corroborated by two county officials, who said they heard a similar warning at a private meeting with Rubio in May.

**EMPHASIZE** to our Congresspeople and the Department of Homeland Security that we are deeply concerned about election interference and want to see strong preventative actions taken before the November elections

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

• **Matthew Masterson**, Senior Adviser, Cybersecurity Unit, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494

• **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

H.R.12, the “Voter Empowerment Act,” would strengthen voting rights in a number of ways including

-Requiring states to provide online voter registration

-Promoting access to registration and voting for individuals with disabilities

-Supporting pilot programs allowing disabled voters to vote from their homes

-Requiring states to inform those convicted of or paroled for state criminal offenses that they have the right to vote in federal elections

-Updating requirements for voting system audits

-Requiring durable paper ballots

H.R.12 currently has 183 co-sponsors, all of the Democrats. Our Jimmy Panetta is one of these co-sponsors. It is before a number of committees and subcommittees: the House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice; the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; the Committee on House Administration; the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology; the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce

**THANK** our Representative for his co-sponsorship of H.R.12 and his commitment to defending our voting systems

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

**EXPLAIN** to key committee and subcommittee members that we need action now to protect our elections and ensure the franchise to all Americans and that H.R.12 offers a way of accomplishing this

• **Representative Steve King** (R-IA), Chair, House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Ron DeSantis** (R-FL), Vice-Chair, House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Steve Cohen** (D-TN), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Jodey Arrington** (R-TX), Chair, House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, 335 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3527

• **Representative Beto O’Rourke** (D-TX), Ranking Member, House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, 335 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3527

• **Representative Gregg Harper** (R-MS), Chair, Committee on House Administration, 1309 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-8281

• **Representative Rodney Davis** (R-IL), Vice-Chair, Committee on House Administration, 1309 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-8281

• **Representative Robert Brady** (D-PA), Ranking Member, Committee on House Administration, 1309 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-8281

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

• **Representative Frank D. Lucas** (R-OK), Vice-Chair, House Committee on Science Space, and Technology, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6371

• **Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson** (D-TX), Ranking Member, House Committee on Science Space, and Technology, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6371

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

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

# • 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-NC), Vice-Chair, House Education and the Workforce Committee, 2176 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527

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

**ENVIRONMENT**

The STORAGE Act, H.R.6354, would exempt areas of water infrastructure (reservoirs, dams, etc.) from being required to follow Endangered Species Act (ESA) policies. A gift for corporations and local governments that don’t want to spend the time or money to follow the law or who simply don’t want environmental blocks to prevent their projects. The PETITION Act, H.R.6355, is even bolder, allowing listing deadlines to be ignored if a ‘backlog’ is declared (meaning species may go extinct waiting for review) and aims to again cut out crucial judicial review of decisions with the excuse that it will expedite petitions. Finally, H.R.6345 aims to weaken the ESA by allowing states and county governments to put the kibosh on ESA petitions before they even get to the federal government. All three bills are currently with the House Natural Resources Committee.

**EXPLAIN** to key House Natural Resources Committee members that ESA policies are grounded in good science and should apply to all governmental and civilian organizations

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

# • Representative Don Young (R-AK), Chair Emeritus, Natural Resources Committee, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2761

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

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

The California Air Resources Board has responded to what it contends are the

Administration’s illegal environmental and climate actions by formally initiating the

process to push the button on its long threatened “nuclear” option for air quality:

rescission of “deemed-to-comply” for automakers importing vehicles into California and

its replacement by direct regulation through tariffs, taxes, fees and even caps on vehicle

registration (in consequence, import quotas), effectively threatening multiple red states

with massive economic retaliation and dramatically increasing the risk of a vicious

constitutional legal fight that may ultimately escalate into a conflict with nullificationist

overtones. The vote is scheduled in California for September 27. Each of the 14 compact

states plus the District of Columbia (all fighting the proposed changes in emissions standards) will have to decide separately whether to join this escalation. California has stated that it is willing to negotiate with Washington DC; however, it has expressed pessimism as to the likelihood that the US will be willing to pull back from the brink.

