**November Issues/Addresses**

**CHURCH/STATE SEPARATION**

Health and Human Services (HHS) has finalized rules making it easier for employers to opt out of the Affordable Care Act’s (aka “Obamacare”) requirement that health insurance include contraception. The new rules will apply to small businesses, non-profits, schools, insurance companies, and individuals and will allow them to apply for an exception to mandatory contraception coverage if the object to contraception on religious or moral grounds. (Write-up 11/16/18)

**REGISTER** your dissatisfaction with this move by writing to

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

**SHARE** your concerns about these policy changes with our Congresspeople

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

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

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

The new acting Attorney General (AG), Matthew Whitaker, has gone on record saying that judges should have a “Biblical view” and that, if he could, he would block appointment of non-Christian judges. Whittaker specifically referenced atheist judges, but his comments also extended to Jewish and Muslim judges. This is an unacceptable breach of separation of Church and State, as well as blatant religious discrimination, both of which are clear violations of the Constitution and which should make Whittaker unfit to serve as AG. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer has been particularly vocal in insisting that the appointment of an AG must be confirmed by the Senate, and that Whittaker should not be allowed to sidestep the confirmation process. (Write-up 11/16/18)

**TELL** our Senators to challenge Whitaker’s appointment and authority to serve in this position

• **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** the Senate Minority Leader for insisting that any acting AG must be confirmed by the Senate

• **Senator Chuck Schumer** (D-NY), 322 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6542

South Carolina and Miracle Hill Ministries, a Protestant social services agency in the state, have filed a request with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that the Federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act (FRFA)—most often used as a means of providing businesses the right to refuse services to LGBTQI Americans—be interpreted to allow Protestant organizations to refuse to work with Jewish people should doing so violate a tenet of their faith. What this means is that in a state with a social services system facing a massive demand for child placements as a result of the opioid epidemic, “Christian” organizations could choose to deny all offers for foster care from Jews—and also, presumably, from Muslims, Catholics, Unitarians, agnostics, and atheists, as well as any other group a social services agency feels does not share its faith. Give the always unmet need for qualified foster parents, this would result in practices that are not only discriminatory, but that would force children to remain in institutions, rather than in family settings. (Write-up 11/2/18)

**TELL** Health and Human Services that this request is an act of discrimination, not religious freedom, and that it violates First Amendment protections in our Constitution

• **Alex Azar**, Secretary of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20201, (202) 690-7000

**ASK** our Congresspeople to introduce legislation that would clarify the limits of the FRFA, particularly in the provision of social services

• **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

**CONSUMER PROTECTIONS, 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

The Central Coast’s own Jimmy Panetta has introduced H.R.7071, the Farmworker Housing Improvement Act, intended to improve the quality of and access to farmworker housing. Given the important role of agriculture on the Central Coast—and given that all Americans need access to the affordable, healthy food produced by farmworkers—this bill deserves across the board support. H.R.7071 is currently with the House Finance Committee. (Write-up 10/19)

**EXPLAIN** to key Finance Committee members the importance of safe, affordable farmworker housing

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

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

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

**THANK** Jimmy Panetta for introducing this legislation

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

The Paycheck Fairness Act, (S.819 in the Senate; H.R.1869 in the House) would amend the 1938 Fair Labor Practices Act to strengthen equal pay provisions and stiffen penalties for companies that violate these. It also directs the Department of Labor to establish a grant program for job training for girls and women, conduct studies with the goal of eliminating gender-based pay disparities, and educate the public on issue of wage fairness. The Senate version of the bill is co-sponsored by all Democratic members of the Senate (including Feinstein and Harris) and one Independent; there are no Republican co-sponsors. It is with the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. The House version of the bill is co-sponsored by all Democratic members of the House (including Panetta); again, there are no Republican co-sponsors. It is with the House Education and the Workforce Committee. (Write-up 10/5)

**TELL** the Leadership of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee that we want to see action on S.819 and **EXPLAIN** to the Republican Chair that paycheck fairness should not be a partisan issue

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

**TELL** the Leadership of the House Education and the Workforce Committee that we want to see action on H.R.1869 and **EXPLAIN** to the Republican Chair and Vice-Chair that paycheck fairness should not be a partisan issue

• **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

**ELECTIONS**

Midterm elections saw lots of long lines, poorly functioning election equipment, and shortages of election equipment. The *bipartisan* Secure Elections Act (S.2261 in the Senate; H.R.6663 in the House) would help remedy these problems by providing funding to states to update voting machinery and by encouraging the use of paper ballots. (Write-up 11/16/18)

**CALL ON** our Congresspeople to support this important 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

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

Facebook’s new “paid for by” transparency disclosure requirement for political advertisements is, quite simply, a complete failure. As a test of the system, VICE News applied to by advertisements in the names of all 100 current U.S. Senators. In applications, these advertisements were listed as coming from a diverse range of non-existing political groups (including “Cookies for Political Transparency” and Ninja Turtles PAC”). VICE News did not carry through with the actual purchase of these ads, but Facebook approved all one hundred “paid for by” disclosure statements. (Write-up 11/2/18)

**EXPLAIN** to Facebook that “transparency” does not mean “whatever the hell anyone wants to claim” and that they need to improve their “paid for by” process now

• **Mark Zuckerberg**, Chairman and CEO, Facebook Headquarters, 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025, (650) 543-4800

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

**POINT OUT** to our Congresspeople that this is another illustration of the need for *real* transparency in political advertising

