

NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER PRIORITIES SIGNED ONTO ON BEHALF OF USA PROVINCE LEADERS: December 2019

Prepared by Brigid Lawlor, Liaison

NAC FOCUS AREA: IMMIGRATION

ISSUE: TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE STATUS

General Content: The Senate Foreign Relations Committee recently released a [report](#) on Temporary Protected Status (TPS) revealing the Trump administration, with full knowledge of the consequences, not only moved forward with their plans to terminate TPS but accelerated the timeline for El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti, among others, to better align with the Trump re-election campaign. We signed on to a letter to Chairman Risch to urge a committee investigation into the serious findings, as well as to take up permanent protections for TPS holders.

Sent to: Chairman Risch of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Sponsored by: NP Strategy Group

ISSUE: NEW WAY FORWARD ACT

General Content: Reps. Jesús García (IL-04), Karen Bass (CA-37), and Pramila Jayapal (WA-07) are planning to introduce the New Way Forward Act on December 10th, which would repeal the '96 immigration laws. The bill would decriminalize migration by repealing the '96 laws and sections 1325/1326. Notable provisions include restoring discretion to immigration judges, ensuring that all detained immigrants receive a prompt and fair hearing, and providing an opportunity for deported individuals to return to the U.S.

Sent to: House of Representatives sponsors listed above

Sponsored by: Network

ISSUE: RSVP/COSPONSOR: REFUGEES, FAITH AND BUSINESS LEADERS, ALLIES TO SHOW UP AT US DISTRICT COURT IN MD TO SAVE THE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

General Content: On Wednesday, January 8th, the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland will hear oral arguments in HIAS, Church World Service, and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service v. Trump, and refugees and their allies will be there.

The lawsuit was brought by the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) on behalf of HIAS, CWS, LIRS, and the thousands of refugees whose futures remain stalled due to the Trump administration's anti-refugee policies. This lawsuit challenges Executive Order 13,888, which purports to allow states and localities to block refugee resettlement within their jurisdictions.

If not blocked by the Court, this cruel and illegal EO will lead to the separation of refugee families and leave refugees, former refugees and U.S. citizens without access to critical supportive services. It will also allow the decision of an elected official to arbitrarily end a successful public-private partnership that has been invested in and built-up over decades, stripping congregations, volunteers, and community sponsors of their ability to welcome refugees and live out their faith callings.

Sent to: Various Media Outlets to promote a vigil outside the courthouse so as to support the refugees

Sponsored by: Franciscan Action Network

NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY

ISSUE: S,2765 BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET REFORM ACT

General Content: Letter expressed concern that it would change the budget resolution process and could have disastrous effects on mandatory funding for programs that are vital to the health and wellbeing of hundreds of millions of people in the U.S. Cuts to Medicaid, the Children's Health insurance Program (CHIP), Medicare, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), and supplemental Security Income.

It is likely to have other adverse impacts on families and to make recessions deeper and more frequent.

Sent to: Senate

Sponsored by: Families USA

ISSUE: LETTER TO STRENGTHEN LOWER HEALTH CARE COSTS LHCC

General Content: request that key provisions that improve health for women and families be included in the end of year health package. Collectively, our organizations work to improve the affordability of health care, expand access, and combat the maternal health crisis. The bipartisan, bicameral Lower Health Care Costs Act released by the Senate HELP Committee and the House Committee on Energy & Commerce will put an end to surprise medical billing and also includes important steps to improve maternal health.

Sent to: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy

Sponsored by: National Partnership for Women & Families

ISSUE: THE “SUMMER MEALS ACT OF 2019 (S. 1908/HR. 2818)

General Content: The “Summer Meals Act of 2019” ([S. 1908/H.R. 2818](#)) would: improve the area eligibility test by lowering it from 50 percent to 40 percent to allow more low-income communities to provide summer meals; allow nonprofit and local government agencies to provide meals year-round through the Summer Food Service Program; allow all sites to serve three meals; and provide grant funding to support efforts to reach underserved areas. S. 1908 includes an additional provision to support meal service in disaster situations.

Sent to: Senate

Sponsored by: Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)

NAC FOCUS AREA: VIOLENCE

ISSUE: END US SUPPORT FOR YEMEN WAR IN DOD APPROPS

General Content: Letter to Speaker Pelosi and Chairwoman Lowey, urging they do everything in their power to see Representative Ruppertsberger’s amendment be retained in the final DOD Appropriations bill sent to the President. If enacted, this amendment would end unconstitutional and immoral US support to the Saudi-UAE war in Yemen. We are keeping this letter open till Monday and expect a vote as early as Tuesday.

Sent to: Speaker Pelosi and Chairwoman Lowey

Sponsored by: Friends Committee on National Legislation