

ASYLUM SEEKERS, FAMILY SEPARATION, DENATURALIZATION, and IMMIGRATION

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/legal-issues/us-judge-strikes-down-trump-asylum-rule-targeting-central-americans/2020/07/01/96e57616-bb4a-11ea-bdaf-a129f921026f_story.html

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/legal-issues/us-judge-strikes-down-trump-asylum-rule-targeting-central-americans/2020/07/01/96e57616-bb4a-11ea-bdaf-a129f921026f_story.html

<https://www.courthousenews.com/judge-slams-ice-for-putting-teenage-immigrants-in-adult-prisons/>

<https://www.borderreport.com/hot-topics/migrant-centers/judge-us-must-free-migrant-children-from-family-detention/>

Via RLS at *News You May Have Missed*: A federal judge blocked the Trump administration policy saying that asylum-seekers had to seek asylum first in any country they passed through. The policy was aimed especially at keeping Latin Americans out of the US. As the [Washington Post](#) reports, the judge said that the government had “unlawfully promulgated” the rule and “failing to show it was in the public interest to stealthily implement the change and bypass the Administrative Procedure Act.” However, now that the Republican administration has effectively ended asylum entirely under the guise of protecting the country from the coronavirus, it is not clear what the practical effect of the judge’s ruling will be.

A judge told the Trump administration that they had to stop the practice of imprisoning detained immigrants in adult centers when they turned 18. According to [Courthouse News](#), the judge said that ICE was required to find the

least restrictive environment for these young people—for example, their parents or other relatives already settled in the U.S. As the judge put it, “ICE has acted in a manner that is ‘arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion’ and—most clearly—‘otherwise not in accordance with law.’”

As we reported last week, a judge [has ordered](#) that detained children be released by July 17. However, the judge did not have the authority to order that their families be released with them, and some observers believe that the government will not do so, separating another group of families, according to [Border Report](#). There are

138 parents and 139 children in the facilities covered by the order (861

additional children continue to be detained without their parents). Eighty

members of Congress signed a letter asking that families be released together. (Write-up 7/4/2020)

INSIST to your Congressmembers and the current head of Homeland Security that the hostile intent of the current administration makes according asylum applicants all constitutional protections essential and **PRAISE** the rulings against the Safe Third Country rule, the transfer of 18-year-olds to adult detention, and the order to remove children from immigration detention—and **URGE** that their families be released as well

• **Find your Senators here:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fWPKEeiBUwv0vaiTGYGKO37TWU4aSULWvI5sgOo5YS4/edit>

• **Find your Representative here:**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdclADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit

• **Chad Wolf**, Acting Secretary, U. S. Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Ln. SW, Washington DC 20528

SIGN this petition from RAICES calling for families to be released together

<https://www.raicestexas.org/2020/06/29/take-action-demand-families-be-release-together/>

CHURCH-STATE SEPARATION

<https://www.deseret.com/indepth/2020/6/30/21258570/supreme-court-religious-freedom-christian-schools-espinoza-montana-tax-credit-blaine-amendment>

The wall separating church and state has lost a brick following a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that state-funded scholarship programs could not exclude students from faith-based institutions. The ruling responded a decision by the state of Montana, which had begun providing tax credits to parents sending children to private schools, that those schools could not be religious in nature because of Montana's legal prohibitions in state payment for religious education. In the majority decision, Chief Justice John Roberts argued that "a state need not subsidize private education. But once it decides to do so it cannot disqualify some private schools solely because they are religious." At least forty states have laws barring state funding of religious education and will likely be subject to the provisions of this ruling. (Write-up 7/4/2020)

TELL to your Congressmembers that state funding of religious schools is unacceptable in any form and **ASK** for Congressional legislation to keep the wall between church and state solid

• **Find your Senators here:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fWPKEeiBUwv0vaiTGYGKO37TWU4aSULWvI5sgOo5YS4/edit>

• **Find your Representative here:**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdclcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit

CONSUMER PROTECTIONS and WORKPLACE RIGHTS

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7027>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3874>

The costs of child care have increased with new restrictions put in place in response to the COVID-19 emergency. The Child Care Is Essential Act (H.R.7027 in the House; S.3874 in the Senate) would create a \$50 billion fund to cover increased costs to child care providers with the intention of avoiding increases in child care costs for working parents. These monies would be managed within the Department of Health and Human Services' Childcare and Block Grant Development Program. In the House, this legislation is currently with the Appropriations and the Budget Committees. In the Senate, it is with the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee. (Write-up 7/4/2020)

URGE swift, positive action on H.R.7207 in the appropriate House Committees

• **Representative Nita Lowey** (D-NY), Chair, House Appropriations Committee, H-307 The Capitol, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2771

• **Representative John Yarmuth** (D-KY), Chair, House Budget Committee, 204-E Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-7200

URGE swift, positive action on S.3874 in the Senate HELP Committee

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1425>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5332>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7301>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-joint-resolution/90>

Recently, the House has passed a number of important pieces of legislation that will now move on to the Senate.

