

**NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER PRIORITIES SIGNED ON TO ON BEHALF OF
U.S. PROVINCE LEADERS: April 1-19, 2020
Prepared by Brigid Lawlor, Liaison**

Comment: Because of the volume of COVID-19 responses, the general issues which would have come to NAC in ordinary times are separated from those that specifically relate to the pandemic.

NON COVID-19 SIGNS -ONS BY U.S. PROVINCE LEADERS

NAC FOCUS AREA: IMMIGRATION

ISSUE: MONTGOMERY COUNTY SIGN-ON LETTER FOR UNIVERSAL REPRESENTATION FOR DETAINED IMMIGRANTS

General Content: Letter asking the Montgomery County Council to ensure that immigrants from Montgomery County who are detained by ICE can be included in our County's funding for legal representation. As the letter explains, the County Executive has placed \$545,000 in the FY2021 budget for legal representation for immigrants in removal proceedings. For the past two years, that funding has excluded immigrants with any one of a long list of prior criminal convictions. This has resulted in no funding at all reaching our most vulnerable immigrants: those who are detained by ICE.

Sent to: Montgomery County Council, MD

Sponsored by: Montgomery County Deportation Defense Coalition

NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY

ISSUE: DISASTER AID

General Content: Disaster aid legislation that meets the needs of impacted communities across the U.S. and to make public the data to ensure that the recovery reaches all households. Those of with the lowest incomes are the most severely impacted—should have access to safe, accessible, and affordable housing, nutrition assistance, and other social services during the recovery process. Disaster assistance funding is critically needed now for states like North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, California, Nebraska, Iowa, Puerto Rico and other territories.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ISSUE: SUPPORTING FAIR LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION FUNDING

General Content: Letter to secure a strong funding allocation for the House and Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittees. Areas include: support for vital services including child care, Head Start, home heating assistance, job training and education, nutrition for seniors, substance use and mental health services, public health protections, and community actions' anti-poverty programs.

Sent to: House and Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittees

Sponsored by: The Coalition on Human Needs, in conjunction with the Coalition for Health Funding, Committee for Education Funding, and Campaign to Invest in America's

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ISSUE: THE IMPROVING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH ACT OF 2020

General Content: Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragan (A-44) is introducing a bill that would create a program at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to focus on Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), including grants to states for a public health approach to SDOH. The office of Rep. Barragan is seeking sign on support.

Sent to: Rep. Nannette Diaz Barragan

Sponsored by: Trust for America's Health

NAC FOCUS AREA: VIOLENCE

ISSUE: FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS THAT SERVE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

General Content: The letter outlines the need for federal funding and urges Congress to provide strong investments in life-saving programs including, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA). Legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) passed in the House last week and should be considered by the Senate in the coming months. Funding for VAWA and related programs is a separate process. Funding for VAWA is secure through September 30, 2019 but now we must focus on funding in fiscal year 2020. Your voice is needed to support this vital funding!

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: National Network to End Domestic Violence

NAC FOCUS AREA: OTHER RELATED MATTERS

ISSUE: 2020 PRESIDENTIAL PLATFORM

General Content: The next president of the United States should stand with Americans across the country and commit to enacting policies to address these key principles, building on the foundation of the For the People Act, H.R. 1, passed this year in the House of Representatives (and its Senate companion, S. 949).

1. **Our democracy must include the right to vote and have that vote counted.** A strong democracy is one where voting is a fundamental right, civic responsibility, and free from discriminatory rules.
2. **Our democracy must be honest.** A strong democracy is ethical, accountable, and serves the people.
3. **Our democracy must have meaningful participation.** A strong democracy is one where our influence is based on the force of ideas, not the size of our wallets.
4. **Our democracy must provide transparency into our government and our elections.** A strong democracy is one where people know who is trying to gain influence over our representatives and our votes.
5. **Our democracy must be responsive.** A strong democracy works to respond to the needs of people and their communities, building trust in governance and equity.
6. **Our democracy must uphold our checks and balances.** A strong democracy is one where the Executive is balanced by a responsible, functioning Congress and

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independent judiciary, in which no official, including the President, is allowed to abuse their power.

In addition to proposing a specific, bold platform to combat corruption and strengthen and expand our democracy, leaders must champion these reforms on the campaign trail. Leaders must make democracy revitalization plans a central part of their campaign and build support for these policies. If elected, this platform's enactment must be the next president's first priority in 2021.

