

2019.07.27 Issues and Addresses

ASYLUM SEEKERS, FAMILY SEPARATION, DENATURALIZATION, and IMMIGRATION

The Trump administration has announced a new “expedited removal” process, which has been posted on the Federal Register for public comments. Undocumented immigrant who cannot prove they have been continuously present in the U.S. for the previous two years will be subject to immediate deportation. As Director of the American Civil Liberties Union Immigrants’ Rights Project Omar Jadwat put it, in a written statement cited by Politico, “Under this unlawful plan, immigrants who have lived here for years would be deported with less due process than people get in traffic court.” (Write-up 7/25/2019)

MAKE an official comment objecting to this proposed change [*note: you must include the Docket ID number and name of the proposed rule change—DHS-2019-0036, “Designating Aliens for Expedited Removal”*]

- **Ihsan Gunduz**, Policy Analyst, Office of Policy, MS 0445, Department of Homeland Security, 2707 Martin Luther King, Jr., Ave. SE, Washington DC 20528-0445

SHARE your views of this policy proposal with leadership of the appropriate Congressional committees

- **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

- **Senator Gary C Peters** (D-MI), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

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

Greyhound continues to let Border Patrol agents board its buses to question and arrest passengers without a warrant or any suspicion of wrongdoing. As the American Civil Liberties Union puts it, “the company is throwing its loyal customers under the bus.” Because of Greyhound’s intransigence, the ACLU is urging that we pressure the owners of Greyhound: FirstGroup, a United Kingdom-based transportation group. The FirstGroup Code of Ethics and Corporate Responsibility reads, “We are committed to recognising human rights on a global basis. We have a zero-tolerance approach to any violations within our company or by business partners.” Greyhound’s continued participation in unwarranted, unjustified Border Patrol searches is a clear violation of FirstGroup policy. (Write-up 7/25/2019)

DEMAND that FirstGroup require Greyhound to honor FirstGroup’s code of ethics

- **Mike Murray**, President and Chief Executive Officer, FirstGroup America Headquarters, 600 Vine St., Suite 1400, Cincinnati, OH 45202, (513) 241-2200

Between 2010 and 2018, Oakland Airport was used as the staging ground for the deportation of tens of thousands of undocumented immigrants, despite the sanctuary status of both Oakland and California. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) stopped using Oakland as a staging ground last year. (Write-up 7/25/2019)

ASK for continued vigilance to ensure that ICE does not return to its practice of using Oakland Airport as a deportation staging ground

- **Mayor Libby Schaaf**, 1 Frank H Ogawa Plaza, 3rd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612, (510) 238-3141
- **Representative Barbara Lee**, 2470 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2661
- Customer Relations Representative, Oakland International Airport, One Airport Drive, Box 45 Oakland, CA 94621, (510) 563-3300
- **Port of Oakland Board of Commissioners**, 530 Water Street, Oakland, CA 94607

Via Rogan's List: "Stephen Miller, along with his allies John Zadrozny of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and Andrew Veprek of the State Department, are urging security officials to drop next year's refugee cap to nearly zero. In 2016, before Trump took office, the U.S. limit for the number of refugees it allowed into the country was at nearly 85,000, and has dropped each year since then. Not only would eliminating entry for refugees be nationalistic, but it would leave those in limbo who have already begun the years-long application process."

(Write-up 7/25/2019)

URGE Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Acting Defense Secretary Mark Esper to maintain the current cap, which is already at a forty-year low

- **Mike Pompeo**, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20520
- **Mark Esper**, Acting Secretary of Defense, 1000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1000, (703) 571-3343

ELECTIONS

The Council on American Islamic Relations is calling for the next Democratic presidential debate to include questions on the Muslim ban and on refugee admissions. (Write-up 7/25/2019)

SHARE your enthusiasm for these topics with the Democratic National Committee

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

The Hill reports that despite repeated warnings of Russian election interference (including a very clear warning from Robert Muller during his House testimony on July 24), Mitch McConnell continues to block Senate votes on election security measures, using the specious justification that Democratic election security legislation is being championed for "political benefit" and is

“partisan legislation.” One piece of election security legislation McConnell is currently blocking is H.R.1, the For the People Act, which expands voter registration and voting access, makes Election Day a national holiday, limits the removal of voters from voting rolls, establishes nonpartisan redistricting commissions, supports improvement of election-related cyber-security systems, expands federal code of ethics requirements for candidates and others, requires release of presidential candidates’ tax returns. McConnell is also blocking Senate action on H.R.2722, the SAFE Act, which would provide grants for election system upgrades and paper ballots and mandate particular election security minimums. (Write-up 7/25/2019)

EXPLAIN to McConnell—for the umpteenth time—that voter registration, access to polls, and secure elections are essentials for a healthy democracy and not partisan plots

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

ENVIRONMENT

SB-69 Ocean Resiliency Act, which would expand protections of California’s coastal regions has been passed by the California Senate and now needs one more positive vote from the Assembly Appropriations Committee, on which South County’s Richard Rivas sits, before it can go to a vote of the full Assembly and on to the Governor’s desk. (Write-up 7/27/2019)

URGE swift positive action on SB-69 by the Appropriations Committee

- **California Senate Appropriations Committee**, State Capitol, Room 2206, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 651-4101

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

ETHICS and SEPARATION of POWERS

Robert Mueller’s House testimony made clear the overwhelming evidence of impeachable offenses committed by the Trump administration, including obstruction of justice and abuse of emergency powers. The integrity of our Democracy demands impeachment proceeding—not because they are “strategic,” but because they are necessary. (Write-up 7/25/2019)