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

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

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

The Protecting American Votes and Elections Act, H.R.6093, would require voting systems for federal elections to use paper ballots that can be verified by the voter before the vote is cast. The National Science Foundation would be responsible for awarding grants to study, test, and develop such voting systems. H.R.6093 is currently with the House Administration and House Science, Space, and Technology Committees. It only has seven co-sponsors at the moment, so let’s ask our Representative to sign on. (Write-up 10/19)

**VOICE** your support for more secure elections to key members of the House Administration and Science, Space, and Technology Committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

**URGE** our Representative to become a co-sponsor, because secure elections are essential to a healthy democracy

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

The Native American Voting Rights Act, S.3543, would remove barriers to Native Americans’ voting, including lack of accessible registration and polling sites, language assistance, and outreach efforts. It is currently with the Senate Judiciary Committee. Our Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris both sit on the Judiciary Committee and are co-sponsors of S.3542. (Write-up 10/19)

**TELL** the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee that you are tired of efforts to disenfranchise Native American voters and want quick action on S.3542

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

**THANKS** for co-sponsoring S.3542 to

• **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- A), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5225

Several states face substantial efforts to disenfranchise voters. One of the worst of these is Georgia, where the current Republican Secretary of State, who ran for Governor (the race is still being finalized), has been disqualifying voters by the thousands—primarily Black voters. Let’s see if we can’t help get some extra pressure exerted on the current Governor to address this problem by contacting some of the businesses with corporate headquarters in Georgia and telling them you want to see them advocating to support the rights of all voters—and that their choice to do, or not do this, will affect your use of their services. (Write-up 10/19; Updated 11/12)

**DEMAND** advocacy on behalf of Georgia’s electorate from

• **UPS World Headquarters**, 55 Glenlake Parkway NE, Atlanta, GA 30328, (800) PICK-UPS

• **Coca Cola Company Headquarters**, 1 Coca Cola Plaza NW, Atlanta, GA 30313, (404) 676-2121

• **Home Depot Headquarters**, 2455 Paces Ferry Rd. SE, Atlanta, GA 30339, (770) 433-8211

• **Delta Airlines**, 1030 Delta Blvd., Atlanta, GA 30320, (404) 715-2600

• **Aflac Headquarters**, 1932 Wynnton Road, Columbus, GA 3199

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**

The Endangered Species Transparency and Reasonableness Act, H.R.3608, does pretty much the opposite of what its title implies. It would allow decisions about species protection to be made using any data available, regardless of its scientific soundness; diverts agency resources intended for recovery efforts; it would add layers of red tape to the classification of species as endangered. The House Committee on Natural Resources has approved this legislation, which means that Speaker Ryan could bring it to a vote of the full House at any time. (Write-up 10/19)

**ASK** our Representative to keep a close eye on this legislation and to fight fiercely against it should it come to a House vote

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

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

California won’t be seeing an end to smoking at State Parks and Beaches any time soon, as Governor Jerry Brown has vetoed (for the third time!) legislation that would put such a ban in place. Brown’s veto statement said the ban isn’t needed because these are “wide open spaces.” (Write-up 10/5)

**REMIND** the Governor that our State is at year-round danger of catastrophic fires and that highly toxic cigarette butts are the most common form of beach and ocean pollution and **TELL** him that he’s made a very poor decision

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

The House Natural Resources Committee has approved nine bills, all of which would weaken provisions of the Endangered Species Act under the guise of “modernization,” and which can now come before a vote of the full HOUSE. Among other things, these bills would delist or “downlist” endangered and potentially endangered species, give cities and states more influence in limiting endangered species protections, and would allow a “discharge” of species-protection petitions when there is a backlog of such petitions (in other words, do nothing and the petition *will* disappear). (Write-up 10/5)

**INSIST** to our Representative that H.R.6308, H.R.6344, H.R.6345, H.R.6346, H.R.6354, H.R.6355, H.R.6356, H.R.6364, and H.R.6360 represent an unacceptable threat to U.S. biological health and diversity and to the beauty of our Central Coast and **ASK** that he fight them with all possible means

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

The Off Fossil Fuels for a Better Future Act, H.R.3671, would require that by 2027 80% of all electricity sales be generated from clean sources, that by 2027 80% of all cars sold must be zero-emissions vehicles, and that by 2027 80% of train lines and engines be electrified. Each of these thresholds would rise to 100% by 2035. It provides rebates for consumers purchasing clean vehicles, bans issuance of new permits for major fossil fuel projects beginning this year, ends fossil fuel subsidies, and provide tax credits to support wind and solar energy. A host of House committees and subcommittees is currently considering this legislation: the House Committee on Energy and Commerce; the House Committee on Ways and Means; the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; the House Committee on Education and the Workforce; the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee; the House Financial Services Committee; the House Foreign Affairs Committee; the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials; the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management; the Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment; and two Subcommittees on the Environment. (Write-up 10/5)

**INFORM** key committee and subcommittee members that H.R.3671 is exactly the sort of courageous, forward thin king legislation we need to slow climate change and its deadly consequences

• **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 Fred Upton** (R-MI), Chair, Energy and Commerce Energy Subcommittee, 2125

Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Bobby Rush** (D-IL), Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Energy

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

• Representative Peter A. DeFazio (D-OR), Ranking Member, Transportation and

Infrastructure Committee, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202)

225-9446

• **Representative Lou Baretta** (R-PA), Chair, Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee

on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, 2165 Rayburn

House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446

• **A. Drew Furgeson IV** (R-GA), Vice-Chair, Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee

on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, 2165 Rayburn

House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9446

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

• **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

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

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

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

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

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

• **Representative Marc Veasey** (D-TX), Ranking member, Subcommittee on Energy, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6371

