Issues/Addresses for 2/2/2019

**ASYLUM SEEKERS, FAMILY SEPARATION, DENATURALIZATION, and IMMIGRATION**

From *Rogan’s List*: “Beginning January 26, asylum-seekers who come to the San Ysidro port of entry will be sent back to Tijuana with a notice to appear in court in San Diego; on their court dates, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will transport them to immigration court, but due to the backlog in U.S. immigration courts of more than 800,000 cases, asylum-seekers currently have to wait months or even years to see a judge; the Department of Homeland Security said the “expedited” cases of the asylum-seekers affected by the new policy should have to wait no more than a year. This is *not* a bi-national agreement with Mexico.” (Write-up 2/1/2019)

**TELL** the Secretary of Homeland Security that this is unacceptable endangerment and abuse of asylum seekers who have a right to enter the U.S.

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

**ASK** our Congresspeople to vocally oppose this new policy

• **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), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

The “Alternatives to Detention Act,” H.R.532, would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to use alternatives to detention, like community-based supervision, for vulnerable immigrant populations. “Vulnerable populations” would include asylum seekers who are victims of torture or trafficking; pregnant women; those with special religious, cultural, or spiritual considerations; those under 21 or over 69; gay, lesbian, bisexual, intersex, or transgender individuals; victims or witnesses of crimes; individuals with mental disorders or physical disabilities; and those determined by an immigration judge or the Secretary of Homeland Security to be victims of torture, trauma or gender-based violence. This legislation is currently with the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 2/1/2019)

**REQUEST** that the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee prioritize this legislation

• **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6909

The “Keep Families Together Act,” H.R.541, would limit the separation of families at or near ports of entry except under exceptional, and legally documented, circumstances. It would prohibit the use of family separation as a means of deterring migration to the U.S. or to enforce compliance with civil immigration laws. Those separating families in violation of this act would be subject to a fine of up to $10,000. This legislation is currently with the House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees. H.R.541 has 190 cosponsors, all of them Democrats, including our own Jimmy Panetta. (Write-up 2/1/2019)

**REQUEST** that the chairs of the House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees prioritize this legislation

• **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6909

• **Representative Bennie G. Thompson** (D-MS), Chair, House Homeland Security Committee, H2-176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-2616

**THANK** our Representative for cosponsoring H.R.541

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

The “Freedom of Religion Act,” H.R.590, would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act so that “an alien may not be denied admission or entry to the United States, or other immigration benefits, because of the alien’s religion,” making administration plans, like the Trump Muslim ban, illegal. H.R.590 is currently with the House Judiciary Committee. It has 129 cosponsors, all of them Democrats, including our own Jimmy Panetta. (Write-up 2/1/2019)

**REQUEST** that the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee prioritize this legislation

• **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6909

**THANK** our Representative for cosponsoring H.R.541

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

From *Rogan’s List*: From one of our own: “A new report from the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services estimates that thousands of children were being separated from their parents for at least one year before the administration announced their separation policy to the public. HHS officials failed to keep records of the identities of these children and failed to track them because they say they were not legally required to do so before the June 2018 court order. “We don’t have any information on the children that were released prior to the court order,” according to the assistant Inspector General for HHS. Common sense and humanity should have informed this administration that these children should have been identified and tracked, not a court order. Where are the children now? How old are they? Are they with relatives? Are they in detention centers? Were these children old enough to even know their own names? The human rights of thousands of children were violated by this administration, and we demand answers. We demand accountability. We demand justice.” (Write-up 2/2/2019)

**DEMAND** that Secretaries Nielsen and Azar explain where these children are

• **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

**DEMAND** that our members of Congress investigate

• **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), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

From *Rogan’s List*: “Trump has given a bipartisan congressional committee three weeks to present a compromise on the matter of his Wall; if they fail to present a “compromise” he likes, he threatens another shutdown or an emergency declaration, which would, in theory, allow him to draw wall funding from the military or some other source. He is clearly hoping the rank-and-file Democrats on this committee will fold. The folks who do this work do not want a wall.” (Write-up 2/2/2019)

