

## NATIONAL ISSUES/ADDRESSES 06.08.2019

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

The House has passed H.R.6, the American Dream and Progress Act, which cancels and prohibits removal proceedings against many Dreamers and repeals a restriction that bars states from providing higher education benefits to undocumented aliens unless those benefits are available to all U.S. citizens. “Dreamers” is a term used to refer to individuals brought into the U.S. without documentation at a very young age, usually by family members. The education provision is an attempt to end a bi-pronged prohibition against educational aid for Dreamers. This prohibition both declared Dreamers ineligible for federal funds and barred universities creating funds specifically to support Dreamers as a response to the federal aid ban. (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**TELL** the Senate Majority Leader and your Senators that we want action on this legislation now

- **Senator Mitch McConnell**, Senate Majority Leader, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541

- Find your Senators here:

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

Pacific Standard reports: “United States immigration authorities are denying military service member applications for citizenship at a higher rate than their civilian counterparts, newly released data from the Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) shows. Immigrant rights advocates are calling on elected officials to overcome partisan impasses to remedy what appears to be the penalization of immigrants serving in the U.S. armed forces—particularly at a time when the Department of Defense is failing to meet its voluntary recruitment goals.” In the past, service in the U.S. armed forces has offered some immigrant hopefuls a path to U.S. citizenship. (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**ASK** leadership of Congressional Armed Services Committees and your Congresspeople what they’re doing to combat this bias against individuals willing to serve

- **Senator James Inhofe** (R-OK), Chair, Senate Armed Services Committee, 228 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3871

- **Senator Jack Reed** (D-RI), Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, 228 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3871

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

- 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](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdclcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit)

Via Indivisible: “Just as we get more horrific news about immigrant deaths while in custody... and children being left on buses waiting to be reunited with their families... and hundreds of folks being squeezed in a tiny room (the list goes on and on), Trump and his Republican enablers want to *increase* funding for their deportation force. Fortunately, the Constitution gives Congress—not the President—the sole power to appropriate money. *And we’re not going to stand for it....* It’s time to step up the pressure and demand that Congress #DefundHate and *cut* funding to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) through the appropriations process (which is how Congress decides how much funding federal agencies get).... Right now, Congress is finalizing funding bills for the next year, and the first draft of their Department of Homeland Security (DHS) appropriations bill—which includes ICE and CBP—contains both improvements from previous years, as well as areas that need to be changed.

Let’s start with the good stuff. The DHS appropriations bill:

- Reduces funding for detention beds, which means ICE can’t detain as many people
- Takes back the money that Trump stole for his wall when he declared a fake emergency
- Ends ICE’s ability to steal money from other agencies to expand deportation and detention activities.

But there are still some major problems with the bill. Namely, the \$387 million deportation slush fund. *The last thing Trump and Stephen Miller need is access to a giant slush fund for immigration enforcement....* We need Democrats to hold strong and stand firm against any attempts to increase funding for ICE and CBP. [Emphasis in the original.] (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**INSIST** that your Congresspeople take a strong stance against continued ICE/CBP funding while supporting humanitarian funding to improve conditions for asylum seekers

- 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](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdclcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit)

## ELECTIONS

S.1068 would restore the right to vote in federal elections to individuals released from incarceration. This legislation is currently with the Senate Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**ASK** your Senators to become cosponsors

- Find your Senators here:

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

New Hampshire just became the 20<sup>th</sup> State to call for a Constitutional Amendment to overturn *Citizens United*. The House can help set this process in motion by passing H.J.Res.2, which proposes a Democracy for All Amendment, to overturn Citizens United. This resolution is currently with the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**TELL** the Speaker of the House that we want a floor vote on H.J.Res.2

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

**CALL ON** your Representative to join the list of cosponsors of H.J.Res.2

- Find your Representative here:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdelcADPMfFL2c1V6iF\\_NDxATh0A\\_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdelcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit)