URGE the Speaker of the House and your Representative to advocate for initiation of impeachment proceedings

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

- **Find your Representative here:**

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

GENERAL DECENCY

Responding to our government's policies along the southern border requires understanding what is happening at the border and at facilities (be they run by Health and Human Services, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or Customs and Border Patrol) holding those attempting to enter our country. The Help Oversee, Manage and Evaluate Safe Treatment and Ensure Access without Delay (HOMESTEAD) Act (H.R.3868) would prohibit the administration from preventing members of Congress from entering any detention facility. H.R.3868 is currently with the House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees. Jimmy Panetta is not yet a cosponsor. (Write-up 7/27/2019)

URGE swift, positive action on H.R.3868 in committee

- **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, H2-176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-2616

EXPLAIN to your Representative how important cosponsoring H.R.3868, both for the sake of asylum seekers and to ensure appropriate Congressional oversight

- **Find your Representative here:**

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

The Women's Health Protection Act (S.1645 in the Senate; H.R.2975 in the House) would codify into law the protections currently offered by *Roe v. Wade*, preventing states from passing legislation limiting or negating Roe protections. (Write-up 7/25/2019)

URGE your Congressmembers to become cosponsors

- **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

Some three million people could have their access to food stamps limited if a proposed federal rule change. At the moment, people who qualify for federal or state aid also automatically qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The rule change would require that SNAP benefits only be given after a separate income verification, in addition to those already

used by the federal and state governments. The Republican administration claims that SNAP benefits are being misused and inappropriately given to people whose income doesn't merit the support. However, given the difficulty of qualifying for federal and state aid programs, it's unlikely that anyone is getting "underserved" food assistance via current SNAP qualification practices. Instead, this looks to be the deliberate creation of a new "hoop" for those qualifying for aid to jump through, in the hopes of preventing qualified applicants access to SNAP by creating additional an additional barrier to program participation. (Write-up 7/25/2019)

FILE an official comment on this proposed rule change [*note: you must include the Docket ID number and name of the proposed rule change—FNS-2018-0037, "Revision of Categorical Eligibility in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance"*]

- **Program Design Branch**, Program Development Division, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Dr., Alexandria, VA 22302

EXPRESS your disgust with this inhumane proposals to the following government figures

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

- **Representative Collin Peterson** (D-MN), Chair, House Agriculture Committee, 1301 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2171

- **Representative Marcia Fudge** (D-OH), Chair, Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations, House Agriculture Committee, 1301 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2171

- **Representative Alma Adams** (D-NC), Vice-Chair, Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations, House Agriculture Committee, 1301 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2171

- **Senator Pat Roberts** (R-KS), Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, 328A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2035

- **Senator Debbie Stabenow** (D-MI), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, 328A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2035

- **Senator Deb Fischer** (R-NE), Chair, Subcommittee on Nutrition, Agricultural Research, and Specialty Crops, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, 328A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2035

- **Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.** (D-PA), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Nutrition, Agricultural Research, and Specialty Crops, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, 328A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2035

A Congressional response to a decision by the Republican administration to allow South Carolina foster-care programs to discriminate against potential foster parents based on religion (including "non-approved" Christian denominations), sexual orientation, sex, and marital status is in the works. This is the Every Child Deserves a Family Act (S.1791 in the Senate and H.R.3114 in the House), which would protect the rights of children and foster parents, not just in South Carolina, but across the country. S.1791 is currently with the Senate Finance Committee.

H.R.3114 is currently with both the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee. (Write-up 7/25/2019)

URGE swift, positive action on S.1971 by the Senate Finance Committee

- **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Finance Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4515

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

URGE swift, positive action on H.J.R.2114 by the House Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Committees

- **Representative Richard Neal** (D-MA), House Ways and Means Committee, 1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3625

- **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

Gun violence in the U.S. takes the lives of over one hundred people each day. As of the end of June, at least one hundred and ninety-nine mass shootings had occurred in the U.S. during the 2019 calendar year. A critical first step toward lowering these numbers is effective gun violence research, which necessitates research funding. (Write-up 7/25/2019)

URGE your Congresspeople to make gun violence research a priority in budget legislation

- **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

HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS

In response to Mike Pompeo's creation of an "Unalienable Rights" Commission, twenty-two U.S. Senators have written a letter challenging the necessity of such a commission, given that the State Department already has a Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL). The letter specifically asks

- How does this new commission differ from the DRL?

- In what ways has DRL been involved in and is planned to be involved in the new commission?

- What criteria were used to select the commission members?

- When will the commission's "written product" be produced?

- Will DRL and Congress be consulted before release of the commission's "written product"?

-How will the “written product” be used at the State Department and in government?
Kamala Harris was one of the signators of this letter; Dianne Feinstein was not. (Write-up 7/25/2019)

TELL your Congressmembers that you share the concerns expressed in this letter and want answers

• **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

The movement of asylum seekers from Central America to the U.S. has a great deal to do with U.S. foreign policy in the past: our focus on military assistance, which builds violence and government intransigence; our exporting of firearms; our collaboration in silencing the voices of those speaking out for representative government, social justice, and environmental protection. The U.S. looms like a huge shadow over Central America, and until we find ways to turn that shadow to light, asylum-seekers are going to continue northward because of the danger and hopelessness of life in Central America. An excellent way to shine that light would be to enact H.R.2615, the United States-Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act, which has made it through the House and is now with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. (Write-up 7/27/2019)

ENCOURAGE meaningful engagement with Central America that is constructive, rather than punitive and **URGE** action on H.R.2615

• **Senator Jim Risch** (R-ID), Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

• **Senator Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

• **Find your Senators here:**

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