- H.R.2, the Investing in a new Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act (INVEST Act), maintains funding for highway, transit, safety programs, provides programs specifically for isolated rural communities, and initiates a study of the best ways to respond to the damaging effects of climate change on the U.S. transportation system.
- H.R.1245, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act, provides additional funds for medical payments and individuals' out-of-pocket medical expenses.
- H.R.5332, the Protecting Your Credit Score Act, calls for the creation of a single online site where consumers can request free credit reports and scores, dispute errors, and place or lift security freezes.
- H.R.7301, the Emergency Housing and Protections Relief Act, places limits on evictions, foreclosures, and unsafe conditions in housing during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- H.J.Res.90, Providing for Congressional Disapproval Under Chapter 8 of Title 5, United States Code, of the Rule Submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency Relating to "Community Reinvestment Act Regulations, objects to administration weakening of the Community Reinvestment Act that was designed to make banks respond to the credit needs of low- and moderate-income communities. (Write-up 7/4/2020)

TELL your Representative how much you appreciate this legislation (regardless of whether that Representative supported it)

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

TELL Mitch McConnell and your Senators that you want to see swift, positive action as this legislation moves to the Senate

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

• **Find your Senators here:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fWPKEeiBUwv0vaiTGYGKO37TWU4aSULWvI5sgOo5YS4/edit>

ENVIRONMENT

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0044-0001>

<https://www.rollcall.com/2020/06/05/epa-move-to-alter-public-health-measures-alarms-advocates/>

<https://www.eenews.net/stories/1063128561>

The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed changes to the Clean Air Act that are open to public comment through August 3. Under Obama regulations, cost-benefit analyses for pollution reduction regulations could consider all potential benefits of proposed regulations. If, for example, a measure designed to reduce carbon pollution also happened to reduce ozone and particulate pollution, all three of those impacts could be included in the cost-benefit analysis of that measure. Under the proposed rule change, if the rule was written to reduce carbon pollution any additional reductions in pollution could not be included in the cost-benefit analysis. The EPA is presenting its proposed changes as “Increasing Consistency and Transparency in Considering Benefits and Costs in the Clean Air Act Rule Process,” but the actual impact of the change won’t so much increase consistency and transparency as it will make calculations more industry-friendly and environmental regulations more difficult to put in place. The Union of Concerned Scientists and many other scientific and environmental groups have come out against this rule change. Hayden Hashimoto, a legal fellow at the Clean Air Task Force, sums up the proposed rule change as an “attempt [by the EPA] to tie its own hands...in a transparent effort to benefit industry at the expense of the American people.” The EPA is only accepting electronic comments on this proposal. You can use the link below to access the comment site. (Write-up 7/4/2020)

OBJECT to this faux effort at “consistency and transparency at

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0044-0001>

URGE your Congressmembers to fight this and other regulatory sleight-of-hand by the current administration

• **Find your Senators here:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fWPKEeiBUwv0vaiTGYGKO37TWU4aSULWvI5sgOo5YS4/edit>

• **Find your Representative here:**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdelcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit

ETHICS and SEPARATION of POWERS

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/685>

<https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/504532-senate-panel-votes-21-1-to-back-justice-ig-measure-over-graham-objections>

In an unusual example of bipartisan pushback, in late June the Senate Judiciary Committee approved S.685, the Inspector General Access Act, 21 to 1, with the single dissenting vote being that of the committee's chair, Lindsey Graham (R-SC). This legislation—similar legislation was passed by the House last year—would transfer responsibility for investigation of alleged misconduct by Department of Justice (DoJ) attorneys from the DoJ's Office of Professional Responsibility to the DoJ's Office of the Inspector General. This would allow someone independent from the Attorney General to make decisions about initiating ethics investigations. Opposition to this change is not new: similar legislation failed in the two previous administrations. Lindsey Graham opposed the legislation because it did not include his proposed amendment requiring that the Attorney General sign off on all such investigations before they begin—which would have undercut the clear intention that such investigations be undertaken by independent, non-political appointees. Attorney General William Barr also opposes the legislation. Given this opposition, House Majority Leader Mitch McConnell may not choose to bring S.685 to a vote of the full Senate, but the near-unanimous bipartisan agreement among the Judiciary Committee makes this choice more difficult. (Write-up 7/4/2020)

DEMAND that McConnell allow S.685 to come before the full Senate and **EMPHASIZE** the bipartisan support for the legislation

• **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.685 as one way of mitigating the politicization of the office of Attorney General