*Politico* reports: "Russia's infamous troll farm conducted a campaign on Twitter before the 2016 elections that was larger, more coordinated and more effective than previously known, research from cybersecurity firm Symantec out Wednesday concluded.... The research also found that the accounts played to partisans on the left and right even more than previously believed, and that most of them were fakes pretending to be regional news outlets, while a smaller subset amplified those messages. 'The campaign directed propaganda at both sides of the liberal/conservative political divide in the U.S., in particular the more disaffected elements of both camps,' Symantec found. And the company warned in the closing message of its study: 'The sheer scale and impact of this propaganda campaign is obviously of deep concern to voters in all countries, who may fear a repeat of what happened in the lead-up to the U.S. presidential election in 2016.'" (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**DEMAND** to know when the Senate Majority Leader is going to start standing up for U.S. election security

- **Senator Mitch McConnell**, Senate Majority Leader, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541

**URGE** your Congresspeople to continue advocating for election security

- 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](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdelcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit)

[And again, in slightly different wording.] From *Slate*: Congress is not doing enough to prevent [foreign election interference] from happening again, despite ongoing attempts to sound the alarm by cybersecurity experts, intelligence agencies, and Robert Mueller himself. By the next presidential election, the Russians will have had four years to leverage the knowledge they gained in 2016.... And there is every reason to believe other nation-states will now get in on the game.... But Senate leadership appears to have foreclosed the possibility of taking further action to protect our elections going into 2020. Two weeks ago, at a Senate Rules Committee hearing, Sen. Richard Durbin, a Democrat from Illinois, asked Sen. Roy Blunt, a Republican from Missouri, whether the panel would mark up any of the election security bills introduced this year. Blunt's answer? No. Blunt's response had nothing to do with the merit of the bills but was instead a reflection of the fact that Senate leadership would not allow them to receive votes. In a statement that stunned many, Blunt all but threw Majority Leader Mitch McConnell under the bus, saying: 'I don't see any likelihood that those bills would get to the floor if we marked them up. I think the majority leader is of the view this debate reaches no conclusion.'" (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**DEMAND** to know when the Senate Majority Leader is going to start standing up for U.S. election security

- **Senator Mitch McConnell**, Senate Majority Leader, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541

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- Find your Representative here:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdclcADPMfFL2c1V6iF\\_NDxATh0A\\_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdclcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit)

No matter who becomes the Democratic Presidential nominee, we can start telling the Democratic Party that we want increased election access and election security to be a party of the party's platform. This can include moves like

- increasing same-day voter registration
- creating automatic registration when voters do business with a government office
- supporting a new voting rights act that prohibits voter ID laws and voting roll purges and that expands early voting and voting by mail
- funding better election systems in every state
- ending gerrymandering
- enacting laws to limit the activities of Political Action Committees (PACs) and requiring that they be more transparent about funding sources. (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**URGE** the Democratic National Committee to make the right to vote and election integrity a key part of its platform

- **Democratic National Committee**, 430 South Capitol St. SE, Washington DC 20003, (202) 863-8000

Another expectation we can set for the Democratic party, regardless of who becomes the Democratic nominee: that that candidate, and the Democratic Party itself, take the “no fossil fuel money” pledge. In 2017, the Democratic Party had said it would stop taking fossil fuel money, but it then reversed that position and has continued to accept donations from fossil fuel producers. (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**TELL** the Democratic National Committee that we’re disgusted with their walk-back on the “no fossil fuel money” pledge and that we want to see it reinstated before the next Presidential election

• **Democratic National Committee**, 430 South Capitol St. SE, Washington DC 20003, (202) 863-8000

## ENVIRONMENT

The *New York Times* reports: “Mr. Trump and his political appointees are launching a new assault [on climate science].... [I]n what could be Mr. Trump’s most consequential action yet, his administration will seek to undermine the very science on which climate change policy rests.... In the most recent example [of these changes], the White House-appointed director of the United States Geological Survey, James Reilly, a former astronaut and petroleum geologist, has ordered that scientific assessments produced by that office use only computer-generated climate models that project the impact of climate change through 2040, rather than through the end of the century, as had been done previously. Scientists say that would give a misleading picture because the biggest effects of current emissions will be felt after 2040. Models show that the planet will most likely warm at about the same rate through about 2050. From that point until the end of the century, however, the rate of warming differs significantly with an increase or decrease in carbon emissions. The administration’s prime target has been the National Climate Assessment, produced by an interagency task force roughly every four years since 2000. Government scientists used computer-generated models in their most recent report to project that if fossil fuel emissions continue unchecked, the earth’s atmosphere could warm by as much as eight degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century. That would lead to drastically higher sea levels, more devastating storms and droughts, crop failures, food losses and severe health consequences. Work on the next report, which is expected to be released in 2021 or 2022, has already begun. But from now on, officials said, such worst-case scenario projections will not automatically be included in the National Climate Assessment or in some other scientific reports produced by the government. (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**INSIST** to Trump, the Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Geological Survey, and leadership of appropriate Congressional committees that we need climate crisis data that looks beyond 2040

