**ASYLUM SEEKERS, IMMIGRATION, and DENATURALIZATION**

*Note: there’s a lot of material on this topic, so I’m doing my best to sort it by topic and house of Congress to make it easier to work through and to require fewer individual postcards.*

The House has five bills on the subject of immigration/detention of families and unaccompanied minor children. All are with the Judiciary Committee; two are also with the Homeland Security Committee: one is with the Foreign Affairs Committee—I’ll make clear which are with which committee when providing addresses. These bills are:

-H.R.541, the Keep Families Together Act

-H.R.574, The Equal Protection of Unaccompanied Minors Act

-H.R.883, the Families Belong Together Act

-H.R.1012, to Reunite Families Separated Near Ports of Entry

-H.R.1069, to Prevent Health and Human Services from Operating Unlicensed Shelters for Alien Children (Write-up 2/15/19)

**EXPLAIN** to the House Judiciary Committee Chair that all this legislation (H.R.s 541, 574, 883, 1012, 1069) is essential, given the Republican administration’s ongoing violations of human rights

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

**EXPLAIN** to the Appropriate members of the House Homeland Security Committee that H.R.541 and H.R.883 are essentially to reunited families separated by the Republican administration

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

• **Representative Kathleen Rice** (D-NY), Chair, Subcommittee on Border Security, House Homeland Security Committee, H2-176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-2616

• **Representative Xochitl Torres Small** (D-NM), Chair, Subcommittee on Oversight, Management, and Accountability, House Homeland Security Committee, H2-176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-2616

**EXPLAIN** to the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee that we need H.R.574 to protect unaccompanied minors *now*

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

The Senate’s S.292, A Bill to Limit Separation of Families at or near Ports of Entry, also addresses the treatment of asylum-seeking families. It was introduced by Dianne Feinstein, is Cosponsored by Kamala Harris, and is currently with the Senate Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**TELL** the Senate Judiciary Chair that this legislation is a moral and political necessity

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

**THANKS** to Dianne Feinstein, who also happens to be Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, for introducing this legislation

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

**THANKS** to Kamala Harris, who also happens to be a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, for cosponsoring this legislation

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

This year, we have an opportunity to protect agricultural workers and provide them with a path to permanent residency. These individuals are absolutely essential to the Central Coast’s economy (and the economies of many other parts of this nation) and deserve a place “at our table.” The House legislation is H.R.641, the Agricultural Workers Protection Act, currently with the House Judiciary and Ways and Means Committees. Jimmy Panetta is a cosponsor of this legislation and also sits on the Ways and Means Committee. S.175, the Agricultural Worker Protection Act, was introduced by Dianne Feinstein and is cosponsored by Kala Harris. It is currently with the Senate Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**TELL** the Senate Judiciary Chair that the food on every table in Am Erica passes through these workers’ hands and that they deserve better treatment and more stable lives

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

**THANKS** to Dianne Feinstein, who also happens to be Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, for introducing this legislation

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

**THANKS** to Kamala Harris, who also happens to be a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, for cosponsoring this legislation

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

Three pieces of legislation, two in the House, one in the Senate, seek to address the excesses of ICE and CBP. H.R.1013 would set guidelines for ICE and CBP agents to wear body cameras documenting their actions while at work. H.R.1011 and S.388 both seek to prohibit ICE actions as specific locations, particularly courthouses. S.388 was introduced by Dianne Feinstein and is cosponsored by Kamala Harris. H.R.1011 and S.388 are both with the Judiciary Committees of their respective Congressional Houses. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**TELL** the House Judiciary Chair that it’s time we put a limit on ICE actions that target vulnerable people at locations we should all be able to confidently access and **EXPLAIN** that the time has come for body cams, given the recent behavior of ICE and CBP

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

**TELL** the Senate Judiciary Chair that it’s time we put a limit on ICE actions that target vulnerable people at locations we should all be able to confidently access

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

**THANKS** to Dianne Feinstein, who also happens to be Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, for introducing this legislation

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

**THANKS** to Kamala Harris, who also happens to be a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, for cosponsoring this legislation

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

**CHURCH/STATE SEPARATION**

The Freedom of Religion Act, H.R.590, would bar any immigration restrictions based on the faith of those hoping to come to this country. At a time when “freedom of religion” too often means “freedom to discriminate,” we need to protect prospective immigrants. This legislation is currently with the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**ASK** the Judiciary Committee to protect 1st Amendment rights by supporting H.R.590