**ASK** your state legislators to support this move if necessary and support the

most rigorous possible response by California to the EPA rollback of vehicle emissions

standards

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

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

**ASK** our California Senator to support SB 881

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

**CONTACT** the California Air Resources Board and ask for a Yes vote on September 27

• **Mary D. Nichols**, Chair, California Air Resources Board, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812, (800) 242-4450

• **Sandra Berg**, Vice-Chair, California Air Resources Board, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812, (800) 242-4450

• **John Gioia**, Bay Area Air Quality Management Member, California Air Resources Board, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812, (800) 242-4450

• **Richard Corey**, Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812, (800) 242-4450

• **Ellen M. Peter**, Chief Counsel, California Air Resources Board, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812, (800) 242-4450

• **Veronica Eady**, Assistant Executive Officer for Environmental Justice, California Air Resources Board, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812, (800) 242-4450

• **Senator Eduardo Garcia**, Ex Officio Member, California Air Resources Board, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812, (800) 242-4450

• **Senator Ricardo Lara**, Ex Officio Member, California Air Resources Board, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812, (800) 242-4450

# The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service revoked a 2014 ban on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides in national wildlife refuges. Recent research has linked this particular class of pesticides to harmful effects on bees and other pollinators. Conservationists have already notified the Republican administration that they will sue.

# OBJECT to this reversal of an important ban that served humans, bees, and our planet

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

# • Andrew Wheeler, EPA Administrator, Mail Code 1101A, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460

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

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

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

# Asbestos, along with nine other currently banned substances, is now legally allowed back into U.S. manufacturing under a serious of loopholes by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). On June 1, the EPA authorized a “SNUR” (Significant New Use Rule) that allowed the distribution of products containing asbestos on a case-by-case basis. The EPA’s new framework for evaluating proposed use of asbestos will not take into consideration the presence of asbestos in the air, ground, or water—in other words, the dangers they might pose to people who have indirect contact with asbestos. Let’s recall that Trump distains anti-asbestos regulations and after the World Trade Center attack tweeted that the towers would not have burned if they contained more asbestos. And one more point: the largest exporter of asbestos is—you guessed it—Russia. In fact, one Russian asbestos producer has been using an image of Trump’s face on the material with which it seals pallets of asbestos. (Sounds crazy, but I am not making this up.)

# DEMAND an immediate reinstatement of the asbestos ban for the sake of those who work with it and those who come into indirect contact with it and POINT OUT that Trump’s claim asbestos is safe doesn’t begin to outweigh decades of peer reviewed science showing it is dangerous at any level

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

# • Andrew Wheeler, EPA Administrator, Mail Code 1101A, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460

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

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

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

# The *Fresno Bee* reports: “Ending a five-year moratorium, the Trump administration Wednesday took a first step toward opening 1.6 million acres of California public land to fracking and conventional oil drilling, triggering alarm bells among environmentalists. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management said it’s considering new oil and natural gas leases on BLM-managed lands in Fresno, San Luis Obispo and six other San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast counties. Meanwhile, activists in San Luis Obispo are pushing a ballot measure this fall to ban fracking and new oil exploration in the county. If BLM goes ahead with the plan, it would mark the first time since 2013 that the agency has issued a new lease for oil or gas exploration in California, according to the Center for Biological Diversity, which immediately vowed to fight the move. California is the nation’s fourth largest oil-producing state, after Texas, North Dakota and Alaska, with much of the production concentrated in the southern San Joaquin Valley and Southern California.

# OBJECT to this proposed move to key administration and committee figures

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

# • Brian Steed, Deputy Director, Policy and Programs, Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C St. NW, Room 5665, Washington DC 20240, (202) 208-3801

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

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

# • Senator Mike Lee (R-UT), Chair, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, 304 Dirksen Senate Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4971

# • Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, 304 Dirksen Senate Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4971

# The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) has once again come under attack. S.2942 and H.R.6013 expand hunting seasons for migratory birds and add even more hunting days for special groups like children and military personnel. This comes at a time when migratory birds already face significant threats from Changing environmental policies and climate warming.