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

- **Andrew Wheeler**, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460, (202) 564-4700

- **Senator Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK), Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-4971

- **Senator Joe Manchin** (D-WV), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-4971

- **Representative Raúl M. Grijalva** (D-AZ), Chair, House Natural Resources Committee, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6065

**TELL** your Congresspeople we don't want the administration manipulating data reporting to misrepresent the potential severity of ongoing climate crisis

- 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](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdelcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit)

*Rolling Stone* reports: "The Trump Administration is responsible for causing the largest reduction of protected public lands in U.S. history, according to a comprehensive study published this week in the journal *Science*. In 2017, the study noted, President Trump enacted two of the largest reductions of federally protected lands, shrinking Bears Ears by 85 percent and Grand-Staircase Escalante National Monument in southern Utah by 51 percent. Also in 2017, Congress voted to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and natural gas development. By removing federal protections, the study said, Trump is opening up these lands to oil and natural gas companies. And while the 2017 reductions are now being argued in federal court, the study said, the government already has plans to downgrade or downsize nine more land and marine national monuments. This is part of a disturbing global trend, where 78 percent of global land reductions have taken place since 2000. The study also found that lands in the Amazon are quickly losing protections as well. And, this all contributes to climate change. 'As human pressures on the biosphere accelerate, it is critical to strengthen—not roll back—conservation efforts,' the study authors concluded." (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**INSIST** to the White House and the Department of the Interior that we don't want our public lands removed from protection to benefit the fossil fuel industry

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

- **David Bernhardt**, Secretary of the Interior, Department of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240, (202) 208-3100

**REMIN**d your Congresspeople that protected public lands belong to all of us, not just to fossil fuel producers

- 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](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdelcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/e/dit)

Via *What the Fuck Just Happened Today?*: "The world's largest automakers warned Trump that his plan to weaken tailpipe pollution standards is a threat to their profits and will produce 'untenable' instability in the manufacturing sector. In a letter signed by 17 companies, including Ford, General Motors, Toyota, and Volvo, they urged Trump not to roll back the policy. Trump's new rule would all but eliminate the Obama-era auto pollution regulations and effectively freeze miles-per-gallon standards at 37 mpg for cars, instead of the original goal of reaching 54.5 mpg by 2025. The automakers warned Trump that 'an extended period of litigation and instability' would follow if his plans are implemented." (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**JOIN** automakers in telling Trump and the EPA that these rollbacks on pollution and miles-per-gallon standards are bad for the economy, as well as the environment

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

- **Andrew Wheeler**, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460, (202) 564-4700

## **ETHICS and SEPARATION of POWERS**

The House will hold a full floor vote on June 11th to hold AG Barr and Don McGahn in contempt for defying Congressional subpoenas. (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**URGE** your Representative to vote in favor of contempt charges

- Find your Representative here:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdelcADPMfFL2c1V6iF\\_NDxATh0A\\_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/e/dit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdelcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/e/dit)

Mitch McConnell holding up a great many excellent bills that need to pass, including H.R.1, the For the People Act; H.R.5, the Equality Act; and H.R.8, the Universal Background Checks bill. How is it that one man can hold the whole country hostage? It's unacceptable. (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**EXCORIATE** the Senate Majority Leader for dereliction of duty

- **Senator Mitch McConnell**, Senate Majority Leader, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541

**URGE** your Senators to maintain fierce pressure on McConnell to allow Senate consideration of this important legislation

- Find your Senators here:



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

From Pro Publica: “In mid-March, the payday lending industry [officially known as the Community Financial Services Association] held its annual convention at the Trump National Doral hotel outside Miami.... They had plenty to be elated about. A month earlier, Kathleen Kraninger, who had just finished her second month as director of the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), had delivered what the lenders consider an epochal victory: Kraninger announced a proposal to gut a crucial rule that had been passed under her Obama-era predecessor. Payday lenders viewed that rule as a potential death [because it] would require payday lenders and others to make sure borrowers could afford to pay back their loans while also covering basic living expenses. Now, the industry was taking credit for the CFPB’s retreat... This year was the second in a row that the CFSA held its convention at the Doral.... The CFSA and its members have poured a total of about \$1 million into the Trump Organization’s coffers through the two annual conferences, according to detailed estimates.... consistent with the CFSA’s most recent available tax filing, which reveals that it spent \$644,656 on its annual conference the year before the first gathering at the Trump property.... [T]he payment to the president’s business that is a stark reminder that the Trump administration is like none before it. If the industry had written a \$1 million check directly to the president’s campaign, both the CFSA and campaign could have faced fines or even criminal charges — and Trump couldn’t have used the money to enrich himself. But paying \$1 million directly to the president’s business? That’s perfectly legal.” (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**INSIST** yet again on investigation of the multiple conflicts of interest underlying the Trump presidency

- **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
  - **Representative Elijah Cummings** (D-MD), Chair, House Oversight and Reform Committee, 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5051
- ASK** the Inspector General’s Office overseeing the CFPB to investigate the relationship between the CFPB and the CFSA
- **Mark Bialek**, Inspector General, Federal Reserve Board and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Office of the Inspector General, 20<sup>th</sup> and Constitution Ave. NW, Stop 300, Washington DC 20551, (202) 973-5000

**GENERAL DECENCY**



*Via News You May Have Missed:* Women asylum-seekers who give birth while in the custody of the U.S. Marshalls in West Texas have been required to give up their newborn babies. Women who were released from custody and obtained legal help from organizations such as Annunciation House were able to be reunited with their babies, but it is not known how many mothers were not able to retrieve their babies. Rewrite News, which is the only news outlet to break this story, had this information from the doctor who delivered many of the babies. As the legal coordinator of Annunciation House, Taylor Levy, explains it this way: ‘Just think about it. You’re 18, 19, 20 years old. You’re in an entirely new country. You just gave birth and your baby is taken from you after two days. You have no clue what is going to happen to your baby or if your baby is safe. You’re taken back to prison, your breasts are leaking milk, you’re in pain, and you sit in a prison cell with no idea when you’ll get released or if you’ll see your baby again. All of this because you crossed a line without permission.’” (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**CONDEMN** this unconscionable policy

- **Kevin McAleenan**, Acting 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, (877) 696-6775

**URGE** Congressional leadership and your Congresspeople to stand up for the rights of asylum seekers and for basic humanitarian protections

- **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/1tNhdclcADPMfFL2c1V6iF\\_NDxATh0A\\_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdclcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit)

*Via News You May Have Missed:* In late May, “Immigration and Customs Enforcement released information about a 24 year-old Honduran woman who suffered a stillbirth while in ICE custody, the New York Times reports. ICE officials released a statement that they do not view the stillbirth as an in-custody death. This has happened amid scrutiny over the medical care given inmates in immigration custody after several deaths of children and teens in ICE or Border Patrol custody. According to the Refugee and Immigrant Center of Education and Legal Services, interviews with women recently released from detention call into question the medical care received by pregnant women in custody.” (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**CONDEMN** this unconscionable treatment of pregnant asylum seekers

- **Kevin McAleenan**, Acting 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, (877) 696-6775
- **Representative Bennie G. Thompson** (D-MS), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-2616  
**CALL** for a Congressional investigation of the treatment of pregnant asylum seekers
- **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
- Find your Senators here:

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

- Find your Representative here:

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The *Washington Post* has let us know that between January 1 and March 6 of this year (and excluding suicides) more Americans had been shot to death than died on D-Day, which recorded 2,501 American deaths. By April, we'd surpassed the total allied death toll of 4,414. (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**DEMAND** ton know when the Senate Majority Leader will allow substantive discussion of federal firearms laws