• **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 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 Ileana Ros-Lehtinen** (R-FL), Chair Emeritus, 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

The Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) has proposed rollback of rules put into place after the catastrophic Deepwater Horizon oil spill. These changes would remove independent verification of safety measures and equipment; drop requirements that equipment be required to function at “most extreme” weather, heat, and wind scenarios; and roll back requirements for certification by professional engineers of designs specified new well equipment. (Write-up 10/5)

**EXPLAIN** to the Secretary of the Interior and the BSEE that the current rule exist because we have already had a catastrophic oil spill and that the damage these rules prevent is not theoretical

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

• **Scott A Angelle**, Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240, (202) 208-4378

• **Doug Morris**, Chief of Offshore Regulatory Programs, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240, (202) 208-4378

• **Jennifer Mchaffey**, Acting Chief, Safety Enforcement Division, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240, (202) 208-4378

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

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has announced plans to work with Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) on a plan that would require domestic travelers to submit to being photographed so these photographs could them be compared with the faces of travelers using facial recognition software. Aside from civil rights concerns, facial recognition software is still in development and has been repeatedly shown to be particularly bad at identifying women and people of color, putting these groups at greater risk of being unable to use air transportation. In addition, once the TSA has facial scan data, it could have the ability to share this data with other government offices, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the National Security Administration. (Write-up 11/16/18)

**DEMAND** an end to this cooperative project between the TSA and CBP

• **David P. Pekoski**, Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, 3701 Post Office Rd., Washington DC 20528, (571) 227-5093

• **Patricia F.S. Cogswell**, Acting Deputy Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, 3701 Post Office Rd., Washington DC 20528, (571) 227-5093

Representative Richie Neal is slated to become chair of the House Ways and Means Committee in January when Democrats take control of the House. In this position, he has the power to request Trump’s tax returns. (Write-up 11/16/18)

**ENCOURAGE** the incoming House Ways and Means Chair to solicit Trump’s taxes

• **Representative Richie Neal** (D-MA), 341 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5601

**TELL** our Representative that we want him to support all moves to make Trump’s finances more transparent

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

Representative Adam Schiff is poised to become Chair of the House intelligence Committee in January when Democrats take control of the House. As ranking member of that committee, Schiff said that the decision to prematurely end the investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 Presidential election a “terrible disservice to the country and the American people.” (Write-up 11/16/18)

**URGE** Schiff to reopen the investigation once he is chairing the House Intelligence Committee and **EXPLAIN** that you are one of the many Americans who agree they were ill served when the investigation was originally ended

• **Representative Adam Schiff** (D- CA), 2372 Russell House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4176

When Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross had a citizenship question added to the 2020 Census, he claimed that having citizenship information would better allow the administration to enforce the Voting Rights Act, which protects elections and voters from discriminatory policies. In fact, Ross apparently consulted on this question with then-White House Adviser Steve Bannon and with then-Commission on Election Integrity vice-chair Kris Kobach, discussing the ways that a citizenship question, which would discourage participation in the census, not just by undocumented immigrants, but also by documented immigrants, might shift state population figures, resulting in a redistribution of House seats. As explained by the *Washington Post*, immigrants tend to reside in urban centers, which generally vote Democratic. Lower population figures in such urban centers could lead, for example, to California losing two House seats. (Write-up 11/16/18)

**REITERATE** your opposition to a citizenship question and the ways it will distort census data to Secretary Ross and our Congresspeople

• **Wilbur Ross**, Secretary of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington DC 20230, (202) 482-5949

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

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

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

In general, federal records are maintained for historical purposes. Now the Interior Department is requesting approval from the National Archives for a policy that would allow them to destroy documents related to proposals to help endangered species recover and to protect the habitat of endangered species. This would include records from every agency within the Interior Department, including the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and others. As Orwell’s *1984* demonstrated, “He who controls the past controls the future. He who controls the present controls the past.” We need to ensure that government records represent an accurate and complete account of our past—for the sake of the present and the future. (Write-up 11/2/18)

**INSIST** that this dangerous proposal be withdrawn

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

**TELL** the National Archives to deny the Department of the Interior’s request

• **David S. Ferierro**, Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001, (866) 272-6267

• **Laurence Brewer**, Chief Records Officer, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001, (866) 272-6267

• **Christopher Eck**, Executive Director of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001, (866) 272-6267

**ASK** our Congresspeople to investigate and stop this massive destruction of records that should remain public

• **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

Some person or organization has been offering to pay women for fabricating sexual misconduct claims against him. How do we know this? One of the women solicited, forwarded the email she received to Mueller himself, who turned it over to the FBI. This is just one more illustration of the importance of protecting the special counsel during the course of an investigation. Besides asking the FBI to investigate this latest claim, the special counsel’s independence could be strengthened through S.1741 and H.R.3771 (the Special Counsel Integrity Act) and or S.1735 and H.R.3654 (the Special Counsel Independence Protection Act). Let’s take all appropriate action to support the Mueller investigation. (Write-up 11/2/18)

**ASK** our Senators to cosponsor S.1741 and S.1735, which have only one and three cosponsors respectively, to fight for serious consideration of this legislation by the Senate Judiciary Committee, on which they both sit, and to push for an FBI investigation into the attempts to discredit Mueller

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

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

**TELL** the Senate Judiciary Committee chair to quit stalling and see that this legislation gets the attention it deserves and **POINT OUT** that this latest attempt to discredit Mueller should provide explanation enough of why S.1741 and S.1735 are needed