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

**THANKS** to our Jimmy Panetta, who is a cosponsor of this legislation

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

From Americans United for Separation of Church and State: At a bare minimum, the separation of church and state means that government must treat all religions (and equivalent secular beliefs) equally. A government policy that extends special treatment to members of one faith but denies it to others can’t survive. [On February 7], the U.S. Supreme Court failed to acknowledge that basic principle in a case from Alabama concerning a Muslim inmate on death row. Domineque Ray requested to have an imam with him at the time of his execution. It was in no way an unusual request. Death-row inmates are routinely given access to members of the clergy or spiritual counselors. Holeman Correctional Facility, the Alabama prison where Ray was incarcerated, allows its own Christian chaplain to accompany inmates facing execution into the room where the procedure takes place, but correctional officials denied that same access to Ray’s imam, arguing that would somehow present a security risk. In effect, the prison’s policy is that a Christian inmate has the right to receive spiritual solace from a member of his faith – but members of other faith traditions or those who seek secular counselors can be denied that same right. Ruling 5-4, the Supreme Court tried to rest its decision on a technicality. Ray, the majority asserted, had made a ‘last-minute’ argument concerning religion – his lawyers filed the appeal Jan. 28 – and thus it could be ignored. Justice Elena Kagan wasn’t persuaded. Joined by Justices Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor, Kagan pointed out that allowing a Christian minister to administer last rites to an inmate while denying that same right to a non-Christian inmate ‘goes against the [First Amendment’s] core principle of denominational neutrality.’” (Write-up 2/15/19)

**INSIST** to our Congressmember that if the Supreme Court won’t honor First Amendment religious protections, then we need them to draft legislation that will ensure 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) 224-3553

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

**CONSUMER PROTECTIONS and WORKPLACE RIGHTS**

The House Judiciary Committee can help students struggling with debt by voting to report two pieces of legislation for a full vote of the House. H.R.770 and H.R.885 would provide procedures for discharging student loan debt in the case of bankruptcy. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**ASK** Chair Nadler to schedule discussion of these two pieces of legislation as soon as possible• **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6909

From *Rogan’s List*: “While many across the country are being surprised that despite the tax cut which was said to help, most of us are actually paying more in taxes this year as we file with the IRS. As expected, however, the tax cut, which favored the wealthy and big corporations, has enabled some companies, even those who have high profit margins, to not be paying any tax. Amazon, for example, will be paying zero.” (Write-up 2/15/19)

**TELL** our Congressmembers that we need a tax code overhaul that will be fair and equitable

• **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

In January, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals slashed the power of a federal anti-age discrimination law, protecting workers age 40 and older. The court ruled that the protection from discrimination only applies *after* an individual has been hired and does not apply to job applicants. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**ASK** our Congressmembers what they can do legislatively to protect older American jkob seekers

• **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

**ELECTIONS**

S.26 the Vote by Mail Act is the main piece of election legislation currently before the Senate and would establish a right for all voters to opt to vote by mail in federal elections. Vote-by-mail voters (particularly young and low-income voters) participate in elections at significantly higher rates than those who must go to polls to. This legislation is currently with the Senate Rules and Administration Committee. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**EXPLAIN** to key members of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee that increasing qualified voters’ opportunities to participate in elections should be a goal both parties can get behind

• **Senator Roy Blunt** (R-MO), Chair, Senate Rules and Administration Committee, 305 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6352

• **Senator Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN), Ranking Member, Senate Rules and Administration Committee, 305 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6352

From *What the Fuck Just Happened Today?*: “**Trump is downsizing two teams of federal officials tasked with fighting election interference by foreign countries.** The task forces are part of the Cyber Security and Infrastructure Agency and were assembled in response to Russian interference in the 2016 election. One of the task forces is half the size it was a few months ago, and there are no indications that senior political leadership plans to rebuild it. The other task force was reduced significantly after the 2018 midterms, before its staff could produce a full assessment of what happened during the election. DHS [Department of Homeland Security] sources say ‘2020 is going to be the perfect storm.’” (Write-up 2/15/19)

**ASK** our Congressmembers to keep a close eye on election security and on the work of these down-sized task forces

• **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

**ENVIRONMENT**

Here’s a brilliant idea from Representative Barbara Lee: offer a tax credit to employers for training and hiring veterans in renewable energy jobs. That’s what H.R.322 would do. H.R.322 is currently with the House ways and means committee. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**EXPLAIN** to the House Ways and Means Committee Chair that this legislation will be a win for the environment and for veterans and **CALL** for its discussion in committee