# ASK our Senators to oppose the unnecessary expansion of hunting seasons on migratory birds presented by S.2942

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

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

# ASK our Representative to oppose the unnecessary expansion of hunting seasons on migratory birds presented by H.R.6013

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

# ETHICS, SEPARATION of POWERS, and TRANSPARENCY

# The JACK Act [Justice Against Corruption on K Street], S.2896, requires any lobbyist to disclose any previous conviction for any of the following crimes: “bribery, extortion, embezzlement, an illegal kickback, tax evasion, fraud, a conflict of interest, making a false statement, perjury, or money laundering.” Given the current climate in our still-to-be-drained DC swamp, this seems like a step in the right direction. S.2896 is currently with the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

# URGE our Senators to become cosponsors and REQUEST vigorous support for this legislation

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

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

# EXPLAIN to key Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee members that this is exactly the sort of monitoring and transparency we need right now

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

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

# ProPublica has reported that a trio of Mar-a-Lago insiders (a doctor, a lawyer, and an entertainment executive, none of whom have military experience) have become de facto heads of the Veteran Affairs (VA). Though the three claim they are only offering advice, the record makes it clear that the VA is following this advice closely.

# DEMAND an end to this manipulation of the VA by unqualified civilians from administration officials and congressional Armed Services Committees members (including our own Jimmy Panetta)

# • Robert Wilkie, Secretary of Veran Affairs, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, 810 Vermont NW, Washington DC 20420, (844) 698-2311

# • James N. Mattis, Secretary of Defense, 1000 Defense Pentagon, Washington DC 20301-1000, (703) 571-3343

# • Senator John McCain (R-AZ), Chair, Senate Armed Services Committee, 228 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 224-3871

# • Senator Jack Reid (D-RI), Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, 228 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (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

# FAMILY SEPARATION, DENATURALIZATION, and IMMIGRATION

# Two laws dating back to the Immigration Act of 1929 criminalize crossing the U.S. border without authorization. These are Title 8 U.S. codes 1325 and 1326. Repealing these laws would decrease family separation, stop wasting taxpayer dollars on mass detention, and add some humanity to our immigration policies.

# ENCOURAGE our Congresspeople to investigate a repeal to this two laws that are currently being abused to injure so many

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

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

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

From *Rogan’s List*: In its latest attack on immigrants, the administration is putting forth a proposal to limit legal immigrants from attaining citizenship, especially those who have used public assistance. Ultimately, this policy will result in increased deportations, hunger, and homelessness for families and children. The number of immigrants who were granted green cards dropped 20% from 2016 to 2018

**REGISTER** our outrage over this new policy with

# • 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

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

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

# • Representative Michael McCaul (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515 • Representative Bennie Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8417

# ASK our Congresspeople what they can do to assure the hard-working legal immigrants are not denied the process of attaining citizenship

# • 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

# An Action Network petition explains: “Privatized detention and incarceration centers are hell on earth—and they are big business for private companies. Ending private detention is a way to start ending detention—period…. Between 2014 and 2018, the Office of Refugee Resettlement paid private companies $3.4 Billion to house migrant children. Further, 44 percent of those companies face serious, well documented reports and allegations of child maltreatment. These include forced administration of psychotropic drugs and physical and sexual abuse. Another $2 billion is spent on adults facilities…. These privatized detention centers are big money makers for the industry.”

# INSIST to key administration and Congressional figures that this profit-motivated, privatized detention needs to end now

# • 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

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

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

# • Representative Michael McCaul (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515 • Representative Bennie Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8417

# Virginia Governor Ralph Northam has ordered officials from the Department of Public Safety and Homeland Security and the Department of Juvenile Justice to investigate abuse claims by migrant teens who were held in the Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center juvenile detention facility in the state. Northam has promised, “If Virginia public officials find evidence of abuse or mistreatment at this facility, my administration will do everything we can to ensure the safety of these children.” The Governor’s action follows claims made by six teens being held at the detention facility for months or years after entering the U.S. The teens say they were stripped, strapped to chairs with bags over their heads, had their mattresses, bedding, and clothes taken away, and placed in solitary for weeks at a time.

# THANK Governor Northam for initiating this investigation

# • Governor Ralph Northam, Office of the Governor, P.O. Box 1475, Henrico, VA 23233, (804) 786-2211

# SUGGEST to Homeland Security that the responsibility to investigate—and end—these abuses should be theirs

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

# Since a month after his inauguration, Trump planned to separate children from their parents at the border. He has done so and the results are inhumanely disastrous. We need a special investigator to determine how this can be remedied, responsible people held accountable, and policies set so this can never happen again.

