2018.11.02 Issues/Addresses Write-Ups

**CHURCH/STATE SEPARATION**

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.

**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

**ELECTIONS**

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.

**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

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

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.

**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.

**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.

**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

**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

**FAMILY SEPARATION, IMMIGRATION, and DENATURALIZATION**

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.

**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.

**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.

**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

**GENERAL DECENCY**

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 8/30/2018)

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

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

• **Representative Joe Wilson** (R-SC), Ranking Member, House Education and the Workforce Committee, 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.

**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.”

**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.

**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.

**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

**HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS**

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.

**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.”

**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.

# 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, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4527

# • Representative Joe Wilson (R-SC), Ranking Member, House Education and the Workforce Committee, 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

# 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.

# 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.

# 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.

# DEMAND an end to irresponsible press-bashing by Trump

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

# 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.

# 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