

2019.02.February.Final (This is the comprehensive list I do once a month. If you've been using my weekly lists, some of these will be familiar. The NEW write-ups for this week will be at the start of each section, since I arrange the list in reverse chronological order.)

ASYLUM SEEKERS, FAMILY SEPARATION, DENATURALIZATION, and IMMIGRATION

The Agricultural Worker Program Act (S.175 in the Senate; H.R.641 in the House) would provide experienced farm workers a path to citizenship. Their work feeds our nation and they deserve the benefits of citizenship. The legislation was introduced by Dianne Feinstein and is cosponsored by Kamala Harris. Jimmy Panetta is a cosponsor of H.R.641. S.175 is with the Senate Judiciary Committee. H.R.641 is with both the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Judiciary Committee. (2/8/2019)

TELL key members of the Senate Judiciary Committee that you want to see this legislation prioritized (and remember to THANK Feinstein for introducing S.175)

- **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

TELL the chairs of the appropriate House committee that we want to see a major push to pass H.R.641

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

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

Legislation has now been introduced in the House that would clarify—and greatly improve—standards for treatment of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in the U.S. H.R.574, the “Equal Protection for Unaccompanied Minors Act,” is currently with the House Judiciary Committee. (2/8/2019)

URGE quick action on H.R.574 by the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee

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

REQUEST that your Representative cosponsor this important legislation

- Find your Representative here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdelcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/e/dit

From the Center for Public Integrity: “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, failed to take action against detention facilities the agency contracted with after discovering thousands of

violations that jeopardized the safety and rights of detainees, according to a federal Inspector General Report 'Between October 1, 2015, and June 30, 2018, ICE imposed financial penalties on only two occasions, despite documenting thousands of instances of the facilities' failures to comply with detention standards,' inspectors found, based on a review of contracts governing 106 facilities holding an average of 25,000 detainees in 2017. 'Instead of holding facilities accountable through financial penalties," inspectors reported, "ICE issued waivers to facilities with deficient conditions, seeking to exempt them from complying with certain standards.' The more than 14,000 'deficiencies' identified included facilities failing to notify ICE about sexual assaults and failing to forward allegations of staff misconduct to ICE investigators, according to inspectors." (2/8/2019)

DEMAND better protections for the rights and safety of asylum seekers and consequences for private contractors who fail to honor these

- **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

- 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

House Appropriations Committee Chair Nita Lowey (D-NY) will be making the decisions about what spending proposals the committee considers. (2/8/2019)

EXPLAIN to Lowey that you oppose the border wall, oppose increased surveillance, and oppose increased funding for the Department of Homeland Security and REMIND her that at least 83 people have died in Border Patrol custody over the last eight years—and Border Patrol has begun force feeding protesting detainees

- **Representative Nita Lowey** (D-NY), Chair, House Appropriations Committee, H-3017 The Capitol, Washington DC 2-515, (202) 225-2771

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

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

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

- 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/e/dit

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

- 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

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 *Los Angeles Times* reports: "U.S. border officials finalized plans Thursday [1/24/2019] to require asylum seekers to remain in Mexico while their cases are considered in the United States, the latest escalation of the Trump administration's immigration crackdown. Border officers will start pushing asylum applicants back across the border as soon as orders become operational on Friday [1/25/2019], beginning at the San Ysidro Port of Entry in San Diego, a Homeland Security official said on condition of anonymity to discuss internal planning. Until now, most migrants seeking asylum were released from detention into the United States while awaiting a court hearing, a process that can take years because of backlogs. Migrant advocates say implementing the plan will put asylum seekers at risk by requiring them to wait in Mexican border cities with some of the deadliest homicide rates in the world." (Write-up 1/25/2019)

OBJECT to this new practice

- **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

ASK our Congresspeople to act against this policy that leave asylum-seekers in mortal risk for extended periods of time

- 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

From *Rogan's List*: "We've been asking our Members of Congress to investigate the separation of immigrant families at the border, along with their subsequent treatment in shelters, and members of the House have listened. Unfortunately, Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar is refusing to testify before the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which is investigating this practice." (Write-up 1/25/2019)

INSIST to Secretary Azar that he should take responsibility and accept the Energy and Commerce request to testify

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

THANK the Chair of the Energy and Commerce committee for pursuing this line of investigation

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

From *Rogan's List*: According to the Office of the Health and Human Services (HHS) Inspector General, many thousands more children were taken from their families at the border, a year prior to the so-called zero tolerance rule that was implemented in the spring of 2018. No records of these children were kept in a central database, the Office of the Inspector General points out, so reuniting them with their families has been a challenge. However, HHS itself claims it can locate such records. As the *New Yorker* points out, immigration agents can take children from their parents if they claim to have reason to believe that the parents are abusive or have criminal ties. They do not have to provide evidence for these claims. A 2017 draft memo leaked to Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) shows precisely how the Trump administration planned to separate children from their families to deter migrants from seeking asylum. The plan was/is to deny asylum hearings to children and to prosecute parents. The authors wrote that the "increase in prosecutions would be reported by the media and it would have a substantial deterrent effect," according to NBC News. This is in direct contradiction to statements by Department of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen, who said that there was no policy, only an

effort to enforce existing law.... Senator Merkley has asked for a perjury investigation of Nielsen, while Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) has called on Nielsen to resign, given the report about how many more children were abducted from their families than was previously acknowledged.

(Write-up 1/22/2019)

THANKS to both Senators for calling attention to this problem

- **Senator Jeff Merkley** (D-OR), 313 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3753

- **Senator Dick Durbin** (D-IL), 711 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2152

TELL your Senators you want further scrutiny of Homeland Security policies and the actions of the Secretary of Homeland Security

- Find your Senators here:

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

Representative Will Hurd (R-TX), the only Republican Congressman representing a district along the Texas-Mexico border, where the Republican administration proposes to build its wall, has been vocal in opposing the wall and working to address the root causes of migration.

(Write-up 1/22/2019)

THANKS to the Representative for his bipartisanship and his willingness to help shape complex responses to complex situations

- **Representative Will Hurd** (R-TX), 317 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (210) 224-4511

From *Rogan's List*: "New Mexico is withdrawing its National Guard from the border saying that they are not needed and that Trump is fear-mongering and turning this into a charade; Nogales, AZ is asking the feds to remove the razor wire as unnecessary in their city and... a stunt by the Trump administration; the mayor of El Paso disagrees with Trump's assertion that his city always was a dangerous city until the wall was erected" (Write-up 2/8/2019)

ASK your Congresspeople to listen to the state and local officials who question the border wall expansion and its efficacy

- 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

According to the Center for Migration Studies of New York, Visa overstays far exceed unauthorized border crossings. (Write-up 1/22/2019)

EXPLAIN that if the nation wants to address unauthorized immigration, it should do so by addressing the most common form of this immigration

- **Donald Trump**, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

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

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

There's no text available for H.R.479, but the title says it all: "To Amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to Eliminate the Diversity Immigrant Program." This legislation is headed to the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 1/18/2019)

TELL the Judiciary Committee Chair that we don't want to see this bigoted piece of legislation moved forward

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

Another piece of "no-text-but-the-title's-enough-to-inspire-opposition" legislation is H.R.440, "To Amend the Immigrations and Nationality Act to Clarify the Authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to Take Property Using Eminent Domain and for Other Purposes." Given the number of protected areas and threatened species that may suffer if a wall is constructed, eminent domain is the last thing we want the Secretary of Homeland Security to have. This legislation is headed to the House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees. (Write-up 1/18/2019)

TELL the chairs of the committees that are receiving this legislation that the wall is a threat to our biodiversity and won't improve security—so we don't want H.R.440 to go anywhere

- **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 Committee on Homeland Security, 176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-2616

As of January 11, NBC News had reported that 22 people have died in immigration detention centers since Trump took office: "The 22 immigrants who died in the nation's sprawling network of detention centers over the past two years came to the United States from countries as far-flung as Vietnam, and as close as Mexico. Some had been longtime legal residents, arriving as refugees or students. Others were recent asylum seekers. Many were young—half were not yet 45 years old.... Within the last year, the DHS Office of Inspector General has issued three reports finding poor treatment and spotty oversight in ICE facilities.... The tally [of deaths] does not include the recent deaths of two Guatemalan children in CBP custody... Nor does it include the March death of a 20-month old girl, Mariee Juárez, nearly two months after she was held at

an ICE family detention center in Texas with her mother....” If we add these children in, the death toll reaches 25. According to NBC News, “Not just deaths, but detentions overall have increased. A significant piece of [the] recent jump in [the number of] those detained came not from a flood of migrants crossing the border, but from increasing ICE arrests in communities across the U.S. Since Trump signed an executive order nearly two years ago broadening the types of immigrants considered priorities for ICE enforcement, ‘administrative’ arrests for violations of civil immigration law have risen 44 percent.” There were also deaths in immigration detention centers under the Obama administration, ranging from five to twelve in a single year. (Write-up 1/11/19)