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

H.R.330 is the best climate change legislation currently before the House. It would require that 100% of U.S. exergy come from renewable sources by 2035 an require an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. It would also set national energy efficiency standards. H.R.330 is currently with the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee. H.R.1201 would go a step further by requiring that climate impacts be considered on all proposed policies, doctrines, and plans. H.R.1201 is currently with several committees: House Armed Services, House Energy and Commerce, House Foreign Affairs, House Science, Space, and Technology; and House Intelligence. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**URGE** that Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, and Foreign Affairs committee chairs prioritize H.R.330 and H.R.1201 for the sake of the nation and the planet

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

• **Representative Raúl Grijalva** (D-AZ), Chair, House Natural Resources Committee, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DCV, (202) 225-6065

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

**URGE** that the appropriate committee chairs prioritize H.R.1201

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

• **Representative Bernice Johnson** (D-TX), Chair, House Science and Technology Committee, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6375

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

From Rogan’s List: “Drone footage of new border wall in New Mexico shows that the Trump

administration's border militarization is already damaging ecosystems and wildlife. Trump waived 25 laws that protect clean air, clean water, public lands and endangered wildlife to speed construction of 20 miles of new walls.” (Write-up 2/15/19)

**ASK** our Congressmembers why laws that protect us all are being ignored for a bit of a wall that has not real consequence other than political.

• **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**

There are currently three pieces of legislation addressing issues of lobbying by former Congressmembers, department heads, and the like, before the House Judiciary Committee. H.R.1021 places a five-year ban on lobbying by former members of Congress and a three-year ban for former officers and employees of Congress. H.R.931 would not allow lobbying by any former member of Conress until that person had paid off all penalty money from sexual harassment suits. H.R.783 would close currently lobbying loopholes that have allowed at least 33 departing members of the Trump administration to engage in lobbying and similar activities, despite having been required to sign a pledge not to do so at the time they took their positions in the administration. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**ASK** the Judiciary Committee Chair to support all three of these pieces of legislation because it looks like it’s our job to “drain the swamp”

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

As more evidence turns up that members of the Trump administration were granted security clearances against the recommendations of government security experts, the House and the Senate will have the chance to consider legislation regarding for granting security clearances. The first of these, S.314, a Bill to Improve the Processing and Oversight by the Federal Government of Security Clearances and Background Investigation, is currently with the Senate Intelligence Committee. The two House bills are H.R.324, the Homeland Security Clearance and Administration Act (with the House Homeland Security Committee) and H.R.538, the CLEARANCES Act (with both the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and the House Intelligence Committee. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**EXPRESS** your support for S.314 to key members of the Senate Intelligence Committee

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

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

**EXPRESS** your support for H.R.324 to

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

**EXPRESS** your support for H.R.538 to

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

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

The Supreme Court is the one judicial body in our country that does not have an official code of ethics. It operates on an honor system, with the assumption the members will recuse themselves from cases as appropriate. However, this assumption seems a bit shakier, given recent appointments (one appointment in particular) to the court. H.R. 1057 would require the Supreme Court to develop a code of ethics, to make formal the kind of fairness and rejection of bias that might have seemed guaranteed at another time. H.R.1057 is with the Senate Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**EXPLAIN** that, given changes on the Court and the difficult issues the Court will likely be ruling on (the ACA, disenfranchisement and gerrymandering, and the whole Trump/Republicans/Russia thing), the time has come for Congress to require a Supreme Court Code of Ethics

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

**GENERAL DECENCY**

At the moment, the House has several pieces of legislation on the topic of sexual assault and violence against women with committees. H.R.915 would allow women (and men) who are being stalked to get restraining orders against friends and coworkers as needed. At the moment, these restraining orders are generally issued to those threatened by intimate partners. H.R.777 would call for more efficient processing of rape kits, as there is currently a huge backlog of these in many jurisdictions. These two pieces of legislation are with the House Judiciary Committee. H.R.1082 seeks to improve access to and quality of sexual assault exams, setting up expectations for hospitals. H.R.1082 is with three committees: Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**ASK** for the Judiciary Committee’s attention to H.R.915 and H.R.777

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

**ASK** for the appropriate committees’ attention to H.R.1082

• **Representative Bobbie Scott** (D-VA), Chair, House Education and Labor Committee, 2176 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3725

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

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

**TELL** our Representative, who sits on the Ways and Means Committee, that we expect him to provide strong support for H.R.1082