**TELL** our representatives and senators we expect them to stand firm and refuse to waste $5 billion of our tax dollars that could go to health care, education, environmental protection, or the alleviation of poverty on Trump’s vanity project

• **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), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**CHURCH-STATE SEPARATION**

Steven Wagner, principal deputy assistant secretary at the Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families, has signed a waiver giving special permission to a federally funded Protestant foster care agency in South Carolina to break federal and state law, using strict religious requirements to deny Jewish, Muslim, Catholic, atheist, and agnostic parents from fostering children in its network. The agency also bars LGBT people from serving as foster parents. (Write-up 2/1/2019)

**DECRY** this pandering to bigotry that denies loving, qualified foster homes to children by contacting HHS, the Governor of South Carolina, and the foster-care agency that requested this waiver

• **Steven Wagner**, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, 330 C St SW, Washington, DC 20201, (202) 401-9215

• **Lynn Johnson**, Assistant Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, 330 C St SW, Washington, DC 20201, (202) 401-9215

• **Governor Henry McMaster**, PO Box 11063, Columbia, SC 29211, (803) 801-1098

• **Reid Lehman**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Miracle Hill Ministries, PO Box 2546, Greenville, SC 29602, (877) 558-4357

**CONSUMER PROTECTIONS and WORKPLACE RIGHTS**

Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA) has introduced H.R.323, “To Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to Provide a Tax Credit for Expenses for Household and Eldercare Services Necessary for Gainful Employment.” The title pretty much says it all. H.R.323 is currently with the House Ways and Means Committee. (Write-up 2/1/2019)

**REQUEST** that the Chair of the House Ways and means Committee prioritize this legislation

• **Representative Richard Neal** (D-MA), Chair, House Ways and Means Committee, 1139E Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3625

Bernie Sanders (I-VT) S.150, the “Raise the Wage Act,” would gradually raise the federal minimum wage to $15 an hour over five years and would require annual upward adjustments after that based on the average national increase in hourly wages. Our Senators Feinstein and Harris are cosponsors. S.150 is currently with the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. (Write-up 2/1/2019)

**SHARE** your enthusiasm for this long-overdue legislation with key members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee

• **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

From *Rogan’s List*: “Representative John Larson (D-CT-1) has introduced the Social Security 2100 Act (H.R.860), which would improve benefits paid out by Social Security, and be paid for by increasing taxes for wages over $400,00 and by increasing the payroll tax rate. The bill was introduced with 200 cosponsors, and is expected to pass the House, while facing a much larger challenge in the Senate.” The Central Coast’s Jimmy Panetta is among the cosponsors. (Write-up 2/2/2019)

**THANK** our representative for cosponsoring the legislation

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**TELL** our Senators that supporting and expanding Social Security is essential in fighting poverty among our older generations as well as among children, and we want them to support the Social Security 2100 Act when it makes its way over to the Senate

• **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

**ELECTIONS**

One of the bills that has been assigned to the House Administration Committee is H.R.138, the “Universal Right to Vote by Mail Act.” This legislation would amend the 2002 Help America Vote Act to allow voters in every state the right to vote by mail in federal elections, without the imposition of additional restrictions on the state level. (Write-up 2/1/2019)

**REQUEST** that the Chair of the House Administration Committee prioritize this legislation which allows all voters to participate in federal elections, whether or not they can get time off work to go to the polls

• **Representative Zoe Lofgren** (D-CA), Chair, House Administration Committee, 1316 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2061

The “Federal Election Integrity Act,” H.R.137 would make it unlawful for a chief state election administration official to take active part in political management or in a political campaign for any federal election in which that official has supervisory authority. In other words, the person responsible for voter rolls and ballot counts cannot be personally involved in any federal election that s/he participates in—as a part of campaign management, as well as in the role of candidate. (Write-up 2/1/2019)