DEMAND an immediate investigation into these immigrant deaths and the Inspector General reports and an end to detention of individuals who pose no security risk to our country

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

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

- 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

Writing in *Forbes*, Stuart Anderson explains, “Donald Trump [has] talked about “the illegal immigration crisis on the southern border. But data coming from his own administration show there is no such crisis. This year, illegal cross-border migration is only about 11% higher than at the same point last year—and the administration said last year was the “lowest level” on record. Not long ago, in December 2017, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released and promoted an upbeat report declaring that illegal entry in the United States had reached historically low levels.... The report reflected reality: Border Patrol apprehensions along the Southwest border plummeted by approximately 80%, from a high of over 1.6 million in FY 2000, to around 300,000 in FY 2017. (Apprehensions are considered a proxy for illegal entry, so the fewer apprehensions, the less illegal entry.)” (Write-up 1/11/19)

INSIST that not only will a wall not work—a wall is unnecessary given the Republican Administration’s own data and **ASK** for continued opposition to further wall funding

- 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

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

Trump bragged in his State of the Union speech about his success at deregulation; now the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), until recently headed by Mick Mulvaney, now by Kathy Kraninger, wants to rescind the 2017 Payday Lending Rule designed to protect people taking short-term, high-interest, or “payday,” loans. These loans typically have annual interest rates between 300 and 400 percent, and payday lenders target low-income communities. As part of this change, the CFPB also wants to move the compliance date for the old rule from this August to November 2020. The delay is subject to a 30-day comment period [reference Docket # CFPB-2019-0007]; the rule change is subject to a 90-day comment period [reference Docket # CFPB-2019-0006 (Write-up 2/8/2019)]

REMINDE the CFPB that the word “protection” is in their name because that’s what they’re supposed to provide consumers and **INSIST** that they not roll back protections from abusive payday lenders.

- **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau**, 1700 G St. NW, Washington DC 20552, (855) 411-2372

All women, but especially women of color, still make less than men in the same jobs despite existing legal protections. The Paycheck Fairness Act would close remaining loopholes.

ASK your Congresspeople to support this important legislation

- 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/e_dit

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." (Write-up 2/2/2019)

TELL your Congresspeople 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

- 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

EDUCATION

From Action Network via *Rogan's List*: “[The U.S. recently observed the] so-called School Choice Week, ‘a well-funded campaign supported by Betsy DeVos's American Federation for Children, the Koch Brothers, the Walton Foundation, ALEC and others in order to promote vouchers, charters, virtual schools and schemes like ESAs and tax credits. The intent is to fund private schools with public tax dollars.’” (Write-up 1/25/2019)

REMIND the Secretary of Education and your Congresspeople that we want ample support for public schools and don't want to see their funding drained through “choice” programs that benefit few and often violate separation of church and state

- **Secretary Betsy DeVos**, U.S. Department of Education, 7W301 LBJ Building, Mail Number 0100, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington DC 20202, (202) 401-3000

- 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

Here's another benefit of having a Democratic majority in the House: House Democrats are preparing to scrutinize Education Secretary Betsy DeVos regarding her overhaul of campus sexual assault rules and rollback of regulations on for-profit colleges. *Countable* quotes Representative Rosa DeLauro, Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, which oversees the education budget, as explaining, “We are going to hold Secretary DeVos accountable for, in so many ways, failing to uphold federal protections for our students.” (Write-up 1/23/2019)

THANK Representative DeLauro for defending students and committing to this course of action

- **Representative Rosa DeLauro** (D-CT), Chair, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, 1016 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3481

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

H.J.Res.24 proposes a constitutional amendment that would grant the right for residents of all U.S. territories and commonwealths to vote in Presidential elections. Hurricane Maria allowed us to see exactly how the President can treat residents of territories (in this case Puerto Rico), yet these residents have no voice in the election of the President they will depend upon. Winning a constitutional amendment is a long process—but that process needs to be started if the amendment is to be achieved. H.J.Res.24 is currently with the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 1/18/2019)

ASK the House Judiciary Committee chair to prioritize this effort to take a first step toward granting voting rights to residents of U.S. territories and commonwealths

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

S.26 would allow all eligible voters the right to vote by mail in federal elections and would also provide for automatic voter registration. This legislation is currently with the Senate Rules and Administration Committee. (Write-up 1/18/2019)

INFORM the Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Rules and Administration that is the kind of legislation you'd like to see prioritized

- **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

ASK your Senators to support S.26

- 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

The summary of H.R.44, the "Coretta Scott King Mid-Decade Redistricting Prohibition Act" is pretty straightforward: "This bill prohibits any state whose congressional districts have been redistricted after a decennial census from carrying out another redistricting until after the next apportionment of Representatives following a decennial census, unless a court requires such state to conduct a subsequent redistricting to comply with the Constitution or enforce the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The bill is applicable to any congressional redistricting which occurs after the regular decennial census conducted during 2020." The goal here is to avoid frequent (re)gerrymandering as power shifts in state elections. This legislation is currently with the House judiciary Committee. (Write-up 1/18/2019)

EXPRESS your support for a fairer election districting process to the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee

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

Slate reports, "In a short unpublished opinion so far garnering only slight media attention, the United States Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit decided on January 7 what may be one of the most consequential cases poised to affect the 2020 elections. The circuit upheld a district court decision ending a court order in effect since 1982 barring the Republican National Committee

from engaging in 'ballot security' measures designed to intimidate minority voters from voting at the polls. With Trump having taken over (literally: his reelection committee and the RNC have merged) the RNC for the 2020 elections and with this consent decree no longer standing in his way, we should be concerned about a new wave of voter suppression coming from the Republican Party during the upcoming election. This provides us with yet another reason to insist on legislation strengthening voter protections, including H.R.1, which would not provide voter protections, but would also improve campaign finance regulations and tighten ethics standards for candidates. Because of its breadth, H.R.1 is currently with ten (!) house committees. (Write-up 1/11/19)

ASK the chairs of the committees considering H.R.1 for swift, positive action on this much needed legislation

- **Representative Nita Lowery** (D-NY), Chair, House Administration Committee, 1016 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3481
- **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
- **Representative Elijah E. Cummings** (D-MD), Chair, House Oversight and Reform Committee, 2471 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5051
- **Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson** (D-TX), Chair, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, 394 For House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6375
- **Representative Bobbie Scott** (D-VA), Chair, House Education and Labor Committee, 2176 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3725
- **Representative Richard Neal** (D-MA), Chair, House Ways and Means Committee, 1139E Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3625
- **Representative Maxine Waters** (D-CA), Chair, House Financial Services Committee, 2129 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4247
- **Representative Ted Deutch** (D-FL), Chair, House Ethics Committee, 1015 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-7103
- **Representative Bennie G. Thompson** (D-MS), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-2616

Now that several women announced they are running for President, the whole media game of questioning the "likeability" of female candidates has begun, along with the usual reporting focusing on trivialities instead of candidate platforms. (Write-up 1/11/19)

DEMAND better than this from our news media

- **ABC News**, 47 West 66th Street, New York, NY 10023, (212) 456-7777
- **CBS News**, 524 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019, (212) 975-4321
- **CNBC**, 900 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632, (201) 735-2622
- **Fox News Channel**, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036, (212) 301-3000
- **MSNBC**, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112, (212) 664-2333
- **NBC**, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112, (212) 664-2333

- **PBS**, 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202-3785, (703)739-5000

California's S.B.27 would require Presidential candidates who wish to be listed on the state ballot to provide their tax returns for the five most recent tax years. The tax returns would then be posted on California's Secretary of State's web site. (Write-up 1/11/19)

TELL our state legislators that we don't ever want another "mystery candidate" like Trump

- **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, CA 95060, (831) 425-1303

ENVIRONMENT

From *Rogan's List*: "Imagery made by ice-penetrating radar on a new generation of satellites reveals a growing hole underneath a massive Antarctic glacier, confirming scientists' fears that melting is proceeding at a rapid pace. A sea level rise of even less than 2 feet would bring unacceptable damage, and this new discovery in the Antarctic threatens a rise of up to 8 feet! With the need to address climate change so dire, we need to support bold action like the Green New Deal starting now. (Write-up 2/8/2019)

TELL your Congresspeople we want them to cosponsor and be vocal advocates for the Green New Deal

- 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

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 your 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

• 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

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

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

- 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

From *Rogan's List*: "All three members of Montana's Congressional delegation have signed on to sponsor the Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act, S.60, which would ban mining on 30,000 acres of Custer Gallatin National Forest. The act had been included as a part of a public lands package that faltered at the 11th hour of Congress' last session in December after two senators—Mike Lee of Utah and Rand Paul of Kentucky—halted the package." (Write-up 1/25/2019)