- **Senator Mitch McConnell**, Senate Majority Leader, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541

**ASK** your Congresspeople to advocate for reasonable firearms regulation

- 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](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdelcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit)

Via *Rogan's List*: "Hurricane season began last weekend and hurricane preparedness is a given for people in areas that may be hit. However, there is no plan yet for the thousands of immigrant children currently being housed in tents in the government detention shelter in Homestead, FL, which is 'is set in the second most vulnerable hurricane zone in coastal South Florida, an area that bore the full fury of Category 5 Hurricane Andrew, leaving it in utter ruin' [*Miami Herald*]. Having a plan for the safety of these children is imperative. Homestead is the only immigrant child shelter that is run by a for-profit corporation, Caliburn. It is also the only one that does not require state licensing and oversight. (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**ASK** appropriate government officials and your Congresspeople what they're doing to defend these children in the hurricane zone

- **Kevin McAleenan**, Acting 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, (877) 696-6775

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

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The *Los Angeles Times* reports: "As California prepares for what some officials fear will be another devastating fire season, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Forest Service are withholding reimbursements that state fire agencies say are owed.... With the start of the traditional fire season just weeks away, California officials worry that the audit is a precursor to the Trump administration cutting back on fire assistance. For the 2018 fire season, which killed at least 100 people, Cal OES calculated total reimbursements of \$72 million. That estimate included the work of some of the 5,600 firefighters who battled the Camp fire as it spread into Plumas National Forest in November, and 3,400 firefighters who battled the Carr fire in Shasta-Trinity National Forest in July. The Forest Service said in a statement that it decided to audit the agreement after receiving a letter from Cal OES Director Mark Ghilarducci. That letter, which was sent in July 2017, chastised the agency for not reimbursing the state in a timely manner. "The USFS has blatantly ignored its financial responsibility to the men and women of California who have risked their lives fighting fires to protect federal land," Ghilarducci wrote. As a result of the audit, the federal government is now withholding more than \$9 million of the original \$72 million reimbursement request." (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**DEMAND** swift delivery of all fire recovery funds to California

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

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

- **Vicki Christiansen**, Chief, U.S. Forest Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20024, (202) 205-8439

*Democracy Now!* Reports: "In more news from the border, Johana Medina, a transgender asylum seeker from El Salvador, died while in Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody on Saturday, according to several LGBT groups and advocates who knew her. Medina had sought medical treatment for over two months for complications related to HIV/AIDS before finally being transferred to an El Paso hospital, but did not survive. Johana Medina is believed to

be the second transgender migrant to die in ICE custody since Trump became president.”  
(Write-up 6/7/2019)

**CALL** for a Congressional investigation to the treatment of transsexual asylum seekers, some of the most vulnerable among us

- **Representative Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA), Speaker of the House, 1236 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4965
- **Representative David Cicilline** (D-RI), Co-Chair, Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, 2233 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4911
- **Representative Sean Patrick Maloney** (D-NY), Co-Chair, Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, 2331 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5441
- **Representative Mark Pocan** (D-WI), Co-Chair, Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, 1421 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2906
- **Representative Mark Takano** (D-CA), Co-Chair, Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, 420 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2305
- 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](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdelcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit)

From the American Academy for the Advancement of Science’s *EurekAlert!*: “Terror attacks carried out by Muslims receive on average 357 percent more media coverage than those committed by other groups, according to research conducted at Georgia State University. The study, published in *Justice Quarterly*, found perpetrator religion is a major predictor of news coverage of a terrorist attack. Other factors also drive coverage, but to a lesser extent. The study authors note that in the United States, “members of the public tend to fear the ‘Muslim terrorist’ while ignoring other threats.” The research highlights a serious imbalance in news coverage. ‘What was especially surprising was the sheer amount of coverage granted to the small handful of domestic terrorists who were both Muslim and from outside of the U.S.,’ said Allison Betus, a Presidential Fellow with Georgia State’s Transcultural Conflict and Violent Extremism Initiative. ‘This tiny minority of the dataset accounted for a very large amount of coverage.’ Out of 136 terror attacks in the U.S. over a span of 10 years the authors studied, Muslims committed on average 12.5 percent of the attacks, yet received more than half of the news coverage.” (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**POINT OUT** this bias to Congressional Leadership and **REMIND** them that the greatest terror threat to the U.S. is white supremacy