**REQUEST** that the Chair of the House Administration Committee prioritize this legislation

• **Representative Zoe Lofgren** (D-CA), Chair, House Administration Committee, 1316 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2061

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said on the Senate floor that a House bill making election day was a “political power grab” by Democrats, whom, he charged, want to “rewrite the rules of American politics for the exclusive benefit of the Democratic Party.” This obviously raises some rather interesting—to say the least—questions about the nature of democracy and individuals’ participatory rights. If letting people vote is a “power grab,” does that make denying the right to vote “power sharing?”—and, if so, who is sharing what power with whom? (Write-up 2/1/2019)

**EXPLAIN** to McConnell that the whole idea behind democracy is the idea that all eligible voters be allowed to cast a ballot and that the real power grab is the work of the Republican party to disenfranchise eligible voters

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

**ENVIRONMENT**

Ted Lieu’s (D-CA) H.R.330, the “Climate Solutions Act,” offers a sweeping series of actions to combat climate change. These include setting a national renewable energy standard, a national energy efficiency standard, and emissions reductions targets and would require reports by the National Academies to Congress to ensure that these standards are being met and are offsetting climate change. This legislation is currently with the House Foreign Affairs and the House Energy and Commerce Committees. (Write-up 2/1/2019)

**REQUEST** that the Chairs of Foreign Affairs and Energy and Commerce prioritize this legislation that is essential to the survival of our nation—and of the planet

• **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2206 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8467

• **Representative Frank Pallone, Jr.** (D-NJ), Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2322A Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3641

Closely paraphrased from *News You May Have Missed*: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), who have been on the losing end of several water protection suits filed by environmental organizations, are now proposing significant changes to the Waters of the U.S. (aka Clean Water) rules. Their claim is that federal lowering of protections for waters won’t be harmful because states will surely take on the mantle of protecting any waters no longer covered by the feds. Big agriculture is backing the proposed rules reductions—and, really, when has large-scale farming of any kind ever endangered water because of chemical runoff or animal feces? In their own report, the EPA and USACE estimate that the new rules would remove protections from 18% of streams and 51% of wetlands across the nation. There will be a federal comment period on these proposed regulations, but in the meantime… (Write-up 2/1/2019)

**EXPLAIN** to our Congresspeople that we want them keeping a very close watch on these moves and that we expect them to protect the waters we all depend on

• **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), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

Governor Brown vetoed legislation prohibiting smoking in State Parks and on State Beaches not once, but three times. Given that cigarette butts are the single most common type of ocean pollution and that we live in a state where wildfires are a year-round threat, we can hope that Governor Newsom will see this issue differently. The smoking ban has been reintroduced as S.B.8. It would impose a $25 penalty for violations of the ban. S.B.8 is currently before the California Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee—on which Santa Cruz’s State Senator Bill Monning sits. (Write-up 2/1/2019)

**URGE** strong support for S.B.8 from the Governor, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Natural Resources and Water Committee, and our own Committee member

• **Governor Gavin Newsom**, State Capitol, Suite 1114, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-8994

• **Senator Henry I. Stern**, Chair, Senate Committee on Nat. Resources & Water, State Capitol, Room 5046, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4116

• **Senator Brian W. Jones**, Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Nat. Resources & Water, State Capitol, Room 5046, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4116

• **Senator Bill Monning**, Member, Senate Committee on Nat. Resources & Water, State Capitol, Room 5046, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4116

From the *Los Angeles Times*: “California has more than 250,000 miles of power lines and 4.2 million utility poles; the state **Public Utilities Commission** has 19 people to do on-the-ground safety audits and spot checks, as well as investigate fires. That, combined with a lack of sophisticated technology, means regulators rely on something of an honor system when it comes to making sure trees and vegetation are cut back from the lines. But after a series of unprecedented wildfires, lawmakers are reconsidering options for oversight. In 3½ years, equipment owned by the state’s three largest utilities ignited more than 2,000 fires. The number of citations: nine.” (Write-up 2/1/2019)

