

**NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTE PRIORITIES SIGNED ON TO ON BEHALF OF
U.S. PROVINCE LEADERS: Month of February 2020**
(Prepared by Brigid Lawlor, Liaison)

NAC FOCUS AREA: ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

**ISSUE: JOINT STATEMENT ON THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S NEW LANDMINE
POLICY**

General Content: Condemn the Trump Administration's decision to lift existing United States prohibitions against the use of landmines. We urge the White House and Department of Defense (DOD) to reconsider and take steps to join the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. We urge Congress to take immediate measures to block the deployment of landmines and prohibit the development, production, or other acquisition of new antipersonnel landmines.

Sent to: Public Arms trade
Sponsored by: Forum Arms Trade

ISSUE: NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

General Content: Letter urging the Council on Environmental Quality to withdraw the National Environmental Policy Act implementing regulations, and to retain the existing regulations. The changes would eliminate critical NEPA protections for the environment and people alike throughout the country. The changes would apply to every federal agency, affecting more than 100,000 federal actions each year. The changes would dramatically undermine your ability to weigh in on flood damage reduction projects, oil and gas pipelines, major transportation projects, river dredging, navigation projects, mining proposals, and restoration projects.

Sent to: Council on Environmental Quality
Sponsored by: National Wildlife Federation

NAC FOCUS AREA: HUMAN TRAFFICKING

ISSUE: SAFE SEX Workers Study Act

General Content: We opposed, the SAFE SEX Workers Study Act, mandating a Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) study on the effects of the 2018 law Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act - Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (FOSTA-SESTA) on individuals who engage in "consensual transactional sex," The bill exhibits a misunderstanding of federal and state laws.

Sent to: Elizabeth Warren and Ron Wyden U.S. Senate; and Barbara Lee and Ro Khanna U.S. House of Representatives

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NAC FOCUS AREA: IMMIGRATION

ISSUE: BORDER WAIVERS & EMINENT DOMAIN

General Content: The current border enforcement policies have torn families and communities apart, contributed to the deaths of thousands of migrants, harmed wildlife and border ecosystems, and violated the rights and humanity of U.S. citizens and immigrants alike. Border walls and other forms of excessive militarization are inconsistent with the faith principles of compassion, stewardship, and justice. The rampant use of waivers and eminent domain to further border wall construction harms human communities and wildlife and interferes with the sovereignty of indigenous communities in the border region. Request made to Congress to support three bills that would restore the rule of law and mitigate the profound harms of border wall construction on border communities, sacred lands, groundwater depletion, property owners, the environment and wildlife:

- H.R. 1232, the “Rescinding DHS’ Waiver Authority for Border Wall Act”
- H.R. 1233, the “Borderlands Taking Defense Fund Act”
- H.R. 1234, the “Preventing the Taking of Americans’ Land to Build Trump’s Wall Act”

Sent to: House Homeland Security Committee Hearing: "Examining the Effect of the Border Wall on Private and Tribal Landowners"

Sponsored by: Columban Center

ISSUE: UNIVERSAL REPRESENTATION PROGRAM FOR DETAINED IMMIGRANTS

General Content: An invitation to National Organizations who have a presence in the State of Maryland to sign on to a letter to the Maryland General Assembly in support of a statewide universal representation program for detained immigrants. Under the proposed program, Maryland would fund legal representation for all Maryland noncitizens who are in deportation proceedings, detained, and who cannot obtain an attorney. The program would serve over 500 immigrants per year, including LPRs, DACA recipients, TPS holders, undocumented immigrants, and more.

Sent to: Maryland General Assembly

Sponsored by: MASA

NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY

ISSUE: RECISSION OF EXCLUSION OF DEFERED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS FROM AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

General Content: Letter to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) asking HHS to rescind the regulation excluding DACA recipients from benefits under the ACA, including tax credits, cost sharing, and the marketplaces. Rescission of this regulation would lead to over 650,000 DACA recipients obtaining access to the ACA and upwards of 1.4 million if DACA is restored.