ASK your Senators to cosponsor this important bill

- Find your Senators here:

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

A coalition of House Democrats has introduced a suite of eight (8) bills to protect America's coastal communities from offshore drilling: H.R.279, the California Clean Coast Act; H.R.286, the Florida Coastal Protection Act; H.R.287, The New England Coast Protection Act; H.R.291, the Coast Economies Protection Act; H.R.309, the Stop Arctic Ocean Drilling Act; H.R.310, the West Coast Ocean Protection Act; H.R.337, the Defend Our Coast Act; and H.R.341, the Clean Ocean and Safe Tourism (COAST) Anti-Drilling Act. All eight bills are currently with the House Natural Resources Committee, which is chaired by Raúl Grijalva. (Write-up 1/23/2019)

URGE the Natural Resources Committee Chair to prioritize these pieces of legislation

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

The New York Times reports: "Slow-moving, hulking ships crisscross miles of ocean in a lawn mower pattern, wielding an array of 12 to 48 air guns blasting pressurized air repeatedly into the depths of the ocean. The sound waves hit the sea floor, penetrating miles into it, and bounce back to the surface, where they are picked up by hydrophones. The acoustic patterns form a three-dimensional map of where oil and gas most likely lie. The seismic air guns probably produce the loudest noise that humans use regularly underwater, and it is about to become far

louder in the Atlantic.... Five companies have been given permits to carry out seismic mapping with the air guns all along the Eastern Seaboard, from Central Florida to the Northeast, for the first time in three decades. The surveys haven't started yet in the Atlantic, but now that the ban on offshore drilling has been lifted, companies can be granted access to explore regions along the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific.... '[Airguns] fire approximately every 10 seconds around the clock for months at a time,' said Douglas Nowacek, a professor of marine conservation technology at Duke University. 'They have been detected 4,000 kilometers away. These are huge, huge impacts.'... Some scientists say the noises from air guns, ship sonar and general tanker traffic can cause the gradual or even outright death of sea creatures, from the giants to the tiniest — whales, dolphins, fish, squid, octopuses and even plankton. Other effects include impairing animals' hearing, brain hemorrhaging and the drowning out of communication sounds important for survival, experts say." Several environmental organizations have filed suit to challenge the new East Coast permits. (Write-up 1/23/2019)

JOIN in objecting to this destructive method of oil exploration and **ASK** your Congresspeople what they can do to block these new permits and to protect our oceans

- 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

Barbara Lee's H.R.322, the "INVEST Act," would amend the IRS Act of 1986 to provide work opportunity tax credit for hiring veterans in renewable energy companies. Jobs for veterans and a boost for clean energy—what's not to like? This legislation is currently with the House Ways and Means Committee. (Write-up 1/23/2019)

SHARE your enthusiasm for H.R.322 with the House Ways and Means Committee Chair

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

From *Rogan's List*: "The advocates of business-as-usual are pumping out a steady stream of screeds deriding the Green New Deal as economically unrealistic..., while ignoring the fact that climate science has told us we have only 12 years to renounce our carbon-belching ways. Our situation is a bit like that of a person standing on the beach, watching an approaching tsunami while the guy next to you whines about the path to high ground being rocky and steep. We could all wait for someone to pave a highway to safety for us but that would take far too long."

(Write-up 1/18/2019)

TELL the Speaker of the House and your Congresspeople to join the legislators supporting a Green New Deal because we can't afford NOT to do it

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

- 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

The Associated Press (AP) reports that the EPA's criminal referrals in pollution cases sat at 166 last year, the lowest number since the Reagan administration. Former members of the EPA's Criminal Investigation Division told the AP that the reason for the decreased caseload stemmed not from a lack of leads, but rather a lack of resources to pursue those leads. (Write-up 1/18/2019)

URGE your Congresspeople to do all they can to make sure polluters don't get away with violating the minimal regulations we still have in place

- 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

One of the ways we can fight climate change is by insisting on frequent, factual coverage of the problem by our news media. (Write-up 1/19/2019)

URGE more frequent—and factual—reporting on climate change from

- **ABC News**, 47 West 66th Street, New York, NY 10023,
- **CBS News**, 524 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019,
- **CNBC**, 900 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632
- **Fox News Channel**, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036,
- **MSNBC**, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112,
- **NBC**, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112
- **PBS**, 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202-3785

From *Rogan's List*: “Trump has nominated former coal lobbyist Andrew Wheeler to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. There have been concerns about Wheeler since he was first appointed as Deputy Administrator early last year, through his appointment to Acting-Administrator in July, and as he has continued efforts to de-regulate environmental, emissions, and safety standards. At the same time, a federal court has just ordered the EPA to release thousands of documents involving Wheeler and other top EPA officials' contacts with industry interest groups.” (Write-up 1/11/19)

REMIND your Senators that Wheeler is every bit as reprehensible as he was before his official nomination

• Find your Senators here:

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

The *New York Times* reports: “Scientists say the world’s oceans are warming far more quickly than previously thought, a finding with dire implications for climate change because almost all the excess heat absorbed by the planet ends up stored in their waters. A new analysis, published... in the journal *Science*, found that the oceans are heating up 40 percent faster on average than a United Nations panel estimated five years ago. The researchers also concluded that ocean temperatures have broken records for several straight years.” (Write-up 1/11/19)

POINT OUT our desperate situation and **WARN** that we keep finding the pace of global climate change is faster than our past estimates, so we need substantial—radical, really—action now

- **Andrew Wheeler**, Acting Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460, (202) 564-4700
- **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 M. Grijalva** (D-AZ), Chair, House Natural Resources Committee, 1329 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6065
- **Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson** (D-TX), Chair, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, 394 For House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6375
- **Senator John Barrasso** (R-WY), Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6176

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) has quietly folded its Climate and Health Program into a branch that studies asthma and expunged the word climate from the name of the newly consolidated office, the agency confirmed [in late December].... The climate and health office is the agency’s only program meant to help state and local governments prepare for the health consequences of fiercer storms, longer droughts and other extreme weather events. It was also an important contributor to the National Climate Assessment, a landmark government report that detailed new health hazards related rising greenhouse gas emissions. The former head of the unit, George E. Luber, has been reassigned to the agency’s waterborne diseases unit. He also was the subject of a dismissal notice until this week, but the notice was retracted after lawyers for a nonprofit watchdog group said they were considering filing a federal whistle-blower complaint.... Kevin Bell, a staff attorney with the nonprofit group [Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility], said agency managers had hoped to reach a ‘gentlemen’s agreement’ with Dr. Luber to keep the climate program and discussions of climate change below the radar during the Trump years but grew angry when he insisted on trying to keep those issues in the spotlight.” (Write-up 1/11/19)

DECRY this step backward at a time when we should be stepping up our efforts to publicize and address climate change and **INSIST** that George E. Luber continue working to address the problems posed by climate change

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

- **Robert R. Redfield, MD**, Director, CDC, 1600 Clifton Rd. NE, Atlanta, GA 30333, (800) CDC-INFO

- **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

- **Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson** (D-TX), Chair, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, 394 For House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6375

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 your Jimmy Panetta to become a cosponsor of H.J.Res.8

- Find your Representative here:

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

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 your senators that this is the kind of protection and transparency we have been wanting

- Find your Senators here:

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

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

Based on reporting in the *Baltimore Sun*: 26 states have infringed on residents' First Amendment rights by restricting companies that support a boycott of Israel from being eligible to bid for state contracts. These restrictions specifically target the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which according to its website, uses peaceful means to "end international support for Israel's oppression of Palestinians and pressure Israel to comply with international law." These anti-BDS laws are designed to punish people for their political views, resulting in multiple lawsuits. State legislatures across the country have penalized individuals and institutions for their political views regarding Israel and Palestine. Some examples:

- In Dickinson, Texas, residents were asked to sign a loyalty oath to Israel before they could receive hurricane recovery monies.

- In Austin, a speech-language pathologist lost her job when she refused to sign an addendum to her contract renewal saying she would not boycott Israel during its term.

- In Arizona, a U.C. Berkeley lecturer who was invited to speak at Arizona State University, was first requested to sign a loyalty oath requiring speakers to certify that they do not support the BDS movement. In response to the lawsuit, the university agreed to remove the clause from all its speaker agreements but the clause remains in place in other areas.

- Again, in Arizona an attorney who provides legal aid to incarcerated individuals lost his contract with the state because he refused to pledge not to boycott Israel.