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

**THANK** our Jimmy Panetta for cosponsoring H.R.3654 and REQUEST that he do the same for H.R.3771

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

**TELL** the House Judiciary Committee chair to quit stalling and see that this legislation gets the attention it deserves and **POINT OUT** that this latest attempt to discredit Mueller should provide explanation enough of why this H.R.3771 and H.R.3654 are needed

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

A point made by the *New York Times* journalists whose thorough reporting burst the myth that Trump is a self-made millionaire is that the IRS lacks the resources to hold the rich and powerful accountable for the taxes that they owe to the people of our nation. (Write-up 11/2/18)

**TELL** our Congresspeople that everyone should be paying the taxes that they legally owe so that our schools, roads, bridges, consumer protections, safety net, etc., are adequately funded, and that we therefore **URGE** them to strengthen the ability of the IRS to go after tax cheats like Trump and his cohort

• **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 Prevent Corrupting Foreign Influence Act, H.R.6466, would make it a criminal offense for the president, the vice president, their families, or companies in which they have at least half-ownership to accept or receive anything of value from a foreign power or from any company that is more than 50 percent controlled by a foreign power. The author of this legislation, Representative Eric Swalwell (D-CA) explains, “I was inspired to draft the bill after a Chinese government-controlled company—the Metallurgical Corporation of China—loaned $500 million to benefit the Trump Organization’s Lido City development project in Indonesia. Contemporaneous to the loan, President Trump… eased sanctions on major Chinese telecommunications firm ZTE.” H.R.6466 is currently with the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and the House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations(Write-up 11/2/18)

**TELL** the appropriate committee and subcommittee members that neither the U.S. nor its top elected officials should be for sale and **INSIST** that we want to see action now on 6466

• **Representative Trey Gowdy** (R-SC), Chair, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, 2471 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5051

• **Representative Elijah Cummings** (D-MD), Ranking Member, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, 2471 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5051

• **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

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

Here’s a giant exercise in connect-the-dots. Andrew Wheeler, former *coal* lobbyist and current Acting Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is sending the White House a proposal to raise the threshold for mercury emissions from *coal*-burning power plants. This is a rollback that Robert E, Murray, chief executive of Murray Energy Corp. (which produces *coal*-based energy), personally requested. And why would Wheeler and the White House listen to a *coal* executive? Because said executive is Wheeler’s *former boss* and was also *a major donor* to the Trump inauguration fund. Not a very pretty picture once those dots are connected. And—bonus fun fact—this proposal to change mercury emissions rules cites a dissent by Brett Kavanaugh to a court ruling that upheld limits on mercury emissions. (Write-up 10/5)

**EXPLAIN** to Wheeler that he is now an employee of the U.S. people, not coal companies, and that we, the people, like our air mercury-free

• Andrew Wheeler, Acting Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 1101A, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460, (202) 564-4700

**TELL** our Congresspeople that you don’t like the picture you’re seeing and you want **ACTION** on this apparent collusion between the coal industry and the Republican administration

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

• **Senator Kamal 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

**FAMILY SEPARATION, IMMIGRATION, and DENATURALIZATION**

Not only is the Army now policing the U.S.-Mexico border as a caravan of asylum seekers, mostly women and children, approaches the U.S. to apply for asylum as outlined in international law, militias, heavily armed citizen groups that engage in paramilitary-style training are also heading to the border to “assist” the Army and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). As of November 5 an estimated 200 militia members were at the border with hundreds more planning to join them. In fact, the U.S. Border Patrol has had to warn landowners along the border of “possible armed civilians” who may come onto their property. (Write-up 11/16/18)

**DEMAND** de-escalation of the situation at the border and careful monitoring of the activities of CBP, the Army, and militia members and **INSIST** that the Central Americans approaching the U.S. be treated like the legitimate asylum seekers they are

• **James N. Mattis**, Secretary of Defense, 1000 Defense Pentagon, Washington DC 20301-1000, (510) 787-2705

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

• **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 226 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 226 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator John Cornyn** (R-TX), Chair, Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration, 226 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-7840

• **Senator Dick Durbin** (D-IL), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration, 226 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6881

From *Rogan’s List*: “According to the Center for Public Integrity, 87,351 people with at least one child who is a US citizen were deported in the three years from 2015-2017. ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] is currently holding over 44,000 people in custody, 58% of whom had no criminal convictions and 21% of whom were guilty of only minor traffic violations. These children have little likelihood of ever reuniting with their parents, many of whom tried every possible route to legal status.” (Write-up 10/19)

**POINT OUT** to Republican administration figures that parents of U.S. citizens with no criminal background are not appropriate targets for deportation

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

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

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

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

**ASK** our Congresspeople to consider every possible means to prevent this cruel dismantling of families that does nothing to make our nation more secure

• **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

Also from “Rogan’s List: “From July 2017 to July 2018, the Army has discharged over 500 immigrant service members who had been recruited under the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) program. The program was put on hold in 2016, but until then was used to recruit those whose language or medical skills would be an asset, in exchange for U.S. citizenship…. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis... recently stated that he supports MAVNI.” (Write-up 10/19)

**ASK** that he re-implement the program and reinstate the enlistees who have been discharged this year

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

Possibly the only merit of H.R.7059, the Build the Wall, Enforce the Law Act, is the rhyming title. But it’s really only a half rhyme. And the legislation is a full disaster, providing billions for Trump’s unnecessary, unworkable border wall. This legislation is currently before five House committees: Judiciary, Homeland Security, Ways and Means, Armed Services, and Budget. (Write-up 10/19)

**INSIST** to key members of all these committees that the last thing we need is this pointless boondoggle

• **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, H2-176 FHOB, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8417

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

• **Representative Kevin Brady**, 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