**TELL** our State Legislators that we want better monitoring of power lines and better investigations of problems with lines and of fires and **DEMAND** that PG&E be held responsible for its failure to do the work the people of California rely upon it to do

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

• **Assemblyperson Robert Rivas** [for Watsonville], 275 Main St. Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 768-3035

• **Assemblyperson** **Mark Stone** [for Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St. #318b, Santa Cruz, CAS 95060, (831) 425-1303

Germany, one of the world’s biggest users of coal has announced that it will be shutting down all of its coal-fired power plants over the next nineteen years to meet the country’s commitments to combatting climate change. (Write-up 2/1/2019)

**ASK** our Congresspeople what kind of actions they are pushing for to protect the U.S.—and out planet—at the same level as Germany

• **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), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**ETHICS and SEPARATION of POWERS**

As Mueller’s investigation continues, it becomes increasingly important to tighten any loopholes that would prevent justice from being served. House Joint Resolution 8, an amendment to the Constitution would limit the pardon power of the President so he could not pardon himself, family members, nor administration or campaign staff. The process for enacting a Constitutional Amendment is lengthy—but that’s all the more reason to get started now. (Write-up 2/2/2019)

**URGE** our Jimmy Panetta to become a cosponsor of H.J.Res.8

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

From *Rogan’s List*: Senator “Grassley [R-IA]—the former chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee—introduced the Special Counsel Transparency Act with Democrat Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut [in late January]. The bill would require any Special Counsel to produce a report to Congress at the conclusion of an investigation or within two weeks of a removal, transfer or resignation. That report would be required to include all factual findings and underlying evidence.” (Write-up 2/2/2019)

**TELL** our senators that this is the kind of protection and transparency we have been wanting

• **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

S.71, the “Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Act codifies certain Department of Justice (DOJ) regulations that govern the appointment, oversight, and removal of a special counsel. The bill provides new statutory limitations and requirements with respect to the removal from office of a special counsel. Finally, the bill requires DOJ to notify Congress when a special counsel is appointed, before a special counsel is removed, and after a special counsel's investigation concludes. This legislation is currently with the Senate Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 2/2/2019)

**TELL** key members of the Judiciary Committee that you want to see S.71 given priority

• **Senator Lindsey Graham** (R-SC), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5225

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

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

**GENERAL DECENCY**

The Disability Integration Act, now numbered S.117, was reintroduced earlier this week. This bill helps fight for the independence of all people, including the disabled. Senator Harris is a cosponsor. (Write-up 2/2/2019)

**THANK** Harris for her cosponsorship

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

**ASK** Feinstein to also cosponsor and support S117

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

**GUNS**

H.R.717 would prohibit federal firearms licensees from selling certain types of automatic rifles to anyone under age twenty-one with the exception of active-duty members of the military and full-time law enforcement officers. Under current law, one has to be twenty-one to purchase a handgun, but only eighteen to purchase a semi-automatic assault rifle. This legislation is currently with the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 2/2/2019)

**ASK** the chair of the House Judiciary Committee to prioritize H.R.717

• **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6909

**HEALTH and HEALTHCARE**

There are currently several pieces of legislation before Congress that address the high cost of prescription medications. S.97, the “Affordable and Safe Prescription Drug Importation Act,” would allow the importation of affordable, safe drugs by wholesale distributors, pharmacies, and individuals. It is currently with the Senate’s Health, Education, Welfare, and Pensions (HELP) Committee. H.R.465, the “prescription Drug Price Relief Act,” would take away monopolies from medical manufacturers who charge more for a drug in the U.S. than the median price charged for that same drug in Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Japan. It is with the House Energy and Commerce and Judiciary Committees. (Write-up 2/2/2019)