- In Arkansas a newspaper was required to pledge that it would not boycott Israel to prevent being paid less to run state advertisements in its publications

- In Kansas a school teacher who was chosen for a program to train math teachers was told she could not participate because she refused to certify that she would not boycott Israel, which she does along with her Mennonite church. (Write-up 1/25/2019)

OBJECT to these unfair limitations on speech by individuals and corporations (who are, as Citizens United told us, "people" with free speech rights of their own) and **TELL** your Congresspeople we want to see national-level legislation against this bullying

- 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/e/dit

Agencies like the FBI, ICE, and several local police departments are using facial recognition technology that's being supplied to them by tech companies like Amazon, Google, and Microsoft. Microsoft markets and sells its own tool called Face API, even as it calls on the federal government to regulate facial recognition technology. Amazon has been secretly trying to sell the Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) agency its facial recognition surveillance system, Rekognition. Google, on the other hand, has announced it would not make its facial recognition program available on its cloud platform, but has not ruled out doing so in the future and has already shared enhanced surveillance technology with the U.S. military. Facial recognition is not a neutral technology. Academic research has already shown that facial recognition technology is less accurate for darker-skinned faces and women. This means that Black and Latinx people are much more likely to be misidentified and treated as a threat to law enforcement, biasing law enforcement agents before an encounter even begins. For Amazon's Rekognition software, the default settings are alarmingly inaccurate and racially biased. In a recent test of Rekognition that ran pictures of every member of Congress against a collection of mugshots, there were 28 false matches, with significantly higher incorrect results for Black members of Congress like civil rights hero John Lewis (Write-up 1/24/2018)

EXPLAIN to the leaders of these tech giants that they shouldn't be profiting from these deeply flawed technologies that are apt to lead to serious civil rights violations

- **Jeff Bezos**, President, Chief Executive Officer, Board Chair, Amazon, 410 Terry Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98109-5210, (206) 266-1000
- **Brian Tolavsky**, Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Amazon, 410 Terry Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98109-5210, (206) 266-1000
- **Larry Page**, Chief Executive Officer, Google, 1600 Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View, CA 94043, (650) 253-0000
- **Eric Schmidt**, Executive Chair, Google, 1600 Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View, CA 94043, (650) 253-0000
- **Satya Nadella**, Chief Executive Officer, Microsoft Corp., One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052-6399
- **John Thompson**, Board Chair, Microsoft Corp., One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052-6399
- **Bill Gates**, Founder, Microsoft Corp., One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052-6399

NBC News Reports: "The Committee on Oversight and Reform is launching an in-depth investigation of the security clearance process at the White House and Transition Team in response to grave breaches of national security at the highest levels of the Trump administration,' Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, the chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, said in a letter to the White House obtained by NBC News. Last February, NBC News

reported that more than 130 political appointees working in the Executive Office of the President did not have permanent security clearances as of November 2017, including the president's daughter Ivanka; Kushner, her husband; and the president's top legal counsel. Kushner has since obtained a clearance, according to his lawyer, despite reports that he has been targeted for manipulation by foreign governments.... In the letter, Cummings said the investigation will seek to determine 'why the White House and Transition Team appear to have disregarded established procedures for safeguarding classified information' and 'the extent to which the nation's most highly guarded secrets were provided to officials who should not have had access to them.'" (Write-up 1/23/2019)

THANK Chair Cummings for undertaking this investigation

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

The House Intelligence Committee and Financial Services Committee are discussing ways to investigate Trump's business ties to Deutsche Bank. Trump owes the bank at least \$130 million, according to a 2017 financial disclosure. (Write-up 1/22/2019)

TELL the chairs of these two committees that you appreciate this attention to Trump's questionable business dealings

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

• **Representative Maxine Waters** (D-CA), Chair, House Financial Services Committee, 2129 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4247

S.20, the "Presidential Tax Transparency Act," requires the President and candidates for President to disclose federal income tax returns for the three most recent taxable years in reports filed with either the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) or the Federal Election Commission (FEC). The OGE or the FEC must make the disclosed tax returns publicly available after making appropriate redactions. If the income tax returns are not disclosed as required by this bill, the OGE or the FEC must request the returns from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The bill requires the IRS, upon receiving a written request from the FEC or the OGE, to provide any income tax return that is required to be disclosed under this bill. The bill also establishes civil and criminal penalties for failing to file or falsifying income tax returns that are required to be disclosed pursuant to this bill. S.20 is currently with the Senate Rules and Administration Committee. (Write-up 1/18/2019)

TELL Senate Rules and Administration Committee that we're tired of waiting for the President's taxes and don't want to go through this process of promises betrayed in the future

• **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

The *Washington Post* reports, “President Trump has selected a Washington outsider to head the government agency responsible for paying back dissolved pensions.... Yet Trump’s nominee, Gordon Hartogensis, is well known to some of Washington’s most politically influential people: He is the brother-in-law of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and McConnell’s wife, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao.... Hartogensis was nominated to direct the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp., a Labor Department agency that collects insurance premiums from sponsors of defined-benefit plans and pays out benefits when companies cannot meet their obligations.... His nomination by Trump raised questions among government ethics experts on the selection process and vetting for Hartogensis, a nominee with no apparent public service experience or direct insight into the agency’s mission.... Hartogensis does not appear to have any government experience as he readies for a job that protects the current and future pensions of 1.5 million people.” This is a position that requires Senate confirmation. (Write-up 1/19/2019) **URGE** your Senators to take a fierce stance against the inappropriate appointment of an unqualified nominee

• Find your Senators here:

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

The Trace reports: “The National Rifle Association appears to have illegally coordinated its political advertising with Republican candidates in at least three recent high-profile Senate races, according to Federal Communications Commission records. In Senate races in Missouri and Montana in 2018, and North Carolina in 2016, the gun group’s advertising blitzes on behalf of GOP candidates Josh Hawley, Matt Rosendale, and Richard Burr were authorized by the very same media consultancy that the candidates themselves used—an apparent violation of laws designed to prevent independent groups from synchronizing their efforts with political campaigns.... In at least 10 instances across the Missouri, Montana, and North Carolina races, FCC [Federal Communications Commission] records show that ad purchases for both the NRA and the Senate campaigns were authorized by National Media’s chief financial officer, Jon Ferrell. Campaign finance laws bar outside groups from sharing any election-related information—including advertising strategy—with the candidates they support. While it is not illegal for independent groups and campaigns to use the same vendors, the Federal Election Commission requires consultants to prevent staffers from sharing information, usually through the creation of internal ‘firewalls.’ ‘All evidence points to coordination,’ said Larry Noble, the general counsel of the FEC [Federal Elections Commission] from 1987 to 2000, in response to a detailed description of the documents. ‘It’s hard to understand how you’d have same person authorizing placements for the NRA and the candidate and it *not* be coordination.’” The House Committee on Administration oversees federal elections, so would be an appropriate committee from which to request an investigation of this apparent violation of election law. (Write-up 1/19/2019)

REQUEST an investigation of these apparent election improprieties by the House Administration Committee

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

From *Rogan's List*: “We know that Trump doesn't care about good governance or the Constitution, but the rest of us sure do! The Constitution requires, as an explicit and deliberate check on presidential power, that cabinet officials be confirmed by the Senate, so the ‘greater flexibility’ Trump gets by keeping unconfirmed officials in an ‘acting’ role is exactly a power that he does not, and should not, have.” (Write-up 1/11/19)

INSIST that every Congressperson condemn this abuse of power in the strongest terms,

• 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

The Department of the Interior (DOI) has proposed a rule change which would make it more difficult to submit Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests by giving agencies more power to turn down requests, allowing the government to function with impaired transparency. (Write-up 1/11/19)

COMMENT on the proposed rule change *using Docket No. DOI-2018-0017 in your message*

• **Executive Secretariat—FOIA Regulations**, Department of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240

GENERAL DECENCY

H.R.866, the “Fairness to Breastfeeding Mothers Act,” would require that buildings that are open to the public and offer public restrooms also offer lactation rooms for the purpose of expressing milk—so babies to have to have their meals in bathroom stalls and moms don’t have to pump breastmilk in that same unhygienic setting. This legislation has passed the House and is currently with the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. (Write-up 2/8/2019)

URGE support for this legislation from key members of the committee currently reviewing it

• **Senator John Barrasso** (R-WY), Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6176

• **Senator Thomas R. Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6176

Three terrible nominees who are all biased in favor of special interests: Naomi Rao, currently up for a lifetime judicial appointment, who has a very poor record on defending the rights of victims of sexual assault; Andrew Wheeler, former coal lobbyist and acting-and-may-become-permanent head of the Environmental Protection Agency; and David Bernhardt, former oil lobbyist, for Secretary of the Interior. (Write-up 2/8/2019)

URGE your Senators to say “no” to all three

- Find your Senators here:

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

A suggested script for writing to your Representative from *Chop Wood, Carry Water*: “I’m concerned about the president’s successful strategies to underfund and undermine the U.S. census. We must provide funding for a full, fair, and accurate count. I am asking [for adequate funding] for the 2020 Census in the 2019 budget. Although I’m relieved that a census ‘citizenship question’ was struck down in federal court, now the president is interfering, asking the Supreme Court to add it. We must protect the integrity of our census and our citizens from discrimination. I would like [you] to co-sponsor H.R.732.” (Write-up 2/8/2019)