• **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 Steve Womack** (R-AZ), Chair, House Budget Committee, B234 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-7270

• **Representative Todd Rokita** (R-IN), Vice-Chair, House Budget Committee, B234 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-7270

• **Representative John Yarmouth** (D-KY), Ranking Member, House Budget Committee, B234 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-7270

The Republican Administration has announced plans to expand “public charge” rules that would allow government officials to deny issuing or renewing green cards for immigrants who have used certain federal assistance programs like food stamps of welfare—and to preemptively deny green cards to anyone they believe “is likely to receive” such benefits in the future. H.R.7052, the No Federal Funds for Public Charge Act, would prohibit any federal monies from being spent to implement public charge rules. This legislation is currently with the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 10/19)

**INSIST** to key House Judiciary Committee members that immigrants, even those who make use of public assistance programs, contribute much more to or nation than they cost 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

The “Prevent CHILD Harm Act,” 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. It would prohibit the arrest of undocumented immigrants who offer to sponsor children to get them out of immigration detention. This legislation is currently with the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 11/2/18)

**EXPLAIN** to key House Judiciary Committee members that we haven’t forgotten about refugee children separated from their families, that we know there are children still in detention, and that we want action now on H.R.7030

• **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

H.R.7068, the “End Catch and Release Act” is one ugly piece of legislation, as the dehumanization inherent in its title suggests. While claiming to “close immigration loopholes,” it wipes away existing protections for those hoping to enter the U.S. as immigrants or refugees. By way of example, check out this statement from H.R.7068’s text, **“**There exists no presumption that an alien child who is not an unaccompanied alien child should not be detained, and all such determinations shall be in the discretion of the Secretary of Homeland Security”: in case it needs explaining, that sentence would invalidate the Flores Agreement that limits immigration detention of children to twenty days. H.R.7068 is currently with the House Foreign Affairs and Judiciary Committees. The bill’s author is Bob Goodlatte, who chairs the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 11/2/18)

**INFORM** Chair Goodlatte and other key committee members that we find his legislation reprehensible and do not want to see it move forward

• **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 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

**REQUEST** that our Representative be prepared to fight H.R.7068 should the bill make it to the House floor

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

Occasionally, the language of legislation can be downright beautiful. Check out this excerpt from S.3567, the “No Internment Camps Act”: “The Federal Government has intentionally separated and detained families seeking asylum in the United States purportedly to deter other foreign nationals from coming to the United States in the future. Such method of deterrence is ineffective, contrary to human rights norms, and likely violates United States and international law…. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the amounts made available after the date of the enactment of this Act for any fiscal year may be obligated or expended to operate or construct a family residential center, whether directly operated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or by another governmental or nongovernmental contractor.” (And don’t worry, the legislation specifically defines “family residential canter” as “a facility dedicated to detaining alien families,” so we needn’t worry it could be misused to close women’s shelters, public housing, or the like.) S.3567 is currently with the Senate Judiciary Committee on which both of our Senators sit. (Write-up 11/2/18)

**ENCOURAGE** our Senators to do all they can to help move S.3567 forward from the Judiciary Committee

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

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

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

At the end of September the New York Times reported that hundreds of children being held in immigration detention at sites ranging from Kansas to New York were roused in the middle of the night, loaded on busses, and taken to their new home—a tent city in Tornillo, Texas. The children sleep twenty to a tent. They have no school, but instead are given “workbooks” that they are not required to complete. The camp opened in June with a capacity of 400 children. It has now been expanded to hold 3,800 children. Most of these children have been held in detention for at least 60 days, despite the Flores Settlement, which requires that children not be held in such facilities for longer than twenty days. The Tornillo tent city has not been inspected or monitored by child welfare authorities, who would have the power to impose requirements for safety, education, and staff training. Instead, they are functioning under guidelines set up by the Department of Health and Human Services. The children in Tornillo are among an estimated 13,000 children are being held in immigration detention nation-wide. (Write-up 10/5)

**DECRY**, yet again, these appalling actions by our government

• **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

**DEMAND** Congressional investigation of the Tornillo facility

• **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**

Galería de La Raza, a San Francisco non-profit that provides a voice locally, nationally, and internationally for Latino Arts and Culture, has been engaged in an ongoing struggle with the owners and managers of the property where it is house. For forty-six years Galería was only allowed to rent the space on a month-by-month basis. In June, Galería received notice that its rent would be doubled and that a lease was now required. Galería has engaged in ongoing negotiations with the owners and property managers and has even offered to continue paying its current rent for a reduced space at the site that would be one-third the size of the currently occupied space. Twice now, Galería has been served with three-day eviction notices. Galería continues to fight and needs community support in its struggle. (Write-up 11/16/18)

**DEMAND** a fair deal for this long-time arts organization that gives a voice to the Latino community

• **Quan Phan**, Property Manager, GBA Realty, 1592 Yosemite Ave., San Francisco, CA 94124, (415) 829-7711

• **Trust of Lilly Ng**, 1338 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, CA 94109

Before Dr. Christine Blasey Ford spoke out about the sexual assault in Supreme Court nominee (an now Associate Justice) Brett Kavanaugh’s, Anita Hill spoke out about Clarence Thomas’ history of sexual harassment. As with Kavanaugh, Thomas was ultimately placed on the court, but that does nothing to diminish the courage of either woman in shedding light on the abuses perpetrated by those in power. (Write-up 10/19)

**THANK** Hill for her bravery and strength in facing a host of unfair consequences in order to speak out

• **Anita Hill**, Brandeis University, 415 South Street (MS 035), Waltham, MA 02454-9110