**ASK** key members of the HELP Committee to prioritize S.97

• **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

**ASK** the Chairs of the appropriate House Committees to prioritize H.R.465

• **Representative Frank Pallone, Jr.** (D-NJ), Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2322A Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3641

• **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6909

**HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS**

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Mexico, where the Republican administration now expects asylum seekers to spend up to a year while waiting for their claims to be heard, has begun refusing entrance to a number of U.S.-connected human rights workers and journalists. Apparently, these individuals have all been tagged as security threats, though not by Mexico, but by another unnamed government. The U.S. State Department, Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection, and Department of Justice have all refused to comment. Those denied entry into Mexico include the following. Attorneys Nora Phillips and Erika Pinheiro, leaders of Al Otro Lado, a group critical of the Republican Administration’s immigration policies that has worked with asylum seekers in Tijuana. Phillips and her seven-year-old daughter were held overnight, forced to sleep on a cement floor, while being questioned after attempting to enter Mexico for a family vacation. Pinheiro, who lives in Tijuana was not allowed to enter the country, and was unable to fetch her ten-month-old son who was in Tijuana and holds joint US-Mexican citizenship. Freelance photographer Kitra Cahan, who holds U.S. and Canadian passports and whose work has appeared in the *New York Times* and *National Geographic*, has been refused admittance to Mexico from both its northern and southern borders. She had been photo-documenting the lives of Asylum seekers hoping to enter the U.S. AP Photographer Daniel Ochoa, a Spanish citizen, who has also photographed asylum seekers, was similarly denied entry into Mexico recently. (Write-up 2/2/2019)

**DEMAND** responses to these allegations from the appropriate government agencies

• **Michael R. Pompeo**, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520, (202) 647-4000

• **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

• **Matthew Whitaker**, Acting Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20530-0001

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

**REQUEST** a Congressional investigation to determine whether the U.S. has requested that the Mexican government refuse entry to these individuals to keep them from working on behalf of asylum seekers

• **Senator James E. Risch** (R-ID), Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

• **Senator Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

• **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2206 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8467

• **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), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

China has been engaged in a campaign of oppression and “reeducation” of its ethnic Turkic Muslim population, isolating them in “model settlements” and forcibly ending their religious practices. A pair of Congressional Resolutions (S.178 in the Senate; H.R.649 in the House) condemn these abuses and call for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of Turkic Muslim communities both inside and outside of China. S.178 is with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. H.R.649 is currently with three House committees: Foreign Affairs, Intelligence, and Judiciary. (Write-up 2/2/2019)

**ASK** key members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to take quick action on S.178

• **Senator James E. Risch** (R-ID), Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

• **Senator Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

**URGE** quick action on H.R.649 from the appropriate House committee chairs

• **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2206 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8467

• **Representative Adam Schiff** (D-CA), Chair, House Intelligence Committee, Capitol Visitor Center HVC-304, Washington DC 20515-6415, (202) 225-7690

• **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6909

From *Rogan’s List*: The Equality Act is a comprehensive LGBTQ civil rights bill which is a priority for the U.S. House’s new pro-equality leadership and is expected to be re-introduced soon. The Equality Act was first introduced in July 2015. A recent study found that seven in 10 Americans (71%) support laws like the Equality Act, which protect the LGBTQ community against discrimination in employment, public accommodations and housing.” (Write-up 2/2/2019)

**TELL** our representative that we want him to support the Equality Act

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**INTERNATIONAL**

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) has introduced S.J.Res.7, “Directing the Removal of the United States Armed Forces from Hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that Have Not Been Authorized by Congress.” Representative Ro Kahnna (D-CA) has introduced companion legislation in the House, H.J.Res.37; Jimmy Panetta is a cosponsor. Both pieces of legislation are with the Foreign Relations (Senate)/Foreign Affairs (House) Committees. The situation in Yemen has not been getting the coverage it deserves, but the civil war there has become the greatest humanitarian crisis currently facing our world. (Write-up 2/2/2019)

**ASK** key members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to take quick action on S.J.Res.7

• **Senator James E. Risch** (R-ID), Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