• **Find your Senators here:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fWPKEeiBUwv0vaiTGYGKO37TWU4aSULWvi5sgOo5YS4/edit>

HEALTH and HEALTHCARE

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1645/text>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2975/text>

<https://www.npr.org/2020/06/29/884958610/what-supreme-courts-ruling-might-mean-for-abortion-right>

For the moment, women can breathe a bit easier thanks to the Supreme Court ruling supporting women's right to access to abortion, but this gain truly may be momentary. Dozens of cases are working their way through the court system with intent of limiting or denying access to abortion. Women will always be one court ruling away from losing this right until their right to make their own health care decisions and health care workers' right to provide a full range of reproductive healthcare services are confirmed under law. The Women's Health Protection Act (S.1645 in the Senate; H.R.2975 in the House) does exactly this. It would bar regulations regarding the provision of abortion that do any of the following

- delay access to abortion services
- directly or indirectly increase the cost of providing or obtaining an abortion
- decrease the availability of abortion services in a State or geographic region
- add medically unnecessary tests or procedures before, during, or after the provision of abortion services
- require presentation of medically inaccurate information

- limit the ability of abortion providers to prescribe medications
- prohibitions on abortion services before fetal viability
- subject medical providers of abortion to additional costs not borne by other health care providers
- ban specific pre-viability abortion procedures
- limit a woman's rights to abortion services post-viability if her health or life are at risk
- place a limit on the reasons for which a woman may seek abortion services

Basically, The Women's Health Protection Act eliminates all the many hoops women are often required to jump through before receiving an abortion. When this legislation is passed, women will not see their right to full reproductive health care threatened with each new court case. S.1645 is currently with the Senate Judiciary Committee; H.R.2975 is currently with the House Energy and Commerce Committee. (Write-up 7/4/2020)

PROTEST limitations on women's right to make their own healthcare decisions and **URGE** passage of S.1645 through committee and on the Senate floor

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

- **Senator Lindsey Graham** (R-SC), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 290 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5972

- **Find your Senators here:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fWPKEeiBUwv0vaiTGYGKO37TWU4aSULWvi5sgOo5YS4/edit>

PROTEST limitations on women's right to make their own healthcare decisions and **URGE** passage of H.R.2975 through committee and on the House floor

- **Representative Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA), Speaker of the House, 1236 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4965

- **Representative Frank Pallone, Jr.** (D-NJ), Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

- **Find your Representative here:**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdclcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2TIwm0/edit

HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/meghara/tear-gas-ban-uk-us>

<https://khn.org/news/police-use-rubber-bullets-on-protesters-that-can-kill-blind-or-maim-for-life/>

<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/what-to-do-if-you-get-hit-with-a-rubber-bullet>

<https://www.propublica.org/article/tear-gas-is-way-more-dangerous-than-police-let-on-especially-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

<https://emergency.cdc.gov/agent/riotcontrol/factsheet.asp>

Via RLS at *News You May Have Missed*: Rubber bullets and tear gas may no longer be exported by the UK to the US if 160 members of Parliament have their way, [Buzzfeed](#) reports. According to [Kaiser Health News](#), a [2017 study](#) demonstrated that rubber bullets (which can have a metal core) can result in disability or even death. During recent protests, police have been shooting them randomly into crowds, causing serious injury--a reporter was blinded and other protesters have been hospitalized. Dr. Douglas Lazzaro, a professor and expert in eye trauma at NYU Langone Health told *Kaiser Health News* that when fired at close range, "rubber bullets can penetrate the skin, break bones, fracture the skull and explode the eyeball." The British army developed them to use in Northern Ireland fifty years ago, but they no longer use them. [Teen Vogue](#) has recommendations for what to do if you are hit by one.

Protesters are also endangered by tear gas, especially during the pandemic. As [ProPublica](#) explains, it can damage the mucous membranes in the lung and make the lungs more vulnerable to infection. The [Centers for Disease Control](#) say that tear gas in a closed setting--such as a prison or detention center--can lead to "Blindness, glaucoma (a serious eye condition that can lead to blindness), immediate death due to severe chemical burns to the throat and lungs, and respiratory failure possibly resulting in death." They recommend that people exposed to tear gas leave the area if at all possible, carefully remove contaminated clothing and double-bag it in plastic, rinse their eyes for ten-fifteen minutes, leave contact lenses out, use asthma inhalers, and treat skin burns like burns. (Write-up 7/4/2020)

INSIST on an end to law enforcement use of rubber bullets and tear gas, which can be life-threatening and are not "safe" options as many law enforcement groups claim

- **William Barr**, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20350

- **Find contact for your state and county officials here, including Governor, Attorney General, legislators, and county and city leadership here**

<http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

CALL for Congressional action to prohibit the use of these dangerous “crowd control” measures

- **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