**Countable reports: “As Texans continue to recuperate from Hurricane Harvey, small, rich, white towns in southeast Texas are receiving a disproportionate amount of federal disaster recovery funds.** A new report by CityLab found that Harvey aid is shortchanging cities with black, working-class residents hurt by the storm, leading to racial disparities in recovery funding. While the wealthy, nearly all-white town of Taylor Landing got about $60,000 per affected person, nearby Port Arthur–with its high poverty rate and significant black population–saw $84 per affected person.” (Write-up 10/19)

**DEMAND** that the Federal Emergency Management Agency respond to CityLab’s findings and develop protocols that prevent this kind of racist funding that favors the Haves over the Have-Nots

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

**TELL** our Senators we want to see an investigation of CityLab’s findings

• **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 “Local Control of School Lunches Act,” H.R.6541, would repeal a number of nutritional standards for school lunches put in place during the Obama administration, including limits on calories and salt and minimum requirement for percentage of enriched or whole grain flour. Given that childhood obesity rates have tripled in this country since 1970, we might want to keep the Obama-era standards in place. H.R.6541 is currently with the House Education and the Workforce Committee. (Write-up 11/2/18)

**REMIND** key members of the House Education and the Workforce Committee that our children deserve better than unlimited calories, salt, and refined flour

• **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), Ranking Member, House Education and the Workforce Committee, 2176 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527

**ASK** our Representative to keep an eye out for this legislation and to speak out strongly against it should it reach the House floor

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

The vaccine is for a deadly form of diarrhea, called rotavirus, which kills about 200,000 young children and babies each year. Merck's decision means it will fall short of its commitment to supply its rotavirus vaccine, RotaTeq, to four low-income countries in 2018 and 2019, according to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. By 2020, the company will completely stop delivering its vaccine. In April, Merck's agent in China received approval to start selling the vaccine there, where the price per dose will likely be more than 10 times the amount Gavi pays for the vaccine for low-income countries. As a result of Merck's decision, more than a half-million children in West Africa may not receive the vaccine in 2018 and 2019, Gavi told NPR in an email. And more than 2 million may go without the vaccination in 2020. (Write-up 11/2/18)

**CASTIGATE** Merk for placing corporate profits above children’s lives

• **Ken Frazier**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Merck, Corporate Headquarters, 2000 Galloping Hill Road, Kenilworth, NJ 07033, (908) 740-4000

• **Robert M. Davis**, Executive Vice President, Global Services, and Chief Financial Officer, Merck, Corporate Headquarters, 2000 Galloping Hill Road, Kenilworth, NJ 07033, (908) 740-4000

• **Julie L. Gerberding**, M.D., M.P.H., Executive Vice President and Chief Patient Officer, Strategic Communications, Global Public Policy, and Population Health, Merck, Corporate Headquarters, 2000 Galloping Hill Road, Kenilworth, NJ 07033, (908) 740-4000

• **Adam H. Schechter**, Executive Vice President and President, Global Human Health, Merck, Corporate Headquarters, 2000 Galloping Hill Road, Kenilworth, NJ 07033, (908) 740-4000

A report by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) shows that humanity has wiped out 60% of mammals, birds, fish, and reptiles since 1970. To put this in perspective, Mike Barrett, executive director of science and conservation at WWF explains, “If there was a 60% decline in human population, that would be the equivalent to emptying North America, South America, Africa, China, Europe, and Oceania…. This is far more than just being about losing the wonders of nature, desperately sad though that is. This is actually now jeopardizing the future of people. Nature is not ‘nice to have’—it is our life support system.” (Write-up 11/2/18)

**SHARE** your concerns about the fate of our planet’s wildlife—and out own lives—with appropriate administration figures and our Congresspeople

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

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

• **Mike Pompeo**, U.S. Secretary of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520-2204, (202) 647-6575

• **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

The “Childcare for Working Families Act” has been introduced in both the Senate and the House. The Senate version of the Act is still unnumbered; the House version of the Act is H.R.3773. According to a news release from Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), who introduced the senate version of the bill, “the legislation would create a federal-state partnership to ensure families making less than 150 percent of their state’s median income do not pay more than seven percent of their income on child care. The bill also supports access to high-quality preschool programs for low- and moderate-income 3- and 4-year olds, and strengthens support for our nation’s child care workforce by significantly improving wages and training for teachers and caregivers.” This legislation is with the Senate’s Health, Education, Labor, and the Workforce Committee and with the House’s Education and the Workforce Committee. H.R.3773 currently has 139 cosponsors, but our Jimmy Panetta is not among them. (Write-up 11/2/18)

**INFORM** key committee members that we would like to see this legislation prioritized and that we want them to **COMMIT** to helping create better childcare options for working families (remember to add **THANKS** to Senator Murray for introducing the Senate version of this legislation)

• **Senator Lamar Alexander** (R-TN), Chair, Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, 428 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-4944

• **Senator Patty Murray** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, 428 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-4944

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

• **Representative Duncan Hunter** (R-CA), 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

**ASK** our Representative to join those cosponsoring H.R.3773

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

H.R.6543, the “Aim Higher Act,” is the most comprehensive proposal in the House to provide more and better support for Americans pursuing higher education. Among its provisions are an expansion of Pell Grants to “short term” (non-degree) programs, a requirement that private for-profit colleges receiving federal funding spend at least 50% of their budget on education, the addition of graduation/completion and workforce participation rates to the criteria considered when accrediting schools, and a simplified financial aid application process for students in the lowest income group. H.R.6543 is currently with the House Education and the Workforce Committee. (Write-up 11/2/18)

