**CONSUMER PROTECTIONS and WORKING CONDITIONS**

Donald Trump has been talking about privatization of the U.S. Postal Service, which has the potential to both make some (probably already wealthy) people wealthier and to seriously diminish postal services available in terms of delivery days, post office locations, and who knows what else. In response to that possibility, we have S.Res.633, A Resolution Expressing the Sense of the Senate that Congress Should Take All Appropriate Measures to Ensure that the United States Postal Service Remains and Independent Establishment of the Federal Government and Is Not Subject to Privatization (one would think they might have come up with a more galvanizing title, but that’s neither here nor there…). A resolution is just that, a resolution, meaning “we would really like this, but we either won’t or can’t come up with anything more forceful.” Nonetheless, S.Res.633 is what we have at the moment. We can at least take satisfaction in knowing that Feinstein and Harris are co-sponsors. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**THANK** our Senators for their co-sponsorship and **INFORM** them that we are hungry for more forceful action that will protect postal service for all of us

• **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) 224-35653

**ELECTIONS**

North Dakota’s voter ID law, which had been temporarily enjoined, is now in force, following the Supreme Court’s refusal to overrule a decision by 8th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling allowing the law to be enforced. What is problematic with this law? It required voters to present an ID with a residential street address when voting. Why is this problematic? Many of the state’s Native Americans living on reservations *have no street address*. The U.S. postal service doesn’t deliver on rural reservations, so residents receive their mail at a post office box. As a result, reservation residents may not have a street address on their IDs because there has been no official purpose for these. The Supreme Court’s decision not reinstate the enjoinment on the law means significant numbers of Native American citizens in the state will be unable to exercise their right to vote in the November elections. Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote a dissent criticizing the decision; she was joined by Elena Kagan. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**THANKS** to Notorious RGB for standing up for voting rights

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

**POINT OUT** to our Congresspeople that this sort of deliberate disenfranchisement needs to be blocked via legislation and **TELL** them it’s time for a national voters’ bill of rights

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

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-35653

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-2861

U.S. elections are still at risk of being influenced by foreign disinformation campaigns. A recent Brookings Institute analysis offers the following warnings. One goal of Russian disinformation campaigns is to make it impossible for voters to tell fact from fiction. Disinformation campaigns are ramping up as mid-term election approach with extensive manipulation of social media. Artificial Intelligence tools are increasingly able to predict and manipulate human responses. Fake video and audio content are becoming increasingly realistic and difficult to identify. Brookings has recommended that the U.S. develop a strategy of political warfare deterrence. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**DEMAND** that Congressional leaders and key members of the appropriate Congressional Committees act to better protect U.S. elections and to create well-funded, coordinated efforts to prevent foreign election interference

• **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader, 217 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541

• **Senator Chuck Schumer** (D-NY), Senate Minority Leader, 332 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6542

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

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

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

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

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Select Intelligence Committee, 211 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-1700

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Select Intelligence Committee, 211 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-1700

• **Senator Roy Blunt** (R-MO), Chair, Senate Rules and Administration Committee, 260 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5721

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

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

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

New IRS guidelines reduce donor disclosure requirements for certain tax-exempt groups, for example, the National Rifle Association and the Koch-backed Americans for Prosperity. Senate Democrats are fighting back via the Congressional Review Act with a resolution that disapproves of the new IRS guidelines. A resolution of this type can be discharged from committee without a vote after 20 days, then a Senator can proceed to move the resolution to the floor if the resolution has written support from thirty Senators. The resolution was introduced by Democrats Jon Tester and Ron Wyden and currently has 43 co-sponsors, including 36 Democrats, 5 Democrats, and 2 Independents. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**THANKS** to Tester and Wyden for pursuing this

• **Senator Jon Tester** (D-MT), 311 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2644

• **Senator Ron Wyden** (D-OR), 221 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6253

**ENCOURAGE** our Senators to offer all possible support to the effort

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

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-35653

Reality Winner, who is now serving a 5+ year sentence for helping us find out about 2016 Russian election interference has been moved to the facility where she will be serving out her sentence. No doubt she can use messages of support, friendly greetings, and thanks for her courage. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**SHOUT-OUT** to

• **Reality Winner** 22056-021, Carswell Federal Medical Center, PO Box 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127