Sent to: Secretary to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (SSS)

Sponsored by: Masa Group

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ISSUE: OPPOSING MEDICAID BLOCK GRANT GUIDANCE

General Content: Letter to Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) urging the administration to rescind the new Medicaid block grant guidance released on January 30th. It highlights concerns for CMS's recent guidance allowing states to apply for a waiver to set caps in their Medicaid programs. This guidance would be a bad deal for states and put many who rely on Medicaid for their health care at risk. This guidance will surely lead to catastrophic implications for state budgets, and state Medicaid programs and the communities they serve.

Sent to CMS: Administrator Verma

Sponsored by: Families USA

ISSUE: SUPPORT OF THE LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

General Content: The Trump administration [proposed to eliminate LIHEAP](#) for the fourth consecutive year. In signing the National Energy & Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC) [letter of support](#) we demonstrate the importance of LIHEAP in our communities. LIHEAP serves a vital, life-saving role, protecting millions of families from the most brutal climate fluctuations, including increasingly hot and dangerously cold temperatures. In addition, each year, LIHEAP contributes nearly half of the total funding included in the Weatherization Assistance Program network.

Sent to: Congressional Appropriations Committees

Sponsored by: National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition

ISSUE: 2021 WIC APPROPRIATIONS LETTER

General Content: Support for full funding of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Administered by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), WIC is an evidence-based program that has been instrumental in improving at-risk women and children's health, growth, and development for nearly fifty years.

Sent to: Chairman Hoeber, Ranking Member Merkley, Chairman Bishop, and Ranking Member Fortenberry:

Sponsored by: FRIENDS OF THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

ISSUE: SUPPORT OF CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING APPROPRIATIONS.

General Content: Along input from other national partners in the Child Care & Early Learning Coalition – we have put together our FY 2021 appropriations asks for childcare and early learning, which include:

- + \$5 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, which could serve as many as 646,000 additional children and build off the recent gains made by states in serving more families, raising payments to providers, and improving their childcare assistance systems.

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- +\$1.256 billion for Head Start (total of \$11.869 billion), including a cost-of-living adjustment to support the Head Start and Early Head Start workforce, quality improvement funding to address the impacts of trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACES), and funding to expand Early Head Start, including for Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships;
- + \$787.300 million for early childhood services for infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children provided through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and
- +\$125 million for the Preschool Development Grants Birth through Five (PDG B-5) program

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: National Women's Law Center

NAC FOCUS AREA: RACISM

ISSUE: CDC RACIAL AND ETHNIC APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY HEALTH FY 2021

General Content: Racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately affected by chronic disease in America. The REACH program is one of the only community health programs funded by the CDC that is dedicated to reducing chronic disease for racial and ethnic communities. We support REACH in asking Congress to include \$76.95 million in the FY 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program.

Sent to: Senate and House Labor Health and Human Services (LHHS) Committee Leaders

Sponsored by: REACH

**OTHER RELATED NAC AREAS
FAMILY**

ISSUE: SUPPORTING OLDER AMERICANS ACT OF 2020, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 4334.

General Content: A bill reauthorizing the federal Older Americans Act (OAA), which has been essential in developing, coordinating, and delivering home and community-based services that help older adults age with independence and dignity in their homes and communities for nearly 55 years. Other priorities within the bill address research and demonstrations, Native American services, local planning and development, supports for those living with dementia and social isolation, legal services, nutrition, in-home supportive services, disease prevention and health promotion, multigenerational collaboration, and family caregiver supports.

Sent to: Leaders McConnell and Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Scott and Ranking Member

Sponsored by: National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

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DEMOCRATIC REFORM

ISSUE: PEOPLE ACT (H.R. 1)

General Content: The Declaration for American Democracy coalition call on the U.S. Senate to finally advance the For the People Act (H.R. 1). This set of transformational, comprehensive democracy reforms, which already passed the U.S. House and has the support of 47 Senators, will protect and expand people's right to vote, take power away from big money and lobbyists, and restore ethics and accountability.

Sent to: Senate Majority Leader McConnell

Sponsored by: Declaration for American Democracy

ISSUE: PART-TIME WORKER BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2020

General Content: The Part-Time Worker Bill of Rights will afford crucial protections to millions of part-time workers by expanding access to workplace benefits, ensuring that large employers offer current part-time employees access to additional hours before making new hires, and requiring employers to treat part-time and full-time workers equally when they do the same jobs.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: National Women's Law Center