• **Senator Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

**ASK** the House Foreign Affairs Committee Chair to prioritize H.J.Res.37

• **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2206 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8467

**TELL** our Senators we’d like them to cosponsor S.J.Res.7

• **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** our Representative for cosponsoring H.J.Res.37

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

Some GOP Senators are finally set to rebuke Trump for his total disregard of the work conducted by his national security team, which has found that North Korea, ISIS, and Russia are still threats. (Write-up 2/2/2019)

**REMIND** our Senators that our national intelligence has also found that, contrary to Trump’s claims, Iran is complying with the nuclear deal signed during the Obama administration, and **ASK** them what can be done to make sure that Trump doesn’t further wreck that deal through U.S. sanctions.

• **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

Read carefully; it’s a bit complicated: In December, the Chancellors of the University of California adopted a statement opposing the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement, which is using peaceful means to pressure the state of Israel to end its treatment of Palestinians that violates international law. In a letter to the Chancellors of the University of California, the California chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-CA) “express[es] deep concern over your 2018 statement of opposition against the movement to boycott, sanction, and divest from the Israeli state (“BDS”)…. [E]fforts to combat BDS raise serious First Amendment freedom of speech concerns. Your letter states that BDS poses ‘a direct and serious threat to the academic freedom of our students and faculty.’ However, this position ignores the continued reality, that faculty and other professionals who voice their support of BDS, are often targeted and denied tenure, speaking engagements, and other terms of employment because of their support of BDS…. [T]here has been a concerted effort by public universities throughout the country to attempt to force speakers and others to pledge that they do not currently and will not in the future endorse BDS before allowing these individuals onto campuses. This effort has gained much attention and protest, and in August 2018 the American Association of University Professors issuing a statement condemning the proliferation and harm of anti-BDS legislation by universities. Moreover, through indicating your opposition to BDS, you are acting in direct contradiction to the students that you are paid to represent. The student governments of the UC campuses have overwhelmingly voted their support of divestment and the BDS movement.” (Write-up 2/2/2019)

**OBJECT** to this move by U.C. Chancellors that silences free speech purportedly in defense of free speech

• **Board of Regents**, University of California, 1111 Franklin St., 12th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607-5200, (510) 987-9220

H.R.643, “To Prohibit the Provision of United States Security Assistance to the Government of Saudi Arabia,” does as its title suggests and bars U.S. military assistance to Saudi Arabia, except when this assistance is necessary to protect U.S. personnel and civilians. Currently, Saudi Arabia is playing a deadly role in the Yemeni civil war—with direct support from the U.S. This legislation is currently with the House Foreign Affairs Committee. (Write-up 2/2/2019)

**ASK** the House Foreign Affairs Committee Chair to prioritize H.R.643

• **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2206 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8467

**REQUEST** that our Representative, Jimmy Panetta, become a cosponsor of this legislation

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

S.Res.34, “A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Governments of Burma and Bangladesh ensure the safe, dignified, voluntary, and sustainable return of the Rohingya refugees who have been displaced by the campaign of ethnic cleansing conducted by the Burmese military and to immediately release unjustly imprisoned journalists, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo,” does exactly as its title suggest, urging safety for Rohingya refugees and for Burmese and Bangladeshi reporters. It is currently with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris are both cosponsors. (Write-up 2/2/2019)

**ASK** key members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to take quick action on S.Res.34

• **Senator James E. Risch** (R-ID), Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

• **Senator Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

**THANK** our Senators for supporting 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

**JUDICIARY**

Senator Kamala Harris has just announced that she will oppose all of Trump’s circuit court nominees from now on until he offers nominees who will “uphold equality and justice.” In particular, Harris cited concerns about court rulings regarding Dreamers and transgender members of the military. (Write-up 2/2/2019)

**THANKS** to Senator Harris for taking this stance

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

**URGE** our other Senator to join Harris in this commitment

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