**URGE** quick movement of H.R.6543 through committee and STRESS your commitment to affordable higher education

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

• **Representative Duncan Hunter** (R-CA), 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

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**

This actually isn’t about guns—it’s about knives and knife owners who want a boost in their “rights” from the Republican Congress similar to those gun owners have received. Currently, the 1958 Federal Switchblade Act prohibits interstate travel with automatic knives such as switchblades. The Knife Owners’ Protection Act (S.3264 in the Senate and H.R.84 in the House) would legalize interstate travel with these kinds of weapons. S.3264 is currently with the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. H.R.84 is with the House Judiciary and Energy and Commerce Committees. (Write-up 10/19)

**EXPLAIN** to key committee members that instead of making automatic knives easier to carry, they should be focusing on reasonable gun regulation

• **Senator John Thune** (R-SD), Chair, Senate Commerce, Science, and Technology Committee, 512 Dirksen Senate office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-1251

• **Senator Roger Wicker** (D-MS), Ranking Member, Senate Commerce, Science, and Technology Committee, 512 Dirksen Senate office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-0411

• **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

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

If the term “contraception desert” is new to you, you need to get used to hearing it because these “deserts” are growing. For years, Planned Parenthood has provided safe, affordable family planning for women—while regularly coming under fire from “religious” conservatives. Meanwhile, a new type of “family planning” [sorry, but this write-up necessitates excessive use of skeptical quotation marks] clinic has been popping up. Obria Group’s clinics, currently there are thirty-eight of these with 22 more in planning, “protect” women from from being “forced” to “live every day having to take a carcinogen.” [That last set of quotation marks is “real,” surrounding the words of Obria Group Chief Executive Kathleen Bravo.] Bravo also claims “A woman needs a choice, but you can’t have a choice if the only clinic that a woman can go to is Planned Parenthood.” And Obria Groups choice offerings? There are limited to family planning methods that require women to track their periods and to refrain from sex when they are most fertile, methods that are only 76% effective, even when followed correctly. The Rupublican Trump administration is now considering changes to Title X that, based on geography, may make Obria-type clinics the only ones available to women with limited means. Currently Title X requires that clinics receiving funding offer a full range of contraceptive options, including condoms, birth control pills, IUDs, and implants. [Side note: clinics receiving Title X funds cannot use these funds for abortion and many Title X clinic do not provide abortions, even if funded through non-government funds.] It now appears that under Title X Director Diane Foley (formerly chief executive of a group of anti-abortion, “crisis” pregnancy centers) Title X will embrace a “Protect Life Rule,” which would promote and direct federal funding to clinics like Obria that do not offer condoms, hormonal contraception, IUDs, or abortion. (Write-up 10/5)

**OBJECT** to this change that would limit many women’s family planning choices to the least effective method available and POINT OUT that any talk about preventing abortion is a red herring because Title X funds *do not pay for abortions*

• **Diane Foley**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Population Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20201, (877) 696-6775

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

**URGE** fierce protection of all women’s access to basic family planning services

• **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

**HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS**

*Chop Wood, Carry Water* on S.2836, the Preventing Emerging Threats Act: “This bill unnecessarily expands government surveillance powers and should not be passed as stand-alone legislation or as a rider to the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.” This legislation has made it through committee, which means it would next move to the Senate floor. (Write-up 10/19)

**TELL** our Senators we’re counting on them to fight this infringement on First Amendment rights

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

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

The title of H.Res. 1121 pretty much says it all: “Remembering the 20th Anniversary of Matthew Sheppard’s Death and Expressing Congress’s Continued Support for the Prevention of Hate Crimes and the Advancement of Equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Americans” (though I find myself wondering why the author chose “death” instead of “murder” in the title). A resolution doesn’t have the power of law, but an affirmation of the dignity of the members of these communities would be welcomed in the midst of this climate of political hate. This resolution is currently with the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 11/2/18)

**THANKS** for introducing this resolution to

• **Representative Elizabeth Esty** (D-CT), 221 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4476

**THANKS** also to our own Representative for cosponsoring this resolution

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

**TELL** key House Judiciary Committee members that we would like to see more of this kind of respect and decency in our nation’s politics

• **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 United Nations’ 1948 definition of genocide in the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the crime of genocide includes in its definition of genocide “(b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group [being attacked]….(e) forcibly transferring the children of the group to another group.” Sound familiar? Meanwhile, a recent Amnesty International report declares that the [U.S.] administration “is waging a deliberate campaign of human rights violations against asylum-seekers, in order to broadcast globally that the United States no longer welcomes refugees.” (Write-up 11/2/18)

**REMIND** key administration figures and our Congresspeople that our nation must remain committed to protecting human rights across the globe, including among asylum-seekers

• **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

• **Alex Azar**, Secretary of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20201, (202) 690-7000

• **Mike Pompeo**, U.S. Secretary of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520-2204, (202) 647-6575

• **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

# Drawing on material from *Chop Wood, Carry Water* and *Rogan’s List*: Transgender Americans are under fire on multiple fronts. The Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) has proposed a policy that would define gender as something that's determined by people's genitals at birth and can't be changed. This will lead to around 1.4 million Americans losing legal protection in areas ranging from housing to healthcare to education and employment. In addition, **strict voter ID laws could create “substantial barriers” for transgender individuals whose identifications don't match their preferred gender.** A recent report from the Williams Institute—a think tank at UCLA School of Law—found that “strict photo ID laws may create substantial barriers to voting and possible disenfranchisement for over 78,000 transgender people in eight states.” Meanwhile, Trump pretends that his proposed assault on our trans brothers and sisters is to “protect the country”; we know better. One possible remedy would be the Equality Act, (S.1006 in the Senate; H.R.2282 in the House), which is still in play in Congress and would address other inequities as well, by amending the Civil Rights Act of 1964 “to include sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation in places of public accommodation.” S.1006 is currently with the Senate Judiciary Committee; Feinstein and Harris are both cosponsors. H.R.2282 is with several House committees: Judiciary, Education and the Workforce, Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform, and Administration. Jimmy Panetta is a cosponsor. (Write-up 11/2/18)