SPEAK this truth to your representative

- Find your Representative here:

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

From *Rogan’s List*: Puerto Rico is still hurting. It is struggling under its burden of debt, and never received enough disaster funding in the wake of Hurricane Maria. Just this week, The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), a Washington D.C.-based think tank, analyzed statistics from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to find that Puerto Ricans enrolled in Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico (NAP)—the island’s version of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—will begin to face deep food aid cuts in March unless the program receives more funding. The Governor of Puerto Rico, Ricardo Rosselló, has sent a letter to Congress urging ‘swift Congressional action on H.R. 268,’ which asks for ‘additional disaster supplemental relief for Puerto Rico.’ (Write-up 2/8/2019)

TELL your Congresspeople we want them to back him up because Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens too

- 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

From Patheos: “the Trump administration told a federal court that it would require too much effort to reunite migrant children with their parents. According to the Associated Press report, the Trump administration is also concerned that reunification would “present grave child welfare concerns” because the children would be removed from their “sponsor” homes. As for the fate of the thousands of children the Trump administration does not want to reunite with their parents, Progressive Secular Humanist previously reported that many of the migrant children ruthlessly separated from their family by the Trump administration are being shipped to Bethany Christian Services, a Christian adoption agency with ties to the family of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. Bottom line: The Trump administration says it can’t reunite missing migrant children with their families; instead, many of the children are being funneled through Christian adoption trafficking mills like the DeVos connected Bethany Christian Services. (Write-up 2/8/2019)

EXPRESS your outrage at the claim that returning children to their families would be “traumatic” and at the use of Christian adoption services to house and place separated children

- **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

- 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

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

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. The equivalent House legislation, H.R.555 is currently with the House Energy and Commerce and Judiciary Committees. (Write-up 2/2/2019)

TELL the appropriate House committee chairs you want to see H.R.555 prioritized

- **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

From the annals of cluelessness, here's billionaire Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, speaking about furloughed federal workers: "I know they are [going to homeless shelters] and I don't really quite understand why because as I mentioned before, the obligations that they would undertake—say borrowing from a bank or credit union—are in effect federally guaranteed," said Ross. "So the 30 days of pay that people will be out—there's no real reason why they shouldn't be able to get a loan against it... Now true, the people might have to pay a little bit of interest but the idea that it's paycheck or zero is not a really valid idea." Ross also said the economic ramifications of the shutdown—the fact that 800,000 workers are not getting paid—is barely a blip on the U.S. economy's radar. Hypothetically if the workers never got their back pay, "you're talking about a third of a percent on our GDP, so it's not like it's a gigantic number overall." (Write-up 1/24/2019)

EXPLAIN to Secretary Ross that a missed paycheck means much more than a blip on the radar for the average American, regardless of what those blinded by their own wealth might think

• **Wilbur Ross**, Secretary of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington DC 20239, (202) 482-2000

Because we apparently hadn't spent enough time on these issues during the Obama administration and the past two years under Trump, newly-minted Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham plans to investigate several Obama-era "scandals." These include the FBI's handling of its investigation into Hillary Clinton's private email server and Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) warrant applications targeting former Trump campaign aide Carter Page. Graham, a close-ally of the president, said he was also interested in probing special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia. (Write-up 1/23/2019)

CONDEMN this waste of time and money returning to a search for malfeasance that has already proven useless

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

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

Slate reports: "Without fanfare or even notice, the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women made significant changes to its definition of domestic violence [last] April. The Obama-era definition was expansive.... [and] included critical components of the phenomenon that experts recognize as domestic abuse—a pattern of deliberate behavior, the dynamics of power and control, and behaviors that encompass physical or sexual violence as well as forms of emotional, economic, or psychological abuse. But in the Trump Justice Department, *only* harms that constitute a felony or misdemeanor crime may be called domestic violence. So, for example, a woman whose partner isolates her from her family and friends, monitors her every move, belittles and berates her, or denies her access to money to support herself and her children is *not* a victim of domestic violence in the eyes of Trump's Department of Justice. This

makes no sense for an office charged with funding and implementing solutions to the problem of domestic violence rather than merely prosecuting individual abusers. (Write-up 1/23/2019)

DECRY this change in definition and **REQUEST** investigation of the change's impact by the House and Senate Judiciary Committees

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

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

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

TELL your Congresspeople we want a definition of domestic violence that goes beyond physical assault

- 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

Four members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus—Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ro Khanna, Ayanna Pressley, and Rashida Tlaib—have been named to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. This committee is the main investigative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Committee's web page explains that it "has authority to investigate the subjects within the Committee's legislative jurisdiction as well as 'any matter' within the jurisdiction of the other standing House Committees." These topics range from the federal civil service personnel procedures to the National Archives to the review of the efficacy and impact of any federal legislation. (Write-up 1/23/2019)

WELCOME these new House Oversight and Government Reform Committee members and **EXPLAIN** that we're looking forward to seeing the results of their work

- **Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** (D-NY), 229 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3965

- **Representative Ro Khanna** (D-CA), 221 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2631

- **Representative Ayanna Pressley** (D-MA), 1108 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5111

- **Representative Rashida Tlaib** (D-MI), 1628 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5126

From *Rogan's List*: Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's idea of raising the top tax rate to 70% in order to pay for the Green New Deal has been pooh-poohed by both the Democrat

and Republican the political establishment; however, the majority of Americans, including 45% of GOP voters, think this is a good idea. (Write-up 1/22/2019)

REMINd your Congresspeople that tax rates used to be as high as 90%, and were at 70% as late as 1980 and **ASK** them to start working for more progressive tax reform so we can use the revenues to save our planet

- 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

CNN reports: “In 2017, Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria hit the United States in August and September. The storms [are] blamed for the deaths of more 3,000 people and caused billions of dollars in damage. Although all three hurricanes were destructive, a new study from online journal *BMJ Global Health* indicates the US federal response to the hurricane disaster in Puerto Rico was lopsided compared to the response in Florida and Texas. Using public data, *BMJ* created a timeline of staff and funding coming directly from FEMA to those affected by the hurricanes. The study focused on measures of federal spending, distributed federal resources, and direct and indirect storm-mortality tolls. The study says its results show the federal response was faster and ‘more generous’ in terms of funding and staffing for Hurricane Irma in Florida and Harvey in Texas than for Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.... The study also shows a disparity in the time it took for victims to receive relief. In the first nine days after Harvey hit, those affected received \$141 million from FEMA. Those affected by Irma had received nearly \$100 million after the first nine days. Maria victims received nearly \$6 million in the first nine days. Within the first two months, the study finds that those impacted by Irma and Harvey both received about \$1 billion in relief. It took nearly four months for Maria aid to reach the same amount. The study also reports disparity in staffing. Nine days after Harvey made landfall, 30,000 federal employees were posted in Texas. Nine days after Irma, 16,200 were sent to Florida. Nine days after Maria, there were 10,000 federal workers in Puerto Rico. The study says, ‘At the peak, 19,000 federal employees were posted in Puerto Rico, one month after landfall, well short of the peak for Texas of 31,000.’” (Write-up 1/23/2019)

ASK your Congresspeople whether they are familiar with these disparities and **REMINd** them that we can still take action now to help with Puerto Rico’s containing recovery

- 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

From Reuters: “Detained in a California lockup with hundreds of other immigrants seeking asylum, Douglas Cruz faced a choice. He could content himself with a jailhouse diet that he said left him perpetually hungry. Or he could labor in the prison’s kitchen to earn money to buy extra food at the commissary. Cruz went to work. But his \$1-a-day salary at the privately run Adelanto Detention Facility did not stretch far. A can of commissary tuna sold for \$3.25. That is more than four times the price at a Target store near the small desert town of Adelanto, about two hours northeast of Los Angeles. Cruz stuck with ramen noodles at 58 cents a package, double the Target price. A miniature deodorant stick, at \$3.35 and more than three days’ wages, was an impossible luxury, he said.... But immigration attorneys say the pricey commissary goods are part of a broader strategy by private prisons to harness cheap inmate labor to lower operating costs and boost profits.... The U.S. for-profit prison industry has exploded over the past two decades. In 2016, 128,300 people - roughly 1 in 12 U.S. prisoners - were incarcerated in private lock-ups. That is an increase of 47 percent from 2000, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Geo Group and CoreCivic together manage over half of U.S. private prison contracts, with combined revenues of nearly \$4 billion in 2017. ICE is the No. 1 customer by revenue for both companies. Both Geo Group and CoreCivic have added hundreds of immigration detention beds over the past year. Stock prices for the two companies are up about 30 percent since Trump’s election. The government pays private prison companies fees ranging from roughly \$60 to \$130 daily for the care and feeding of each detainee. At CoreCivic’s Stewart Detention Center in Georgia, which houses about 1,700 undocumented immigrants, ICE pays a per diem of \$62.03 for each detainee housed there. CoreCivic’s revenue from Stewart alone was \$38 million last year, court records show.” (Write-up 1/23/2019)

