**ISSUES/ADDRESSES for 9/29/18**

**CONSUMER PROTECTIONS, WORKING CONDITIONS**

The Watsonville *Register-Pajaronian* reports that more than 100 raspberry pickers employed by Premier Raspberries LLC (which sells berries under the name Well-Pict) have walked off the job in Watsonville, California, alleging unfair labor practices. United Farm Workers (UFW) organizer Roman Pinal says that the company has refuse to honor a contract approved by UFW workers in December 2017, despite being ordered to do so August by the Agricultural Labor Relations Board and instead, appealed that order in September. The order also requires Well-Pict to pay workers the difference between their negotiated rate and the rate they have been paying since the time the new contract should have gone into effect. The new contract would provide overtime pay after an eight-hour work day and improvements to health and pension benefits—both particularly important due to the physically demanding nature of the work. (Write-up 9/29/2018)

**TELL** Well-Pict that we expect them to honor fairly negotiated contracts and that we won’t be buying their products until they do so

• **Dan Crowley**, Vice-President of Sales and Marketing, 209 Riverside Road, Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 722-3871

H.R.1466, The 21st Century Childcare Investment Act, would provide tax credits for parents paying for employment-related childcare. The care would have to be provided at a licensed childcare facility. The credit would be limited to $14,000 a year for children under three and $5000 for children older than three and through age five. This legislation is currently with the House Ways and Means Committee. (Write-up 9/29/2018)

**URGE** key Ways and Means members to approve the very reasonable and limited provisions of H.R.1466 so it can be voted on by the full House

• **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

**ENVIRONMENT**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides an excellent study in what happens when government entities ignore science. Last year, the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Inspector General published a report after Hurricane Harvey showing that 58% of DHS’s flood-risk maps failed to accurately identify the level of flood risk during that disaster. This lack of accurate maps is exacerbated by poor choices by local and state governments. The city of Houston, which was at the center of Harvey, had no zoning laws. The state of North Carolina passed a law prohibiting planning and policies using climate change data and, instead, requiring that they use only historical data—this after the state’s own Coastal Commission released a report in 2012 predicting that sea levels could rise by 39 inches over the next century. (Write-up 9/29/2018)

**INSIST** that DHS and FEMA make use of the best science available to prevent loss of lives and property and recovery expenses

• **Kirstjen Nielsen**, Secretary of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW,

Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495

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

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

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

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

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

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

**ETHICS, SEPARATION of POWERSD, and TRANSPARENCY**

The Preventing Corrupting Foreign Influence Act, H.R.6466, would prohibit foreign influence over the President, Vice President, and their family members. One would hope such legislation would be unnecessary, but given disagreements about whether the Emoluments Clause of the Constitution applies to the President and any number of ongoing court cases alleging improper foreign influence over the current administration, we apparently need it. H.R.6466 is currently before the House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations and the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. (Write-up 9/29/2018)

**EXPLAIN** to key members of the committees considering H.R.6466 that the time has come to enact specific legislation barring foreign influence over the executive branch

• **Representative Jim Sensenbrenner** (R-WI), Chair, House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Sheila Jackson Lee** (D-TX), Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, 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

**FAMILY SEPARATION, DENATURALIZATION, and IMMIGRATION**

According to a *Countable* summary, in May and June of this year, Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen repeatedly stated (including in statements to Congress) that the Republican Administration did not have a policy of family separation when enforcing “zero tolerance” immigrations practices. However, in an April document offering options for enforcing “zero tolerance” obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request, Nielsen signed off on the option to prosecute and separate those “presenting with a family unit, between ports of entry with the cooperation of the DOJ [Department of Justice].” This memo specifically states that prosecuting every adult at the border would result in children being separated from their parents. (Write-up 9/29/2018)

**REQUEST** that the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security investigate Nielsen’s conflicting statements and the memo she signed off on

• **John Kelly**, Acting Inspector General, 245 Murray Dr., Building 410, Washington DC 20528, (202) 254-4100

**INFORM** our Congresspeople that we want them to keep an eye on this situation and to push for the Secretary’s resignation if it is determined that she deliberately misled Congress