# ASK our Congresspeople to look for (or create) opportunities support an investigation of this kind

# • 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

# As of July 15, 273,000 U.S.-born children were in danger of being separated from their foreign-born TPS-receiving parents, if those parents are deported as planned by the Trump administration. TPS stands for Temporary Protected Status, and many of these families have been here for decades under this immigration program, such as the Honduran refugees who came after Hurricane Mitch in 1999 or the El Salvadoran refugees who came after two earthquakes in 2001. The Department of Homeland Security plans to begin deportations when the current TPS statuses run out in 2019 and 2020 (depending on country of origin). The State Department still issues travel advisories for their countries of origins, suggesting they are not safe to return to. People forced to flee their home countries who have legally made their homes in the United States, many of them for more than a decade, are facing deportation with Trump stripping them of their temporary protected status. The American Promise Act of 2017, H.R.4253, and the SECURE Act, S.2144, would provide permanent legal residency and a pathway to citizenship for all TPS holders. Each of these pieces of legislation is with the Judiciary Committee of its respective house.

# TELL our Congresspeople and key House and Senate Judiciary Committee members that it’s essential to avoid a new round of family separations and that we want people with TPS to be able to remain here with their children and away from harm

# • 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

# • 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

# GENERAL DECENCY and COMMON SENSE

# From *Rogan’s List*: “Even though the administration is threatening a government shutdown if Congress doesn’t provide funding for a border wall, the Government Accountability Office announced yesterday that the White House has not yet provided a full analysis of the costs and projected outcomes of the project.”

# TELL our Congresspeople that without a complete accounting of the full costs and benefits of the project, it would be fiscally irresponsible to move forward, no matter what the president is threatening—and moving forward on this wall would threaten our relationship with Mexico

# • 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

# *Newsweek* reports that inmate fire fighters working on California’s many wildfires are being paid $2 a day, with a $1 per hour additional for hours spent actively fighting fires. Regardless of whether these firefighters are inmates, they are putting their lives on the line to protect the people, land, and property of this state and deserve much better. Currently 3,400 inmates from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation—and at least 58 juvenile offenders—are serving our state in this capacity. California saves an estimated $80 million a year from using these underpaid firefighters.

# DECRY the underpayment of these firefighters facing conditions most of us cannot even imagine

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

# • Scott Kernan, Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 1515 S St., Sacramento, CA 95811, (916) 324-7308

# • Kathleen Allison, Director of Adult Institutions, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 1515 S St., Sacramento, CA 95811, (916) 324-7308

# • Charles Supple, Director, Division of Juvenile Justice, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 1515 S St., Sacramento, CA 95811, (916) 324-7308

# • Brantley Choate, Director, Division of Rehabilitative Programs, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 1515 S St., Sacramento, CA 95811, (916) 324-7308

# GUNS

# H.R.6649 would prohibit publishing 3D printer plans for the printing of firearms, which besides being easy to make are also untraceable. At the moment, this legislation has only three cosponsors, all Democrats. Given the nightmare possibilities that 3d printer guns would open up, it deserves much strong support—and bipartisan support. H.R.6649 is currently with the House Judiciary Committee.

# URGE our Representative to become a cosponsor of this crucial legislation

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

# INSIST to key members of the House Judiciary Committee that you want to see this legislation prioritized—regardless of an individual’s stance on gun regulation, we can agree that printable guns are dangerous and dissemination of plans for making them is irresponsible

# • 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

# Two pieces of House legislation could set important, reasonable gun controls. H.R.6643 would require that all firearms be traceable, which could help restrict the making of guns on 3d printers. H.R.6654 would allow only licensed dealers to transfer guns at gun shows, ending unregulated sales and trading among attendees. Both are currently with the House Judiciary Committee.

# URGE key House Judiciary Committee members to support H.R.6643 NS 6654

# • 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

# TELL our Representative that we want strong support for these bills if they reach the House floor

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

# H.R.367 is an ill-advised piece of legislation that would essentially eliminate all restrictions on gun silencers and would “treat any person who acquires or possesses a firearm silencer as meeting any registration or licensing requirements of the National Firearms Act with respect to such a silencer.” It would also require refunding of the current $200 silencer tax to anyone who paid it on or after October 22, 2015. H.R.367 Is currently with the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Judiciary Committee.