DECRY this profiteering from the underpaid labor of detained asylum seekers

- **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

DECRY this profiteering from the underpaid labor of detained asylum seekers and **REQUEST** further investigation and legislation to end these abuses

- 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

When the Supreme Court ruled that the Republican administration’s transgender military ban could be enforced as challenges to it work their way through the court system, one of the most articulate critical voices was Tammy Duckworth’s. Senator Duckworth issued a statement opposing the ban, explaining “When I was bleeding to death in my Black Hawk helicopter on that dusty field in Iraq, I didn’t care if the American troops risking their lives to help save me were gay, straight, transgender, black, white, male or female. All that mattered was they didn’t

leave me behind. If you are willing to risk your life for our country and you can do the job, you should be able to serve—no matter your gender identity or sexual orientation.” (Write-up 1/23/2019)

THANKS to Senator Duckworth for advocating for transgendered members of our military

• **Senator Tammy Duckworth**, 524 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2854

Just a reminder that late last summer, water-stealing giant Nestlé and neighborhood-coffeehouse-destroying Starbucks signed a global marketing deal. What this means is that a stop at Starbucks is funding the commoditization of water and taking water away from local communities. Yes, we love our coffee, but we can choose to purchase it somewhere other than Starbucks—or to go without if we really have to. Seriously, if you're desperate, keep some sealed containers of cold-brew on hand. (Write-up 1/23/2019)

TELL Nestlé and Starbucks that you are boycotting their products as long as Nestlé continues privatizing and commodifying water and stealing it from unwilling communities through legal maneuvers (and follow through)

• **Steve Presley**, Market Head and Chief Executive Officer, Nestlé U.S., 1812 North Moore St., Rosslyn, VA 22209, (815) 549-6000

• **Howard Schultz**, Chairman and CEO, Starbucks, 2401 Utah Ave, South, Seattle, WA 98134, (206) 447-1575

Also from *Rogan's List*: It has come to light that ex-Breitbart contributor Robert W. Patterson, now acting associate commissioner at the Social Security Administration's (SSA) Office of Strategic and Digital Communications, once worked in communications for George W. Bush, resigned a social welfare position under then-Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett in 2012 after the Philadelphia Inquirer revealed that he'd proposed that women become shrill and suicidal unless they're in "contraceptive-free marriages," opposes working mothers, and lauded Rodney King's police assailants; before all that, he worked for two virulently anti-LGBTQ organizations. (Write-up 1/22/2019)

TELL the SSA that Patterson should not be involved in "Creat[ing], develop[ing], facilitat[ing], implement[ing], oversee[ing] and evaluat[ing] all SSA communications and [public affairs] activities, both internal and external"

• **Nancy A. Berryhill**, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, 6401 Security Blvd, Windsor Park Bldg, Baltimore, MD 21235, (800) 772-1213

Buzzfeed reports: The Trump administration says providing additional disaster funding for Puerto Rico's food stamp program is "excessive and unnecessary," as the island continues to struggle to recover from the effects of 2017's Hurricane Maria and an ongoing economic crisis. In response to a bill that passed the House this week, the White House rejected the idea of extending disaster funding for food stamps in Puerto Rico.... The measure would have provided

\$600 million for the island's food stamp program, known as NAP or Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico, to help provide for more Puerto Ricans in the aftermath of the natural disaster. "There is no indication that households need ongoing support at this time or that Puerto Rico requires additional time to return to normal NAP operations," the White House wrote in [a] statement of administration policy. But the request for \$600 million came directly from Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló, who wrote a letter to congressional leaders in November asking for additional disaster relief funding, including for the food stamp program, citing "[Puerto Rico's] inability to provide food security to those in need." (Write-up 1/22/2019)

POINT OUT Trump that this cruel action once again underlines his complete lack of understanding of the recovery process in Puerto Rico

- **Donald Trump**, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

EXPLAIN to your Senators that you want to see this legislation introduced in the Senate, regardless of what Trump has said—Puerto Rico deserves our continued support

- Find your Senators here:

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

Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) has re-introduced a federal budget amendment that would halt the growth of U.S. immigration detention by prohibiting the government from transferring funds to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for the purpose of building or expanding immigration detention facilities. (Write-up 1/22/2019)

THANKS to Representative Jayapal for introducing this legislation

- **Representative Pramila Jayapal**, 1510 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3106

URGE your Representative to support her effort

- Find your Representative here:

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

The *Washington Post* reports: "Four women were convicted of misdemeanors for leaving food and water in the desert for migrants. The volunteers, who worked with the group No More Deaths, were found guilty of entering a wildlife refuge without a permit, the first such conviction in a decade. They could be sentenced to six months in prison and fined \$500. Another volunteer for the organization said: 'This verdict challenges not only No More Deaths volunteers, but people of conscience throughout the country. If giving water to someone dying of thirst is illegal, what humanity is left in the law of this country?..' [No More Deaths points out] [m]ore than 3,000 migrant deaths have been reported between October 1999 and April 2018, according to data gathered by Humane Borders and the medical examiner's office in Pima County, which covers part of Cabeza Prieta." Since Trump's ascendancy, the permit to enter the refuge requires initialing a new clause saying that you agree not to put food, water, blankets, socks, or medical

materials on the refuge.” No More Deaths has found their containers of water destroyed by the Border Patrol. This is not illegal. (Write-up 1/22/2019)

OBJECT to the Border Patrol practice of destroying water containers and **INSIST** that deliberately leaving anyone to die in the desert is immoral

- **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

URGE your Congresspeople to publicly object to both the destruction of water containers and to these convictions

- 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

From Representative Jimmy Panetta: “I sent a letter to Secretary Sonny Purdue at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in response to a concerning report from the *Des Moines Register* about actions taken against LGBTQ youth in the 4-H program. The 4-H organization, which is administered by USDA, currently has over 6 million participants. Last year, 4-H issued a document entitled ‘4-H Guidance for Inclusion of All Gender Identities, Gender Expressions, Sexual Orientation, and Sexes’ aimed at making the organization more welcoming for its LGBTQ youth. Following the publication of this guidance, reports indicate that a senior USDA official instructed programmatic staff to revoke the guidance from all public platforms. We are seeking answers of Secretary Purdue and the USDA over these actions. We can, and we must, do more to support LGBTQ youth and prevent barriers to programs like 4-H.” (Write-up 1/25/2019)

JOIN Panetta in asking Secretary Purdue why LGBTQ inclusive materials were removed from 4H platforms

- **Sonny Purdue**, Secretary of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20250, (202) 720-2791

Eliot Engel, Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, has decided to shut down Foreign Affairs’ Terrorism Subcommittee. Instead, he will be forming a new subcommittee, Oversight and Investigations, to track the administration’s international activities. Engel explained to the *New Yorker*, “We just thought, if we’re going to do something relevant in this era where Congress is going to reassert itself, where there are so many questionable activities of this Administration vis-à-vis foreign policy, that it made sense to have this.” (Write-up 1/19/2019)

THANKS to Engel for establishing this new subcommittee and scrutinizing the Administration’s relationships with foreign governments

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

The Department of the Interior (DOI) has proposed a rule change which would make it more difficult to submit Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests by giving agencies more power to turn down requests, allowing the government to function with impaired transparency. (Write-up 1/11/19)

COMMENT on the proposed rule change using Docket No. DOI-2018-0017 in your message

• **Executive Secretariat—FOIA Regulations**, Department of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240

The Associated Press reports: “Thousands of requests by men to bring in child and adolescent brides to live in the United States were approved over the past decade, according to government data obtained by The Associated Press. In one case, a 49-year-old man applied for admission for a 15-year-old girl. The approvals are legal: The Immigration and Nationality Act does not set minimum age requirements for the person making the request or for that person’s spouse or fiancée. By contrast, to bring in a parent from overseas, a petitioner has to be at least 21 years old. And in weighing petitions, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services goes by whether the marriage is legal in the spouse or fiancée’s home country and then whether the marriage would be legal in the state where the petitioner lives. The data raises questions about whether the immigration system may be enabling forced marriage and about how U.S. laws may be compounding the problem despite efforts to limit child and forced marriage. Marriage between adults and minors is not uncommon in the U.S., and most states allow children to marry with some restrictions.”