• **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 Republican Administration announced in September that it plans to limit the number of refuges to enter the US for resettlement in 2019 to 30,000. This represents a 33% cut from last year’s record low cap of 45,000. The international Refugee Committee provides data to further explain the impact of these cuts. Between October 2016 and August 2017 the U.S. admitted 22,861 refugees identifying as Muslim; Since October 2017 the U.S. has admitted only 3,129 such refugees. Admissions of refugees identifying as Christians have had similar precipitous drops. In the year ending in October 2017, the U.S. admitted 23,876 such individuals; since then it has admitted only 13,960 of these refugees. In the year ending October 2017, the U.S. admitted 6,509 Syrian refugees; since then it has admitted only 60—this despite the role the U.S. is playing in providing arms that fuel the conflict these refugees are fleeing. Over the same period, admission of Iraqi refugees has dropped by nearly 98%. In fact, despite the record low cap of 45,000 last year, the U.S. actually admitted only 19,899 refugees, fewer than half the number permissible under the cap. (Write-up 9/29/2018)

**URGE** our Congresspeople to fight for more generous refugee admissions

• **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

**GENERAL DECENCY**

On way to fight the Republican Administration’s Muslim ban (Executive Order 13780) is to refuse to fund it. S.1979 and H.R.4271 would do just that, prohibiting spending to implement or enforce the policy. S.1979 is currently with the Senate Judiciary Committee. Our Senators Feinstein and Harris sit on this committee and both are co-sponsors of the legislation. H.R.4271 is currently before four committees: the House Judiciary Committee; the House Foreign Affairs Committee; the House Homeland Security Committee; and the House Intelligence Committee. Jimmy Panetta is not a co-sponsor. (Write-up 9/29/2018)

**NOTIFY** key committee members that we don’t want use our tax dollars to implement a policy vilifying a single religion that does nothing to improve U.S. security

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

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

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

• **Representative Ed Royce** (R-CA), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5021

• **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5021

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

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

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

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

A Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Inspector General’s report looked at more than 5,500 doctors employed by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as of June, 2017. These doctors screen immigrants seeking green cards. The report found that more than 130 of these doctors had a background of wrong-doing, including one doctor who sexually exploited female patients and another who tried to have a dissatisfied patient killed. The report found that USCIS’s failure to effectively screen these doctors put immigrants “at risk of abuse,” blaming this problem on the fact that USCIS does not have “policies to ensure only suitable physicians are designated.” Given the vulnerabilities of people applying for green cards these risks of abuse can be substantial. (Write-up 9/29/2018)

**DEMAND** that policies be put in place immediately to ensure that USCIS and DHS employ only qualified physicians with clear records

• **Kirstjen Nielsen**, Secretary of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW,

Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495

• **L. Francis Cissna**, Director, US Citizenship and Immigration Services, 20 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 29529, (800) 375-5283

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

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

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

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

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

**HEALTH and HEALTHCARE**

The Disability Integration Act (S.910 in the Senate; H.R.2472 in the House) prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports. Too often, individuals with on-going needs are involuntarily placed in institutions. The proposed legislation would provide home- and community-care alternatives to institutionalization. The Senate version of this legislation has 25 co-sponsors; neither Feinstein nor Harris are among them. The House version of this legislation has 125 co-sponsors; Jimmy Panetta is not among them. S.910 is currently with the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. H.R.2472 is currently with the House Judiciary and Energy and Commerce Committees. (Write-up 9/29/2018)

**ASK** our Senators to step up as co-sponsors of S.910

• **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 step up as a co-sponsor of H.R.2472

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

**INFORM** key members of committees considering this legislation that we await it being sent to the full Senate and House

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

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

• **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 Greg Walden** (R-OR), Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Joe Barton** (R-TX), Vice-Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Frank Pallone** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

**HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS**

The Pregnant Women in Custody Act, H.R.6805, is the kind of legislation one wishes weren’t needed, but apparently it is. H.R.6805 would prohibit the use of restraints and restrictive housing on inmates during the period of pregnancy, labor, and postpartum recovery. It would also require the collection of data on incarcerated pregnant women and the results of their pregnancies, with the goal of addressing their healthcare needs. H.R.6805 is currently before the House Judiciary Committee. Jimmy Panetta is not a sponsor. (Write-up 9/29/2018)

**URGE** quick movement of H.R.6805 through committee and on to the House floor

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

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

**ASK** our Representative to consider becoming a co-sponsor of H.R.6805

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

For over a year now, Greyhound Bus Lines have been allowing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents to board its busses, question passengers, and demand proof of citizenship. Greyhound is under no obligation at allow this without a warrant or probable cause. The continued access they grant to CBP agents allows for the profiling, detaining, and deportation of riders. (Write-up 9/29/2018)