**ENVIRONMENT**

Hurricane Michael should serve as a warning to all of us of the dangers of ignoring climate science, but Trump and coal lobbyist-turned-EPA-head Andrew Wheeler probably need that lesson more than most. (Write-up 10/13/18)

• **Donald Trump**, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 50500, (202) 456-1111

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

From *Chop Wood, Carry Water* a suggested message for our Congresspeople: “I am really worried about climate change, especially after having read the [U.N.] report released… saying we have ten years to address [climate change] before it's too late. I want the Congress(wo)man to co-sponsor the OFF Fossil Fuels Act (H.R. 3671). It sets a goal of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2035 with an interim benchmark of 80% renewable energy by 2027.” (Write-up 10/13/18)

**SHARE** this message with our Congresspeople and **ASK** if they’ve seen the U.N. report and how they plan to respond to it

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

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-35653

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-2861

From *USA Today* via *Rogan’s List*: “Ignoring the seriousness of the IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] report, the “U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday turned aside appeals of a 2017 lower court ruling by its newest justice, Brett Kavanaugh, that struck down an environmental rule imposed under former President Barack Obama regulating a potent greenhouse gas [hydrofluorocarbons] linked to climate change.” (Write-up 10/13/18)

**REMIND** our Congresspeople that this is another indication that they will have to be the ones to lead this climate-change fight

• **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) 224-35653

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-2861

**ETHICS, SEPARATION of POWERS, and TRANSPARENCY**

When Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross added a citizenship question to the 2020 census, he claimed it would allow better enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, in other words, offering potential proof of systematic voter suppression if Census figures and voting data were disparate. In March of this year, he claimed that he had not communicated to anyone in the White House about the citizenship question he added to the census. Newly released Commerce Department emails reveal a different story. Ross communicated with then-advisor Stephen Bannon and Kansas Secretary of State (and briefly co-chair of the President’s short-lived voter fraud commission) about the question. Email between Kobach and Ross indicates that part of the impetus behind the citizenship question was a desire to lower the resident count (Because undocumented immigrants aren’t official residents) in certain states (think, California, for example) whose voters just happened to be primarily Democrat. In fact, but one estimate this use of the citizenship question would have taken away two of California’s seats in the House of Representatives. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**DECRY** this attempt to skew fair representation in Congress and **ASK** for an investigation of Ross for perjury

• **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) 224-35653

**SUGGEST** to Ross that he might want to rethink the whole citizenship question

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

Requesting the President and Directing the Secretary of State to Transmit to the House of Representatives Copies of All Documents, Records, Communications, Transcripts, Summaries, Notes, Memoranda, and Read-Aheads in Their Possession Referring or Relating to Certain Communications Between President Donald Trump and President Vladimir Putin, which is the title of H.Res.1017 isn’t particularly catchy, but it does call for something we desperately need: greater transparency regarding interactions between Trump and Putin. This Resolution, which currently has exactly zero co-sponsors, is with the House Foreign Affairs Committee. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**TELL** key committee leadership that the health of American Democracy depends upon their willingness to demand, study, and respond to these documents

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

• **Representative Francis Rooney** (R-FL), Vice-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

**SUGGEST** to our Representative that he become H.Res.1017’s first co-sponsor

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-2861

**FAMILY SEPARATION, DENATURALIZATION, and IMMIGRATION**

The family separation/reunification chaos continues. The July 10 court-ordered reunification has long since passed, and an estimated 13,000 children are still in immigration custody. A number of pieces of recently-introduced legislation seek to facilitate reunification and provide better care for these children, but there’s no certainty that any of them will make their way through the Republican-controlled Congress. H.R.7047 bears the promising title To Provide for Enhanced Protections for Vulnerable Alien Children and for Other Purposes, but no text is yet available. H.R.6594 would require a coordinated plan for reunification be worked out and published within ten days of the legislation’s passage—but that would involve getting it out of committee in the House, having it passed in the House, having the Senate approve analogous legislation, and Donald Trump signing off of the deal. H.R.7030 would block the use of any placement data gathered by the Department of Health and Human Services for any purpose other than reunification—but it faces all the same hurdles H.R.6594 faces. Meanwhile, using the scant information on the situation of detained children publicly available, the Associated Press has announced that state court judges may now be able to grant custody of migrant children to U.S. families without notifying the children’s parents. Abusive, potentially life-threatening treatment has been reported at a number of immigration detention facilities. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**DEMAND** of every figure with any power to improve the condition of life for these children or to reunite them with their families that they immediately and without partisan bias take action to accomplish these goals