TELL your Congresspeople that you find this policy deeply disturbing and **ASK** them to consider proposing alternatives

• 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

From *Rogan’s List*: “HUD’s [the Department of Housing and Urban Development] oversight failures are profound, and they have left thousands of children and their families, seniors and people with disabilities living in unsafe housing for years. As landlords have slapped paint over mold, cardboard over holes, and hid problems behind walls and ‘Do Not Enter’ signs, the agency has often looked the other way.” Both Republicans and Democrats have let this happen.

TELL your Congresspeople that we expect investigations into this, and legislation to fix it

• 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

GUNS

From *What the Fuck Just Happened Today*: “New rules by the Trump administration will make it easier for U.S. weapons manufacturers to export semi-automatic weapons, flamethrowers, and some grenades overseas. Manufacturers will no longer need to obtain licenses from the State Department in order to sell certain weapons to foreign countries. Instead, they'll only need to get a no-fee license from the Commerce Department.” (Write-up 2/8/2019)

OBJECT to this new policy

- **Michael R. Pompeo**, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520, (202) 647-4000
- **Wilbur Ross**, Secretary of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington DC 20230, (202) 482-5949

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

H.R.511 is another of those pieces of legislation the importance of which is clear from the title alone. In this case, that title is “To Amend Title 18, United States Code, to Protect More Victims of Domestic Violence by Preventing Their Abusers from Possessing or Receiving Firearms and for Other Purposes.” The *Washington Post* reported that “an analysis of 4,484 killings of women in 47 major U.S. cities during the past decade found that nearly half of the women who were killed—46 percent—died at the hands of an intimate partner. In many cases, they were among the most brutal deaths, and the most telegraphed. In a close analysis of homicides in five of the cities, the *Post* found that more than one-third of all men who killed a current or former intimate partner were publicly known to be a potential threat to their loved one ahead of the attack. In Fort Worth, Las Vegas, Oklahoma City, San Diego and St. Louis, 36 percent of the 280 men implicated in a domestic killing had a previous restraining order against them or had been

convicted of domestic abuse or a violent crime, including murder, the *Post* found.” H.R.511 is currently with the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 1/18/2019)

URGE quick action on H.R.511 from the House Judiciary Committee chair

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

S.66, the “Assault Weapons Ban of 2019,” was introduced by Dianne Feinstein. This legislation would ban the sale, transfer, manufacture and importation of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines. (Write-up 1/19/2019)

ASK for action by the Senate Judiciary Committee on this much-needed legislation

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

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

H.R.8 and S.42, both titled “To Require a Background Check for Every Firearm Sale,” are currently with the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. H.R.8 has 178 co-sponsors: 173 Democrats and 5 Republicans. This legislation should be able to move through the House without much trouble. The fate of S.42 in the Senate is another matter—but even if it doesn’t pass the Senate it will allow voters another clear illustration of which legislators are (and aren’t) responding to the 97% of the public who want stricter background checks. Our Jimmy Panetta is among the co-sponsors for H.R.8. Feinstein and Harris are both co-sponsors for S.42 (both sit on the Senate Judiciary Committee). (Write-up 1/13/19)

ASK for quick action on this important legislation from the House and Senate Judiciary Committees

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

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

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

TELL your Senators and Representative you want their vocal support for this legislation when it reaches the House floor

- Find your Senators here:

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

H.R.8, the “Bipartisan Background Act,” would require a background check for every firearm sale. It’s currently with the House Judiciary Committee. The Senate version of this legislation is S.42. (Write-up 1/23/2019)

URGE the House Judiciary Committee to take quick action on H.R.8

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

TELL the Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee that we'd like to see this legislation prioritized

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

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

The title of H.R.435 explains its purpose: "To Provide for a Coordinated National Research Program to Examine the Nature, Causes, Consequences, and Prevention of Violence and Unintended Injury and Death Relating to Gun Ownership, Use, and Trafficking, and for Other Purposes." This legislation is currently with three House committees: Judiciary; Science, Space, and Technology; and Energy and Commerce. The Chair of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Eddie Bernice Johnson, introduced this legislation. (Write-up 1/23/2018)

EXPRESS your desire for serious gun research to the appropriate committee chairs—with a special thanks to Chair Johnson

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

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

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

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

S.99, the “Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Act,” would authorize Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries. It is currently with the Senate Finance Committee. Right now, all sponsors are Democrats, but there’s no reason Republicans shouldn’t be equally interested in the savings this legislation might provide. (Write-up 1/24/2019)

TELL the Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee that you see lowering Medicare drug prices as a nonpartisan issue and URGE swift action on this legislation

- **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Finance Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6200, (202) 224-4515
- **Senator Ron Wyden** (D-OR), Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6200, (202) 224-4515

California’s S.B.24 would require that public university student health centers make abortion medication available for students. It is currently with the California Senate’s Health and Education Committees. (Write-up 1/24/2019)

EXPLAIN to committee leadership that access to abortion medication may be a necessity for some students and this option should be available

- **Senator Richard Pan**, Chair, California Senate Health Committee, Room 2191, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4111
- **Senator Jeff Stone**, Vice Chair, California Senate Health Committee, Room 2191, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4111
- **Senator Connie M. Leyva**, Chair, California Senate Education Committee, Room 2083, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4105
- **Senator Scott Wilk**, Vice Chair, California Senate Education Committee, Room 2083, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4105

The Republican administration reportedly wants to convert Medicaid to block-grant funding by executive order. The use of block grants by the federal government is generally seen as a strategic first step to cutting funding for programs the administration does not support (although the administration will no doubt offer the convenient “states’ rights” explanation that it uses selectively while it opposes other states’ rights). Medicaid covers 73 million of the most vulnerable Americans. We need to protect this program. (Write-up 1/22/2019)

ASK your Congresspeople to issue a statement in support of keeping Medicaid as a federal program

- 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

A new Trump administration proposal would change the annual limits on consumers' out-of-pocket costs for insurance plans sold under the Affordable Care Act: insurers would not have to count the full amount of a consumer's co-payment for a brand-name drug toward the annual limit on cost-sharing but rather only the smaller amount that would be charged for a generic version of the drug or for using coupons drug companies issue. This proposal should be posted in the Federal Register this week, though because of the government shutdown the site is currently "unsupported." (Write-up 1/23/2019)

OPPOSE this change and **DEMAND** that your Congresspeople do so as well (we can write them whether or not the official comment site is up)

- 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

From Reuter's: "A top U.S. lawmaker launched an investigation into pharmaceutical industry pricing practices..., less than a week after he and fellow Democrats introduced legislation aimed at lowering medicine prices. Representative Elijah Cummings, who chairs the House Oversight Committee, sent letters to 12 drugmakers seeking information on price increases, investment in research and development, and corporate strategies to preserve market share and pricing power, his office said in a statement. AbbVie Inc, Amgen Inc, AstraZeneca PLC, Celgene Corp, Eli Lilly and Co, Johnson & Johnson, Mallinckrodt PLC, Novartis AG, Novo Nordisk, Pfizer Inc, Sanofi and Teva Pharmaceutical all received letters seeking information about their pricing practices.... Cummings' letters focused on drugs that are the costliest to Medicare Part D, a program that helps beneficiaries of the federal health insurance program for the elderly and disabled pay for self-administered medicines like those purchased at drugstores, as well as drugs that have had the largest price increases over a five-year period. They include AbbVie's Humira, the world's top-selling medicine that had a price increase at the start of the year, Johnson & Johnson's blockbuster cancer drug Imbruvica and several diabetes medications." (Write-up 1/19/2019)

THANKS for initiating this investigation

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

HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS

From Countable: “Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker is considering whether to block victims of domestic violence, including children, from being granted asylum in the U.S. Whitaker said in an order last month that he’s determining ‘whether, and under what circumstances, an alien may establish persecution on account of membership in a ‘particular social group’—the ‘PSG’ is a legal threshold to obtain asylum. As the *Daily Beast* explained, ‘Immigration attorneys fear Whitaker will drastically narrow the definition [of PSG] and remove protections for victims of domestic and other intrafamilial violence, including child victims of sexual assault and abuse.’” The courts blocked an earlier effort by Jeff Sessions to impose similar limits on the definition of PSG. (Write-up 2/8/2019)

INSIST that these limits were unacceptable when previously proposed and still are

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

- Find your Senators here:

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

- Find your Representative here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdclADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2TIwm0/edit

H.R.874 would prohibit the exclusion of individuals from serving on Federal juries because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This legislation is currently with the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 2/8/2019)

URGE the House Judiciary Chair to prioritize this legislation

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

SHARE your view that such legislation is long overdue and ask for cosponsorship from

- Find your Representative here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdclADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2TIwm0/edit

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

- 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

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 your representative that we want him to support the Equality Act

- Find your Representative here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdclADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/e/dit

H.R.615, "To Provide Women and Girls Safe Access to Sanitation Facilities in Refugee Camps," has been introduced in the House and is now with the Foreign Affairs Committee. (Write-up 1/19/2019)