**INSIST** to Greyhound executives that they cease this collaboration with ICE and CBP and that they **HONOR** the rights and dignity of their passengers

• **David Leach**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Greyhound Bus Lines, 350 North St. Paul St., Dallas, TX 75201, (214) 849-8966

• **Tricia Martinez**, Senior Legal Officer, Greyhound Bus Lines, 350 North St. Paul St., Dallas, TX 75201, (214) 849-8966

The Disabled Access Credit Expansion Act, S.3459, would amend the Internal Revenue Code to expand the credit for expenditures to provide access to disabled individuals. This legislation is currently with the Senate Finance Committee. (Write-up 9/29/2018)

**EXPLAIN** to key committee members that legislation like this—allowing everyone in the U.S. to participate fully in our society through increased access—is exactly the sort of thing we want to see our tax dollars supporting

• **Senator Orrin G. Hatch** (R-UT), Chair, Senate Finance Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 228-0544

• **Senator Ron Wyden** (D-OR), Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 228-0544

**INTERNATIONAL**

The Israel Anti-Boycott Act, H.R.1697, would prohibit any U.S. person engaged in interstate or foreign commerce from supporting any boycott against a country that is friendly to the U.S. and is not subject to a U.S. boycott. It also specifically prohibits participation in any boycott against Israel imposed or requested by an international government agency. In other words, business people may not make their own choices about nations in which they want to do business—this despite the fact that the Supreme Court’s Citizens United ruling has determined that money is a form of speech protected by the First Amendment. Disappointingly our own Jimmy Panetta is a co-sponsor of this legislation which is currently with the House Foreign Affairs and Financial Services Committees. (Write-up 9/29/2018)

**CRITICIZE** our Representative’s choice to support this legislation that infringes on free speech and freedom of assembly rights and **ASK** that he reconsider his stance

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

**INSIST** to key members of the House Foreign Affairs and Financial Services Committees that you are appalled by this very un-American piece of legislation

• **Representative Ed Royce** (R-CA), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5021

• **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 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

The Cesar Syrian Civilian Protection Act, H.R.1677, is a unique bipartisan measure that prohibits the transfer of arms and materials to Syria that would likely be used to commit further human rights abuses. It also highlights the atrocities carried out by Assad and his allies, ultimately forcing accountability by guaranteeing the collection and preservation of evidence for future prosecutions of human rights abuses. It has passed the House and has been “reported” by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, meaning it is eligible for discussion and a vote on the floor of the Senate. Jimmy Panetta was a co-sponsor of this legislation in the House. (Write-up 9/29/2018)

**URGE** the Senate Majority Leader to place H.R.1677 on the Senate Agenda

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

**ASK** our Senators to support H.R.1677, should it reach the Senate floor

• **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

**THANK** Representative Panetta for co-sponsoring this legislation when it was in the House

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

While House resolutions are not legally binding, they can demonstrate to the executive branch the concerns of the legislative branch. H.Res.1069, with the rather lengthy title Requiring the President to Seek Congressional Authorization Prior to Any Engagement of the United States Armed Forces against Any Adversary, would express the view of the House that the President is required to seek Congressional authorization before engaging the U.S. armed forces against Syria, Iran, or Russia and that the President is obligated to consult with Congress before sending U.S. Armed Forces into “situations of hostilities.” It would also assert that use of the U.S. Armed Forces without Congressional approval is unconstitutional. This resolution is currently with the House Foreign Affairs Committee. (Write-up 9/29/2018)

**EXPLAIN** to key members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee that we are unnerved by the sudden, extreme, and quickly shifting stances of our President and want this resolution passed to affirm Congress’s Constitutional authority

• **Representative Ed Royce** (R-CA), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5021

• **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5021

**INFORM** our Representative that we want him to advocate strongly for H.Res.1069

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

**PRESS FREEDOMS and RELATED**

Congress is pushing to add the Preventing Emerging Threats Act (S.2836 in the Senate; H.R.6401 in the House) to the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) Authorization Act to permit the Justice Department and the Department of Homeland Security to warrantlessly spy on drones—including drones used by media organizations for their reporting. (Write-up 9/29/2018)

**INFORM** our Congresspeople that we want them to oppose this legislation that gives government the power to warrantlessly spy on journalists and activists

• **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