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

With the short attention span of much media and many Americans, we can easily forget to keep pushing for justice in response to events receding into the (not necessarily very far back) past. Remember Hurricanes Irma and Maria? Remember Puerto Rico? Remember how inadequate recovery funds were for Puerto Rico, particularly in comparison with funds provided to Texas and Florida.? Remember the rolls of paper towels? S.23 calls for a national commission to investigate the federal response to natural disasters in Puerto Rico during the 2017 hurricane season. S.23 is currently with the Senate Homeland Security Committee. Our Senators Feinstein and Harris are both cosponsors. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**TELL** the chair of the House Homeland Security Committee that we cannot let Puerto Rico be forgotten

• **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 Senators for cosponsoring S.23

• **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

**GUNS**

Given the current composition of the Senate, we may not feel hopeful about the possibility of gun reform, but the House is in a position to advance legislation on this topic. And if the Senate refuses to follow the House’s lead—well, we can use that as a talking point during the next national election. So here’s a round-up of gun legislation currently with the House:

-H.R.8, the Bipartisan Backgrounds Check Act, which has made it through committee and ready to a discussion and a vote by the House

-H.R,1112, the Strengthen Background Checks Act, which has also made it through committee and can come to a vote of the House

-H.R.282, the SAFER Now Act, currently with the House Energy and Commerce, Science and Technology, and Judiciary Committees

The remaining legislation is all with the House Judiciary Committee

-H.R.435, the National Gun Violence Research Act

-H.R.659, the Buyback Our Safety Act

-H.R.686, the Stop Online Ammunition Sales Act

-H.R. 687, the Handgun Licensing and Registration Act

-H.R.717, the Raise the Age Act (limits semi-automatic style guns being sold to under-21s)

-H.R.869, the Undetectable Firearms Modernization Act (3-D printed, untraceable guns)

-H.R.971, No Firearms for Persons Convicted of Animal Cruelty Act

-H.R.1186, to Regulate Large-Capacity Ammunition Feed Devices (Write-up 2/15/19)

**TELL** your Representative you want to see all of these bills supported

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

**TELL** the Chairs of the appropriate committees that you support H.R.282

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

• **Representative Bernice Johnson** (D-TX), Chair, House Science and Technology Committee, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6375

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

**TELL** the House Judiciary Committee that you want strong support for all these pieces of legislation

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

From *Rogan’s List*: “Two urgent issues are addressed in a newly introduced [California] bill SB281, gun control and affordable housing. This bill would ban gun shows at the Cow Palace and transfer the land to locally controlled joint authority of San Francisco, Daly City and San Mateo County. According to Scott Weiner, one of the bill’s co-authors, ‘for decades, Cow Palace has ignored local views on the site: that there shouldn’t be gun shows & that the land should be developed. The local community will now decide the future of this land, e.g., whether to keep Cow Palace & whether to create housing/mixed use development.’ The bill is co-authored by the entire San Francisco and San Mateo County legislative delegation.”

**ASK** our State Legislators to support this bill (Write-up 2/15/19)

• **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

**HEALTH and HEALTHCARE**

The House and Senate each currently have two pieces of active legislation on the issue of prescription drug prices. In the House these are H.R.465, the Prescription Drug Price Relief Act, and H.R.965, Facilitating Entry into Market for Low-Cost/Generic Drugs. Both are with The House Energy and Commerce and Judiciary Committees. In the Senate these are S.102, the Prescription Drug Relief Act, and S.340, the CREATES Act (for production of low-cost and generic drugs). S.102 is with the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee (HELP). S.340 has made it through committee and can now be discussed and voted upon by the full Senate. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**ASK** the Appropriate committee chairs to prioritize H.R.465 and H.R.965

• **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

**ASK** the Appropriate HELP Committee members to prioritize S.102

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

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

**URGE** the Senate Majority Leader to bring S.340 to a vote

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

**URGE** your Senators to support S.102 and S.340

• **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

Two pieces of legislation relating to veterans’ health are H.R.326, the Agent Orange Relief Act, and S.191 The Burn Pits Accountability Act. The first would serve veterans and their family members affected by the defoliant Agent Orange, which was used during the war in Vietnam. It is with multiple House Committees. The second would serve the many veterans exposed to toxic burn pits while in the Middle East. It is with the Senate Armed Services Committee. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**REQUEST** that the appropriate committee members prioritize H.R.329

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

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

• **Representative Mark Takano** (D-CA), Chair, Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, B324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9756

• **Representative Conor Lamb** (D-PA), Vice-Chair, Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, B324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9756

• **Representative Julia Brownley** (D-CA), Chair, Subcommittee on Health, Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, B324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-9756