# EXHORT our Representative to fight this dangerous piece of legislation

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

# INFORM key members of the House Ways and Means and Judiciary Committees that this legislation is a move in the wrong direction and will make Americans and law enforcement more vulnerable

# • 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 205615, (202) 225-3625

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

# HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS

# For the moment Army has stopped discharging immigrant recruits seeking a path to citizenship. An internal memo from Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Marshall Williams states “Effective immediately, you will suspend processing of all involuntary separation actions.” According to Army Lt. Col. Nina L. Hill said they were stopping the discharges in order to review the administrative separation process. This decision could affect hundreds of enlistees.

# THANKS for issuing this order and CALLS to make it permanent to

# • Marshall Williams, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, 111 Army Pentagon, #2E460, Washington DC 20310-0111, (703) 697-9253

# REQUEST an end to discharge of immigrant recruits from key Senate and House Armed Services Committees members

# • Senator John McCain (R-AZ), Chair, Senate Armed Services Committee, 228 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 224-3871

# • Senator Jack Reid (D-RI), Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, 228 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (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

# INTERNATIONAL

# From *Rogan’s List*: “Trump has until the end of September to determine the number of refugees that the U.S. will accept for the next fiscal year. With Stephen Miller in the White House, along with new, more hardline cabinet secretaries Mike Pompeo and Kirstjen Nielsen, we can assume that it will be a fight to maintain the same number that we had this year, which was already a drastic reduction from previous years. Still, let's be sure that we do not make it easy for them to reduce the immigration cap even further this year.”

# CONTACT administration officials and our Congresspeople to say we want to see immigration numbers maintained of increased for Fiscal Year 2019

# • 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

# • Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State, US Department of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520, (202) 647-4000

# • 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

# Since late August 2017, the Burmese army has waged a brutal offensive against Rohingya communities in Burma (Myanmar). The military has now forced more than 600,000 people to seek refuge in Bangladesh. This is the worst example of ethnic cleansing that the world has witnessed in more than a decade. A bipartisan group of U.S. senators and representatives have introduced companion bills in the Senate and House to use U.S. leverage to end the violence, provide humanitarian assistance, and hold the perpetrators accountable. The Burma Human Rights and Freedom Act (S.2060) and the Burma Unified Through Rigorous Military Accountability Act (H.R.4223) will:

# -Mandate the U.S. government to take steps to help end the repression and violence against the Rohingya.

# -Facilitate continued U.S. humanitarian assistance to the affected people.

# -Implement targeted sanctions against Burmese military officials responsible for the atrocities.

# -Effectively prohibit U.S. military-to-military cooperation with Burma's army.

# -Call for full implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, which includes recognition of citizenship rights for the Rohingya.

# S.2060 is currently with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Dianne Feinstein is a co-sponsor; Kamala Harris is not. H.R.4223 is currently with four House committees: Foreign Affairs; Financial Services; Armed Services; and Ways and Means. Jimmy Panetta is not a co-sponsor, but is a member of the Armed Forces Committee.

# DECRY these ongoing crimes against humanity and ask for swift action on S.2060 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, 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

# DECRY these ongoing crimes against humanity and ask for swift action on H.R.4223 from

# • Representative Ed Royce (R-CA), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2066 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515 (202) 225-5021

# • Representative Francis Rooney (R-FL), Vice-Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2066 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515 (202) 225-5021

# • Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2066 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515 (202) 225-5021

# • 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

# • 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

# • 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

# JUDICIARY and RELATED

# The National Archives is claiming that it will take until at least the end of October to supply all the documents that are being requested for review in the Kavanaugh Supreme Court nomination, and Democrats on the Judiciary Committee are being forced to file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to get what they need to properly vet Kavanaugh. Even Judiciary Committee Chair, Chuck Grassley, (R-IA) is admitting that the confirmation process may need to be pushed back, but we need to make sure he follows through appropriately and doesn’t rush confirmation hearings.

# WEIGH IN on the importance of reviewing all documents with our own Senators and other key members of the Senate Judiciary and URGE them to do their job of taking the utmost possible care in checks and balances and assuring that our democracy isn’t eroded on the judicial level.