EXPRESS your support for this legislation and **URGE** swift consideration by the Foreign Affairs Committee

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

From the *Guardian*: The Trump administration has stopped cooperating with UN investigators over potential human rights violations occurring inside America, in a move that delivers a major blow to vulnerable US communities and sends a dangerous signal to authoritarian regimes around the world. Quietly and unnoticed, the state department has ceased to respond to official complaints from UN special rapporteurs, the network of independent experts who act as global

watchdogs on fundamental issues such as poverty, migration, freedom of expression and justice. There has been no response to any such formal query since 7 May 2018, with at least 13 requests going unanswered. Nor has the Trump administration extended any invitation to a UN monitor to visit the US to investigate human rights inside the country since the start of Donald Trump's term two years ago in January 2017. Two UN experts have made official fact-finding visits under his watch—the special rapporteurs on extreme poverty and privacy—but both were invited initially by Barack Obama, who hosted 16 such visits during his presidency. (Write-up 1/13/19)

COMPLAIN to the State Department, the chairs of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, and your Congresspeople about our failure to hold ourselves accountable for human rights violations

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

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

- **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>

- Find your Representative here:

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

In the mess that was the end of the 2017-18 legislative session, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was allowed to expire. (Write-up 1/13/19)

INSIST that we want renewal of VAWA to be prioritized in the new legislative session

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

- **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>

- Find your Representative here:

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

INTERNATIONAL

From *Rogan's List*: "The U.S. Department of Energy has started making a new, 'low-yield' nuclear weapon designed to counter Russia. And on Friday [2/1], the Trump administration announced that it would suspend the highly successful 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) after long accusing Russia of violating it; this treaty bans ground-launched cruise missiles with a range between 500km and 5,500km. Nuclear weapons experts at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace said in a statement that while Russia's alleged violation of the INF Treaty was a serious problem, the US withdrawal would be counterproductive. Hans Kristensen, director of the nuclear information project at the Federation of American Scientists, worries a smaller warhead of the kind Trump has been demanding and the DOE [Department of Energy] is making could actually make nuclear war far more likely: 'A nuke is a nuke,' he says. 'Once it's used, the gloves are off.' We have six months until the US ceases to be bound by the INF, during which time we must convince our [Congresspeople] to demand that this treaty be renegotiated. (Write-up 2/8/2019)

DEMAND a renegotiation of the INF Treaty and a U.S. commitment to no first use of nuclear weapons

- 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

From *Rogan's List*: The Trump administration, along with Israel, has followed through on its promise to leave UNESCO, the [United Nations] body whose mission is to build peace through cultural understanding and knowledge exchange. Also, we left with an unpaid bill of \$600 million. (Write-up 2/8/2019)

ENSURE that your Congresspeople know just how shameful and shortsighted this decision is

- 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

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. 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

On the issue of anti-BDS legislation—the Senate recently passed S.1, “Strengthening America’s Security in the Middle East,” which authorizes state and local governments to their assets from entities using boycotts, divestments, or sanctions to influence Israel’s policies. The House is considering companion legislation, H.R.336, that also includes anti-BDS provisions.

EXPLAIN to our Representative that this legislation is a no-go until the anti-BDS provisions are removed

- Find your Representative here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdelcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/e/dit

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 your Representative, Jimmy Panetta, become a cosponsor of this legislation

- Find your Representative here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdelcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/e/dit

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.
(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

One of the first things right-wing Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro did after taking office was transferring responsibility for recognizing Indigenous lands to the Ministry of Agriculture, which has strong ties to generally-hostile-to-the-survival-of-indigenous-peoples agribusiness. The Guardian cited Dinaman Tuxá, executive coordinator of the Articulation of Indigenous People of Brazil, responding to this move by warning “There will be an increase in deforestation and violence against indigenous people. Indigenous people are defenders and protectors of the environment. (1/25/2019)

EXPLAIN to the Secretary of State and the chairs of the House and Senate Foreign Relations Committees the we want them to take every opportunity to oppose this new attack on the health of our planet and the lives of indigenous peoples

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

- **Senator James E. Risch** (R-ID), Chair, 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, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2464

The Hill reports: “[A] true emergency is unfolding in Guatemala, with serious implications for stability in Central America and beyond. On Jan. 5, Guatemalan authorities detained a member of a U.N.-sponsored anti-corruption commission in the airport. They refused him entry into the country, despite an order by Guatemala's Constitutional Court not to interfere with the commission's work. Two days later, Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales announced he was terminating the mandate of the International Commission Against Impunity, known as CICIG, which works with prosecutors in Guatemala's Public Ministry to investigate organized crime and corruption. The commission's investigators left the country the following day. Morales himself is being investigated by CICIG for illicit campaign financing. His willingness to defy Guatemala's highest court in order to shut down that investigation has provoked a constitutional crisis, which many Guatemalan analysts and Journalists are calling a ‘slow-motion coup,’ which could have dire implications for combating corruption—and a ripple effect beyond Guatemala’s borders. The Trump administration has kept silent as Guatemala unraveled, a stance harshly criticized by Representative Norma Torres (D-Calif.), co-chair of the House Central America Caucus. Torres linked Guatemala's entrenched corruption to international migration, saying that the crises created by Guatemala's ‘mafioso’ government are ‘why children leave their homes and risk their

lives to come here.' Trump's silence flies in the face of what had been, up to now, a strong bipartisan American support of CICIG. By turning its back on Guatemala's anti-impunity efforts, the Trump administration is undermining the best—and maybe the last—hope to dislodge mafia control over the Guatemalan state. Moreover, Guatemala's efforts to prosecute organized crime are watched closely in other Central American countries and even Mexico.” (Write-up 1/25/2019)

EXPLAIN to your Congresspeople that if we're concerned about migration, we need to improve conditions in Central America, not build a wall and **DEMAND** that they speak out against the Republican Administration's silence

- 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

The Trump administration hasn't imposed required sanctions on Moscow nearly three months after determining that Russia had violated the Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act in connection with the poisoning of former Russian spy Sergei Skripal. (Write-up 1/25/2019)

INSIST to Republican Administration figures that the time for sanctions is long overdue

- **Donald Trump**, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

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

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

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

Twenty-two Republican members of the House voted against a proposal to prohibit using federal funds to withdraw from NATO. You may want to see if your Representative or Representatives from your state are on the list. (Write-up 1/22/2019)

EXPRESS your disgust at their failure to honor the community of nations that comprises NATO

- **Representative Rick Allen** (GA-12), 2400 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2823

- **Representative Justin Amash** (MI-3), 106 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3821

- **Representative Andy Biggs** (AZ-5), 1318 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2635

- **Representative Tim Burchett** (TN-2), 1122 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5435
- **Representative Ben Cline** (VA-6), 1809 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5431
- **Representative Scott DesJarlais** (TN-4), 2301 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6831
- **Representative Russ Fulcher** (ID-1), 1520 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6611
- **Representative Matt Gaetz** (FL-1), 1721 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4136
- **Representative Louie Gohmert** (TX-1) 2267 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3035
- **Representative Paul Gosar** (AZ-4), 2057 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2315
- **Representative Morgan Griffith** (VA-9), 2202 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3861
- **Representative Andy Harris** (MD-1), 2334 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5311
- **Representative Jody Hice** (GA-10), 409 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4101
- **Representative Jim Jordan** (OH-4), 2056 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2676
- **Representative Thomas Massie** (KY-4), 2453 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3465
- **Representative Tom McClintock** (CA-4), 2312 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2511
- **Representative Mark Meadows** (NC-11), 2160 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6401
- **Representative Scott Perry** (PA-10), 1207 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5836
- **Representative John W. Rose** (TN-6), 1232 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4231
- **Representative Chip Roy** (TX-21), 1319 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4236
- **Representative W. Gregory Steube** (FL-17), 521 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5792
- **Representative Randy Weber** (TX-14), 107 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2831

The House has unanimously passed H.R.31, the “Caesar Civilian Protection Act.” The Syrian American Councils comments on H.R.31 as follows: “The legislation, which would hold Syrian President Bashar al-Assad accountable for his war crimes while limiting his ability to access

funds from allies Russia and Iran, has been in the works for nearly three years with deep bipartisan support. Having passed this latest hurdle, the bill is expected to be considered by the Senate after the end of the partial U.S. government shutdown.... The passage of H.R. 31 comes on the heels of the European Union imposing sanctions on 11 individuals and five companies for providing financial and other military assistance to the Assad regime.” (Write-up 1/23/2019)

INFORM your Congresspeople that you want them to support H.R.31 as well

- 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

JUDICIARY

Did Kavanaugh lie during his confirmation hearing? Let's find out! (Write-up 1/25/2019)

TELL the Democratic chair of the House Judiciary Committee that you want to see Brett Kavanaugh investigated for possible perjury during his confirmation hearing.

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