**REQUEST** support for S.191 from

• **Senator James Inhofe** (R-OK), Chair, Senate Armed Services Committee, 228 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3871

• **Senator Jack Reed** (D-RI), Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, 228 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3871

**HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS**

The Senate unanimously passed its antilynching legislation, S.488. Now it’s up to the House to pass its version, H.R.35, the Emmitt Till Antilynching Act, which is with the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**URGE** the House Judiciary Chair to prioritize H.R.35 and see that the Committee reports it to the House for a full vote

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

**ASK** our Representative to stand on the right side of (long-overdue) history and become a cosponsor of this legislation

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

The Refugee Sanitation and Facility Act, H.R.615, would amend the Foreign Relation Acts of 1994 and 1995 to provide for “the provision of safe and secure access to sanitation facilities, with a special emphasis on women and girls, and vulnerable populations.” This legislation is with the House Foreign Affairs Committee. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**URGE** action on this important legislation by the Chair of the House Foreign Relations Committee

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

The Juror Non-Discrimination Act, H.R. 874, would prohibit excluding people from serving on federal juries on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Like so much else, it is currently with the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**TELL** Chair Nadler that you and/or your friends and/ or your family and/or complete strangers should not have to fear being disqualified for jury service because of whom they love or how they identify themselves

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

**TELL** our Representative that we’d like him to become a sponsor of H.R.874

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

From *Rogan’s List*: “Here’s another *very* not normal item, and something we should contact our Congressmembers about: ‘A special unit within the Federal Bureau of Investigation that handles war crimes may be shut down imminently, according to officials familiar with the administration’s decision-making process. The FBI’s International Human Rights Unit takes the lead on investigating individuals within the United States who have been accused of committing international crimes, including war crimes, torture, genocide, female genital mutilation, and the recruitment of child soldiers. It also investigates international crimes committed against or by U.S. citizens abroad and enforces immigration statutes that can be invoked against abusers who cannot be prosecuted for their underlying crimes for whatever reason.’ While the article states that it is unclear why the unit may be disbanded, we’d say it’s obvious why this administration might want to do that...for any number of reasons.” (Write-up 2/15/19)

**SHARE** your deep concerns about this move with

• **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

As the deadline for the ratification of the ERA lurches closer, we can take a step to keep hope alive by passing H.J.Res.38, which would remove the deadline for ratification and allow the ERA to be added to our Constitution whenever the needed number of states signs on. It is—surprise!—currently with the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 2/15/19)

**REQUEST** committee support for H.J.Res.38

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

**TELL** our Representative that we want to see him take an active stance in support of women by becoming a cosponsor of H.J.Res.38

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

From *Rogan’s List*: “Last week, Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Susan Collins (R-ME) introduced legislation (S.373) which would ‘prohibit the Pentagon from discharging any currently serving member of the military solely on the basis of gender identity. It would also say that recruits cannot be denied entry into the military solely based on their gender identity.’ The bill currently does not have any other cosponsors, Democrat or Republican.” (Write-up 2/15/19)

**TELL** our senators that we support our troops and transgender people's rights, and that we expect them to do the same by cosponsoring this 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

**INTERNATIONAL**

From *Rogan’s List*: “Millions of people are suffering in Yemen, with nearly 76% of the population needing humanitarian assistance. The US support for this war is abhorrent, and the Senate finally acknowledged this when it passed a resolution to remove US forces from Yemen at the end of 2018. At the time, outgoing Speaker Paul Ryan blocked the House from taking a vote, but with a new Congress comes a new opportunity to pass a resolution. Representative Ro Khanna has introduced a war powers resolution (H.J.Res.37) to remove US armed forces, which has [been passed by the House.] Now it’s the Senate’s turn! (Write-up 2/15/19)

**ASK** our Senators to cosponsor and support the Senate version (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

From Countable: “[February 8] marked the now-missed deadline for President Trump to identify and punish those behind the death and disappearance of Saudi Journalist Jamal Khashoggi.In October, a bipartisan group of senators imposed a 120-day deadline for Trump to submit a report to Congress determining who was responsible for the brutal killing of Khashoggi. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle introduced legislation [on February 14] that would block U.S. arms sales to Saudi Arabia and impose mandatory sanctions on those found responsible for Khashoggi’s death. ‘It is not in our national security interests to look the other way when it comes to the brutal murder of Mr. Jamal Khashoggi,’ said Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), one of the GOP senators who authored the bill.” (Write-up 2/15/19)

**INSIST** that the U.S. take action in response to Khashoggi’s murder

• **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