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

• **Ronald D. Vitiello**, Deputy Director and Senior Official Performing the Duties of Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St. SW, Washington DC 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

• **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader, 217 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541

• **Senator Chuck Schumer** (D-NY), Senate Minority Leader, 332 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6542

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

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

**INSIST** that our Congresspeople relentlessly pursue complete family reuinification and an end to detention abuse

• **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) 224-35653

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-2861

**GENERAL DECENCY**

S.1917, the Sentencing Reform and Correction Act would reduce costly mandatory sentences that are partly responsible for prison overpopulation (and the subsequent abuses of private prisons) in the U.S. Introduced by Republican Senator Chuck Grassley, this legislation has significant bipartisan co-sponsorship—Feinstein and Harris are among the co-sponsors. S. 1917 has made it through the Senate Judiciary Committee and can now be brought to the full Senate. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**URGE** the Majority Leader to bring S.1917 to the Senate floor

• **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader, 217 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541

**THANK** our Senators for co-sponsoring S.1917

• **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) 224-35653

Representative Kevin McCarthy’s (R-CA) has introduced H.R.7059, the Build the Wall, Enforce the Law Act, which would ultimately provide a total of $23.4 billion for the construction of Trump’s proposed border wall. This legislation is currently with five House Committees: Judiciary; Homeland Security; Ways and Means; Armed Services, and Budget. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**EXPLAIN** to key committee members that a border wall will be expensive and ineffective and is unnecessary, particularly during the period of skyrocketing national debt

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

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

• **Representative Steve Womack** (R-AZ), Chair, House Budget Committee, B234 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-7270

• **Representative Todd Rokita** (R-IN), Vice-Chair, House Budget Committee, B234 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-7270

• **Representative John Yarmuth** (D-KY), Ranking Member, House Budget Committee, B234 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-7270

Following an outcry after it allowed ACT for America, an anti-Muslim hate group, to hold a conference at one of its hotels, Hyatt has announced a new policy and will no longer rent space to hate groups. The announcement was made by Hyatt CEO Mark Hoplamazian. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**THANKS** to Hyatt for taking this positive move

• **Mark Hoplamazian**, Hyatt President and Chief Executive Officer, 71 South Wacker Dr., Chicago, IL 60606

Dr. Christine Blasey Ford demonstrated immense courage and integrity in speaking out publicly about being sexually assaulted by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. Even before she testified, Dr. Blasey Ford and her family were forced to move from their home due to threats of violence and death threats. There’s no telling how long it will be until they can return to their home, but given the hateful political climate in the U.S., it may be a matter of months or even years. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**THANKS** for her act of exceptional bravery to

• **Dr. Christine Blasey Ford**, c/o Palo Alto University, 1791 Arastradero Dr., Palo Alto, CA 94304

The *Houston Chronicle* reports “A little-known provision tucked into the Farm Bill could exempt the entire chemical manufacturing industry from key workplace safety rules and jeopardize workers’ health, according to one of the government agencies charged with overseeing safety in the chemical industry. Officials from the Department of Labor say the provision would create a broad exemption from Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards for managing highly hazardous chemicals, and could have ‘the unintended consequence’ of allowing a large chemical facility to skirt the rules by claiming to be a retail facility.” (Write-up 10/13/18)

**INFORM** our Congresspeople that we are appalled by this possibility and **EXPLAIN** that if this provision makes it into the final form of the bill, we need an immediate effort to restore chemical industry workplace safety rules

• **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) 224-35653

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-2861

**GUNS**

The PLASTIC Act, H.R.7016, would prohibit the making, of guns, munitions, and related items via 3-D printing technology and prohibit the possession or transfer of these items. It would also establish a task force to address the national security and safety issues raised by the use of 3-D technology to manufacture guns, munitions, and related items. This legislation was introduced by Sheila Jackson Lee and is currently before the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**EXPLAIN** to key Judiciary members how essential this legislation is for ordinary Americans who live in fear because of the proliferation of unregulated firearms

• **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

**THANK** Representative Jackson Lee for introducing H.R.7016

• **Representative Sheila Jackson Lee** (D-TX), Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