# THANK our Senators for cosponsoring S.1006 and REQUEST that they keep advocating on behalf of LGBTQI Americans

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

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

# TELL key House Committee members that we are watching their work and waiting for action on H.R.2282

# • 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-SC), Ranking Member, House Education and the Workforce Committee, 2176 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527

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

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

# • Representative Trey Gowdy (R-SC), Chair, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, 2471 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5051

# • Representative Elijah Cummings (D-MD), Ranking Member, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, 2471 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5051

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

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

# THANK our Representative for cosponsoring H.R.2282

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

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

Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke has proposed federal rule changes that would charge protestors fees for demonstrating on public lands. We can contact our Congresspeople to let them know how utterly appalled we are by this proposed infringement on First Amendment freedoms. (Write-up 10/5)

**EXPRESS** your outrage 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) 224-35653

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

In the midst of the Kavanaugh Circus, a number of other important topics have not received the attention they deserve. These include the status of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). VAWA was set to expire at the start of October, but has been temporarily extended through December 7 as part of a spending bill.

**TELL** our Congresspeople that we want to see legislation dedicated to making VAWA protections permanent and **OBJECT** to this important issue being kicked about as a result of partisan politicking

• **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

The Republican administration has announced that it will no longer issue family-member visas to same-sex partners of foreign diplomats and employees of international organizations (the U.N., N.A.T.O., the World Bank, etc.) in the United States. Under a new policy, they will issue visas only to legally married couples—despite the fact that only 13% of the world’s countries make marriage available to same-sex couples. This decision will not only separate families; it will also place domestic partners forced to return to countries with anti-gay legislation or strong anti-gay sentiment, where their lives may be at risk.

**CONDEMN** this act of governmental prejudice and its potentially devastating real-world consequences

• **Mike Pompeo**, U.S. Secretary of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520-2204, (202) 647-6575

**ASK** our Congresspeople to oppose this move by the Republican administration

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

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

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

Our government continues to provide weapons being used to attack civilians in the Saudi-led war in Yemen. The humanitarian crisis in Yemen is exactly that—a humanitarian crisis that is exposing the Yemeni people to epidemic diseases like cholera and contributing to extensive famine in the country. H.Con.Res.138 makes it clear that the U.S. role in this war has not been authorized by Congress and calls for the removal of U.S. forces from the conflict. This legislation is currently with the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

**URGE** key House Foreign Affairs Committee members to take swift action to see that H.Con.Res.138 can be brought to the House floor

• **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 Ileana Ros-Lehtinen** (R-FL), Chair Emeritus, 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

**URGE** our Representative to become a co-sponsor of and to fight for passage of H.C.on.Res.138

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

# INTERNATIONAL

# H.R.7082 would prohibit the provision of United States security assistance to the government of Saudi Arabia. Given Saudi Arabia’s hugely destructive role in the civil was in Yemen and its murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, this move seems long overdue, but it won’t happen without some pushing. This legislation is currently with the House Foreign Affairs Committee. (Write-up 11/2/18)

# URGE key House Committee members to support H.R.7082 and TELL that we’re counting on them to act, given the intransigence of the White House

# • 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

# With thanks to *Rogan’s List* and *Chop Wood, Carry Water*: The US is fueling Saudi Arabia’s military, enabling it to starve children and kill civilians in Yemen—essentially to commit genocide. Humanitarian agencies warn that the devastation will reach "biblical" proportions, with massive starvation, epidemic cholera, and worse. Meanwhile, the Republican administration has justified continued interaction with the Saudis based on the money they are willing to spend purchasing U.S. arms. The White House has offered a wide range of figures about the jobs these arms sales produce, all of them overestimates. The greed of arms traders must not be allowed to outweigh Yemeni lives. Even were Trump’s wildly inflated numbers true, we must not accept this calculus. Only Congress has the power to declare war, which is what the U.S. is supporting in Yemen. S.J.Res.54 and H.Con.Res.138, the “Yemen War Powers Resolutions,” would end U.S. involvement in the war in Yemen. (Write-up 11/2/18)

# PLEAD with our Congresspeople to support the Yemen War Powers Resolutions and to assert their rights as the body charged with authorizing U.S. engagement in war

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

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

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

# The Committee to Protect Journalists has documented the murder of 71 journalists and media workers so far this year. In forty-five of these cases, the motive for the killing has been the victim’s status as a reporter—this includes four murders in the U.S. Hostility to the press is a global phenomenon, with the current Republican Administration contributing significantly to the hatred and violence. (Write-up 11/2/18)

# DEMAND an end to irresponsible press-bashing by Trump

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

**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

# YOU HAVE GOT to BE KIDDING ME

# **In late October, Sarah Huckabee Sanders falsely claimed that Trump won the presidential election by an “overwhelming majority” of 63 million votes**. In fact, Trump lost the popular vote by almost 3 million votes; 65.8 million Americans voted for Hillary Clinton. (Write-up 11/2/18)

# ASK Huckabee Sanders whether she is aware she’s lying—or if she’s just delusional

# • Sarah Huckabee Sanders, White House Press Secretary, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111