- **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

**ASK** your Congresspeople to continue to insist on treating white supremacy as a serious terror threat

- 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](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdclcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit)

## **HEALTH and HEALTHCARE**

From *Associated Press*: The Food and Drug Administration found substantial levels of a worrisome class of nonstick, stain-resistant industrial compounds in some grocery store meats and seafood and in off-the-shelf chocolate cake, according to FDA researchers. The FDA's food-test results are likely to heighten complaints by states and public health groups that President Donald Trump's administration is not acting fast enough or firmly enough to start regulating the manmade compounds. A federal toxicology report last year cited links between high levels of the compounds in people's blood and health problems, but said it was not certain the nonstick compounds were the cause. The levels in nearly half of the meat and fish tested were two or more times over the only currently existing federal advisory level for any kind of the widely used manmade compounds, which are called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. The level in the chocolate cake was higher: more than 250 times the only federal guidelines, which are for some PFAS in drinking water. (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**DEMAND** a response to these findings that will protect Americans' health

- **Andrew Wheeler**, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460, (202) 564-4700

## **HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS**

Louisiana just passed a six-week abortion ban, and the governor who signed it into law is a Democrat. How can we respond? We can ask the Democratic Governors Association to speak out against John Bel Edwards and to not give any money to support his 2019 reelection. We can also let the Democratic National Committee that any candidate who will not vigorously protect women's reproductive and healthcare rights does not deserve endorsement. The time for labelling reproductive rights a "side issue" is long, long past. (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**URGE** the Democratic Governors Association to speak out against Edward's disregard for women's reproductive health and **ASK** them to deny funding for his 2019 reelection campaign

- **Governor Gina Raimondo**, Chair, Democratic Governors Association, 1225 Eye St. NW, Suite 1100, Washington DC 20005 (202) 772-5600

**TELL** the Democratic National Committee that we want candidates who support women's reproductive and healthcare choice

• **Democratic National Committee**, 430 South Capitol St. SE, Washington DC 20003, (202) 863-8000

As the Trump administration ramps up immigration enforcement on the southern border, advocates have called attention to this quieter crackdown near the Canadian border, arguing the searches are unconstitutional. Under the Fourth Amendment, passengers cannot be detained and questioned by Border Patrol without reasonable suspicion that they are deportable, say the ACLU and allied legal groups, and that suspicion cannot be based on someone's skin color or ability to speak English. 'Customers are exposed, especially people of color, to discriminatory enforcement when the buses are boarded,' said Chris Rickerd, senior policy counsel for the ACLU. 'CBP has a real burden to show that these are a wise use of resources.' The searches can happen as often as three times a day at some northern bus stations, according to advocates—even those with no direct routes to the border. They have caused bus delays and missed connections and resulted in the long-term detention of immigrants allegedly apprehended through racial profiling, a violation of the Fourth Amendment and Department of Homeland Security policy.... Both Greyhound and former DHS officials have criticized the practice, with the bus line expressing frustration about it to Congress." NBC News quoted one woman who was present at two of these searches: "'I was super angry because [they were] obviously profiling,' said Phelan, who is black, Puerto Rican and a United States citizen. 'They literally skipped over every single white person.' She says she watched agents walk down the aisles, stopping only when they saw a person of color, to ask: 'Are you from here? Do you have papers?'" (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**OBJECT** to these unconstitutional searches