# • 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

# ME TOO

# H.R.6464, the bipartisan Hold Accountable and Lend Transparency (HALT) Campus Sexual Violence Act is intended to strengthen prevention and enforcement efforts to combat campus sexual violence. The bill was introduced by Jackie Speier, who cites data showing that 20% of female college students and 6% of male college students are likely to experience sexual assault on campus. Too often, Speier say, victims of campus sexual assault are accused of “code of ethics” violations, like drinking at parties or going to other students’ dorm rooms, or are blamed for not fighting back. HALT would

# -Allow the Department of Education to fine colleges not in compliance with civil rights requirements under Title IX

# -Increase penalties for violations of the Cleary act, which requires colleges and universities participating in federal financial aid programs to maintain and disclose campus crime statistics

# -Create a private right of action for students harmed by institutions that fail to meet campus safety requirements

# -Institute biennial campus climate surveys

# -Require public disclosure of colleges and universities under investigation for violations of Title IX and the Cleary Act

# -Provide an additional $5 million for Title IX and Cleary Act investigations

# And more. HALT is supported by a number of organizations, including the National Women’s Law Center; End Rape on Campus; Girls, Inc.; and YWCA. H.R.6464 is currently with the House Education and the Workforce and Judiciary Committees.

# ADVOCATE for strong, positive action on H.R.6464 from our own Representative and from key members of the two committees currently reviewing the proposed legislation

# • 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

# • 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-NC), Vice-Chair, House Education and the Workforce Committee, 2176 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527

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

# From *Rogan’s List*: “By the time Congress returns from recess, they will have just eleven days to reauthorize the Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA) before it expires. This important legislation has been around since the early nineties with bipartisan support and offers protections for victims of domestic violence and provides grants for law enforcement training and victims services. This year's proposal would also address the needs of Native American women both within and outside of reservations.”

# CONTACT our Representatives and make sure that they pass the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, H.R.6545, ASAP

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

# MILITARIZATION

# Mike Pence has laid out a plan for developing a “Space Force,” which would be a new, sixth branch of our military. According to the plan, the “Space Force” could be created as early as 2020. This proposal would be hugely expensive and faces significant opposition both within and outside of our existing military. Previously, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis had spoken out against it, but he now appears to be back-pedaling, saying the Pentagon and the White House are “in complete alignment” on the need to view space as a war-fighting domain. The White House is reported to be ready to move ahead on “Space Force” creation without the involvement of Congress. At least two members of the House Armed Services Committee, one Republican, one Democrat (Mike Rogers and Jim Cooper), have gone on record saying that the “Space Force” would create a “safer, stronger America.”

# REJECT this costly (8 billion for start-up), illogical attempt to turn space into a war zone and, most likely, to fatten the already immense Pentagon budget and NOTE, if you’re inclined, that the proposed responsibilities of the “Space Force” could be taken on by the Air Force if they prove truly necessary

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

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

# • James N. Mattis, Secretary of Defense, 1000 Defense Pentagon, Washington DC 20301-1000, (703) 571-3343

# • 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

# • Representative Mike Rogers (R-AL), Member, House Armed Services Committee, 2216 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4151

# • Representative Jim Cooper (D-TN), Member, House Armed Services Committee, 2216 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4151

# PRESS FREEDOMS and RELATED

# While Trump continues to disparage the press as “the enemy of the people,” the Senate is considering S.Res.501, “A Resolution Recognizing Threats to Freedom of the Press and Expression around the World and Reaffirming Freedom of the Press as a Priority in Efforts of the Government of the Unites States to Promote Democracy and Good Governance.” It affirms the value of the international—though does not address press issues at home. Nonetheless, this resolution, which does not have the power of law, does provide a counterpoint to administration name-calling. S.Res.501 has four sponsors: three Democratic and one Republican. It has been approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and now heads to the Senate floor.

# TELL our Senators we’re counting on them to support this resolution upholding press freedoms

# • 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 Trump administration’s decision to impose tariffs on Canadian newsprint is hastening the demise of local newspapers across the country, forcing already-struggling publications to cut staff, reduce the number of days they print and, in at least one case, shutter entirely…. A Charles River Associates study undertaken on behalf of a coalition of printers, publishers and paper suppliers projects that American newsprint prices will increase more than 30 percent in the next one to two years, and that newspapers and printers will face an increased cost of roughly half a billion dollars from the remaining five American mills producing newsprint. The study was filed with the United States International Trade Commission, an independent federal agency that governs trade and could ultimately overturn or change the Commerce Department’s decision in a ruling expected [in September].”

# ASK our Congresspeople to protect freedom of the press and support small businesses by pushing for an end to this tarriff

# • 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