**HEALTHCARE and HEALTH**

Think back: do you remember the outcry round about this time last year when the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS—don’t ask me why there’s only one “M”) announced repeated downtimes for maintenance during the Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”) sign-up period? Now, it’s déjà vu all over again as the CMS have announced another round of maintenance at exactly the same time the much-protested downtime occurred last year. The sign-up site will be down from midnight to noon on five of the six Sundays falling during the sign-up period, for a total of 60 hours downtime. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**POINT OUT** to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and CMS administrators have had over a year to figure out how to prevent downtime during ACA sign-ups and ASK why they were unable to come up with another option

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

• **Seema Verma**, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20201, (877) 696-6775

• **Kimberly Brandt**, Principal Deputy Administrator for Operations, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20201, (877) 696-6775

S.3476, the PEPFAR Extension Act, would continue U.S. global programs to combat HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria. S.3476 has been approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and can be put before a vote of the full Senate. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**URGE** the Majority Leader to bring S.3476 to the Senate floor

• **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader, 217 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541

**ASK** our Senators to advocate for S.3476 both before and while it is under Senate consideration

• **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) 224-35653

**HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS**

The No Red and Blue Banks Act, H.R.3539, appears to be a backdoor effort to squash consumer movements intended to get banks to refuse to do business with specific companies due to social policy concerns (think about the campaigns to get banks to stop funding gun manufacturers and companies contributing to “zero tolerance” and immigration detention camps). Under H.R.3539 the General Services Administration would be barred from doing business with “insured depository institutions that avoid doing business with certain companies that are engaged in lawful commerce based solely on social policy concerns.” So, while the Citizens United ruling has assured corporate personhood and First Amendment free speech rights for the sake of making unlimited campaign donations, those free speech rights do not extend to allowing banks to refuse to do business with corporations whose policies or means of profit they disagree with. H.R. is currently with the House Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**EXPLAIN** to key committee members that if a bank has personhood and free speech rights when making campaign donations, it should have the same right when making decisions about whom to do business with

• **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

Our Jimmy Panetta explains that he has cosponsored H.R.6869, the Violence Against Women Veterans Act, “to target assistance to domestic violence and sexual assault survivors in the veteran’s and military community. It is estimated that one third of female veterans experience domestic violence. This legislation would take important strides towards increasing resources for veterans. First, it would establish local domestic and sexual violence outreach coordinators under the VA, who would be tasked with helping veterans utilize existing service providers. Second, it would codify the current VA Task Force on Domestic Violence and direct it to establish a comprehensive national program to prevent and treat intimate partner violence. Finally, it would fill an existing lack of data by directing the VA to complete a national study on the prevalence and causes of domestic violence among veterans.” H.R.6869 is currently with the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**TELL** key committee members that we want to see decisive, positive action taken on H.R.6869 and **EXPLAIN** that our service members deserve protection from domestic violence when they return home

• **Representative Phil Roe** (R-NC), Chair, House Veterans’ Affairs Committee, 335 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3527

• **Representative Gus Bilirakis** (R-FL), Vice-Chair, House Veterans’ Affairs Committee, 335 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3527

• **Representative Tim Walz** (D-MN), Ranking Member, House Veterans’ Affairs Committee, 335 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3527

New York’s Representative Jerry Nadler has introduced the Democracy Restoration Act, H.R.6612, which would set uniform federal standards for the voting rights of convicted felons and, in some cases, expanding those rights. Currently states vary widely in their disenfranchisement policies for convicted felons, and the patchwork of rules means that a convicted felon’s voting rights are dependent on geographical location. H.R.6612 is currently with the House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**SHARE** your support for voting rights of all Americans with key committee members

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

• **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951 [Nadler is H.R.6612’s sponsor]

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

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

The United States' past is riddled with lynchings. Over the years more than 200 pieces of legislation making lynching a federal crime have been introduced in the Senate, yet the Senate has failed to pass any of them. The Justice for Victims of Lynching Act, S.3178, introduced by our own Kamala Harris would right this wrong. The Senate Judiciary Committee has now forwarded S.3178, which would make lynching a federal hate crime, for a vote of the full Senate. Analogous legislation, H.R.6086, is currently with the House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**DEMAND** that the long-overdue S.3178 be brought to the floor of the Senate by the Majority Leader

• **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader, 217 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541

**URGE** key House committee members to send H.R.6086 to the House floor as quickly as possible—the country has already waited far too long