• **Kevin McAleenan**, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494

From *Common Dreams* via *EcoWatch*: "Building on efforts by multiple states to crack down on those fighting the construction of climate-destroying fossil fuel infrastructure, the Trump administration unveiled a proposal on Monday that would criminalize pipeline protests at the federal level and hit demonstrators with up to 20 years in prison. The new proposal, released by Transportation Department's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, was immediately denounced by environmentalists as a serious threat to the First Amendment.... As Politico reported Monday, the Transportation Department's proposal would 'treat some pipeline protests as a federal crime, mirroring state legislative efforts that have spread in the wake of high-profile demonstrations around the country.' The Trump administration, according to Politico, is 'calling for Congress to expand a law that threatens fines and up to 20 years' prison time for 'damaging or destroying' pipelines currently in operation. The expanded version would add 'vandalism, tampering with, or impeding, disrupting, or inhibiting the operation of' either existing

pipelines or those “under construction.” A spokesperson for House Energy and Commerce chairman Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) told Politico that the congressman ‘has no intention of allowing a pipeline safety bill to be used as a vehicle for stifling legitimate dissent and protest.’” (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**DECRY** this blatant attempt by the Republican administration to curb Constitutionally protected speech and assembly

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

- **Andrew Wheeler**, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460, (202) 564-4700

- **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

- 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](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdelcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2Tlwm0/edit)

FemPositive reports: “Four aid workers have been convicted... on charges connected to their efforts to leave water and food for the migrants in the Arizona wildlife refuge along the U.S.-Mexico border. The volunteers, all of them women, had been caught by a Federal Wildlife officer as they left water jugs, beans, and other supplies for the migrants in Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge on August 13, 2017.... Each one of them faces up to six months of prison time. All of them are members of the faith-based humanitarian group “No More Deaths”, and the organization claims that 155 migrants have lost their lives in the refuge since 2001. It has been reported that the women had failed to get permits for expanded access to the wildlife refuge, and had gone off the roads where they are allowed to travel. The organization responded to the verdict by claiming that the decision is part of a larger crisis of conscience in the U.S. A volunteer for the organization said that the four volunteers were driven by moral principles.” (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**TELL** the Department of Justice to drop the charges

- **William P. Barr**, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20530-0001, (202) 353-1555

## INTERNATIONAL



The *Los Angeles Times* reports: “A bipartisan group of senators plans to introduce 22 resolutions of disapproval in reaction to the Trump administration’s move to override the many congressional holds on more than \$8 billion in arms sales to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan, according to a person familiar with their intentions. An emergency declaration issued May 24 allowed President Trump to circumvent the normal process for congressional approval, letting the disputed sales go through immediately ‘in the national security interests of the United States.’ The move angered lawmakers, who vowed to take legislative action to block the arms sales.” The *Associated Press* has reported opposition to these arms sales on both sides of the aisle: “‘While I understand that Saudi Arabia is a strategic ally, the behavior of Mohammed bin Salman cannot be ignored. Now is not the time to do business as usual with Saudi Arabia,’ [Republican Lindsey] Graham said in a statement Wednesday.... Adding to the outcry, Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia revealed [in the first week of June] that the Trump administration continued to transfer nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia even after Khashoggi’s murder. Kaine said that information, which he received from the Department of Energy, added ‘to a disturbing pattern of behavior’ by the administration.” (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**CASTIGATE** Trump for this shabby attempt to bypass the will of Congress

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

**URGE** your Senators to participate actively in these efforts to limit arms sales to the Saudis

- Find your Senators here:

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

*Via News You May Have Missed:* “Despite the worldwide refugee crisis, the Trump administration has drastically cut the number of refugees the U.S. accepts—for example, from 9,000 Somali refugees in 2016 to 257 in 2018. About 320,000 Somalis were displaced due to conflict in 2018. Kenya is housing many Somalis but has said it will have to close its camp in August. As Foreign Policy in Focus points out, the willingness of the U.S. to resettle refugees and to fund refugee camps has put pressure on countries housing refugees who will never come to North America, so that those countries will keep them safe until they can go home. Now, that pressure is gone.” (Write-up 6/7/2019)

**TELL** Trump, Congressional leaders, and your Congresspeople that we want to continue honoring the American tradition of offering support to refugees and asylum seekers

- **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

- Find your Senators here:

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

- Find your Representative here:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdelcADPMfFL2c1V6iF\\_NDxATh0A\\_WLxzMt2TIwm0/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tNhdelcADPMfFL2c1V6iF_NDxATh0A_WLxzMt2TIwm0/edit)