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

• **Representative Sheila Jackson Lee** (D-TX), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

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. Recently Greyhound has specifically affirmed its intention to allow CBP access to its buses. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**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

From Countable: “**Countable: The Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Inspector General has issued a scathing report on conditions at a privately run detention facility in Southern California—outlining poor medical conditions, misuse of solitary confinement, and unsafe practices.** Inspectors found nooses in 15 of 20 cells they visited at the center operated by the GEO Group for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. They also found that a disabled detainee was “'inappropriately held” in solitary confinement for nine days. Do we need more government oversight of private ICE prisons?” (Write-up 10/13/18)

**EMPHASIZE** the life-threatening nature of this abuse to key administration figures and our Congress people and **DEMAND** investigation of and remedies for these practices

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

• **Ronald D. Vitiello**, Deputy Director and Senior Official Performing the Duties of Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St. SW, Washington DC 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

• **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) 224-35653

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-2861

**ME TOO**

H.R.6545, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, is currently with a quintet of House Committees: Judiciary; Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means; Natural Resources; and Education and the Workforce. With this many committees considering the legislation, we need to push for action. (Write-up 10/13/18)

EXPLAIN to key committee members that reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act should be a top priority and that we want no further delay on 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 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

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

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

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

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

**PRESS FREEDOMS and RELATED**

Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi Journalist and *Washington Post* columnist and a resident of Virginia, has disappeared after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, with concerns that he has been assassinated by Saudi operatives. U.S. Intelligence officials speaking anonymously reported that the U.S. has intercepts showing a plan to lure Khashoggi from the U.S. to Saudi Arabia in order to kill him. Turkish press is claiming that the Turkish government has possession of an Apple watch with which Khashoggi recorded his own death and subsequent dismemberment. Trump, who has significant business ties with Saudi Arabia, was originally unresponsive to news of Khashoggi’s murder, but has since said there will be “consequences” if Khashoggi was killed by Saudi operatives. The Senate is currently addressing Khashoggi’s disappearance in two ways. First a bipartisan group of 22 Senators have signed on to a letter to the President that triggers a provision of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act which requires the President to issue a report to Congress within 120 days determining whether Khashoggi was the victim of a “gross human rights violation.” On October 11, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) introduced legislation that would cease all U.S. military aid and arms sales to Saudi Arabia until Khashoggi is found alive and free. Full text of this legislation is not yet available, and it has not yet been sent to committee. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**TELL** Trump the Khashoggi disappearance deserves immediate and full investigation, regardless of Trump’s personal business dealing with the Saudis

• **Donald Trump**, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 50500, (202) 456-1111

**ASK** our Congresspeople to fight for an immediate and full investigation into Khashoggi’s disappearance and **EXPLAIN** that you want them to support S.3950 and any similar House legislation and the proposed moratorium on military aid and sales to Saudi Arabia

• **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) 224-35653

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-2861

**RUSSIA, the MUELER INVESTIGATION and RELATED**

S.2644, the Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Act, has made it through the Senate Judiciary Committee and can now go to the full Senate should Majority Leader Mitch McConnell decide to make this happen. This legislation would place strict limits on the firing of special counsels and require follow-up reporting to Congress. S.2644 currently has only four sponsors—Feinstein and Harris are not among them—and deserves much stronger support. Parallel legislation in the House, H.R.5476 (also titles the Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Atc) is still with the House Judiciary Committee. Jimmy Panetta is a co-sponsor. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**URGE** the Senate Majority Leader to bring S.2644 to a vote of the full Senate

• **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader, 217 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541

**URGE** our two Senators to step up and become cosponsors of S.2644

• **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) 224-35653

**URGE** key House Judiciary Committee members to send H.R.5476 on to the full House

• **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

**THANK** our Jimmy Panetta for his co-sponsorship of H.R.5476

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-2861

In late September, our Jimmy Panetta introduced the Special Counsel Security Assurance Act, H.R.6955, which would make it much more difficult for a President to revoke the security clearance of a special counsel. Under H.R.6955, a three-judge panel would first have to determine that the firing or a special counsel was necessary on national security grounds before that firing could go into effect. H.R.6955 is currently with the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 10/13/18)

**ASK** key members of the House Oversight and Governmental Reform Committee and the House Judiciary Committee to take swift, positive action on H.R.6955

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

• **Representative 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 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

**THANK** our Representative for introducing this legislation

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-2861