Sent to: Letter to presidential campaigns on democracy reform

Sponsored by: Franciscan Action Network, Declaration for American Democracy Coalition Workforce

ISSUE: RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

General Content: The recent Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) decision to exempt federally funded foster care and adoption agencies in South Carolina from the religious nondiscrimination protections provided under 45 CFR § 75.300(c). Paradoxically, the exemption uses the concept of religious freedom as a justification for taxpayer-funded religious discrimination.

Right now, the Tennessee legislature is considering a bill that would allow just this type of discrimination—the bills are aimed at permitting child welfare providers that receive taxpayer dollars and participate in government-supported child welfare services to discriminate against prospective parents if they are not in full agreement with the religious tenets of a faith-based child welfare provider. Two months ago, South Carolina had a similar bill. It seems to be spreading from state to state.

Sent to: Health and Human Services

Sponsored by: Americans United for Separation of Church and State

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COVID-19 SIGNS -ONS BY U.S. PROVINCE LEADERS

NAC FOCUS AREA: IMMIGRATION

**ISSUE: FEDERAL IMMIGRANT RELEASE FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY TOGETHER ACT
(FIRST ACT)**

General Content: Co-sponsored by Representative Jayapal and Senator Booker, this Act provides urgent and critical restrictions on immigration detention and enforcement during this unprecedented national public health emergency to protect our immigrant communities and collective health.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: National Immigration Justice Center

**ISSUE: WE ARE WITH DREAMERS SIGN ON STATEMENT IN EVENT OF NEGATIVE
SUPREME COURT DECISION STATEMENT**

General Content: In the weeks ahead, the Supreme Court will determine whether to permit the Trump administration to terminate Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Given the unprecedented COVID related challenges facing America, we hope that the Court will delay a decision and spare DACA recipients from potential exposure to an additional existential crisis. But in order to ensure that there is a strong, unified response in the event of a negative Court decision, the statement is calling upon the Administration to keep DACA renewals open and to refrain from deporting Dreamers while Congress works toward a more permanent solution.

If the Court does rule against us, the statement will be published widely and immediately in an effort to pressure the administration to mitigate the impact of the ruling.

Sent to: Trump Administration

Sponsored by: Faith in Action/Home is Here

**ISSUE: DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS DACA SUPREME COURT
DECISION**

General Content: Soon the Supreme Court is set to decide the future of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Since 2012, more than 825,000 undocumented immigrants who arrived in the United States as children have obtained protection from deportation and work authorization through DACA. Nationwide, 1.5 million individuals live with a DACA recipient, including more than a quarter-million U.S.-born children who have a DACA recipient parent.

Each year, DACA recipients contribute \$566.9 million in mortgage payments and \$2.3 billion in rental payments, and their households pay \$5.6 billion in federal taxes and \$3.1 billion in state and local taxes. Consensus is clear: DACA recipients should have the opportunity to remain in the country permanently and be put on a pathway to citizenship. The Center for American Progress, Emerson Collective, the Immigration Hub, FWD.us, and the Home is Here

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coalition are working together to highlight the broad support that exists throughout the country for DACA recipients and their families in anticipation of this ruling.

Sent to: Statement circulating publicly and to the Supreme Court
Sponsored by: United We Dream

ISSUE: IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITIES DURING COVID-19

General Content: Letter urging the Administration to act immediately to protect the health and safety of everyone in our communities. Request includes:

- *Halt deportations of women, men, children and families.
- *Release all detained children and families, given the previous deaths of minors for influenza while in U.S. custody.
- *Release detained immigrant adults so that they can stay safe with their families in the U.S. and avoid contracting COVID-19.
- *Ensure that every incarcerated person has access to proper hygiene products and free calls to lawyers, friends, and family members until they are released.
- *Ensure free access to medical tests and health care for all members of our communities.
- *Fully suspend the public charge rule at USCIS by creating exemptions for financial loss due to the outbreak, and liberalize criteria for the Families First Coronavirus Act (FFCRA).
- *Stop ICE and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) enforcement activities, including deportations and interior checkpoints, and temporarily close immigration courts nationwide.
- *End the suspension of entry to asylum seekers, and uphold U.S. and international law to protect people fleeing violence and persecution.
- *Extend immigrant visa validity periods and deadlines that will expire before the end of the current global pandemic, and associated travel restrictions.
- *Resume refugee and special immigrant admissions expeditiously — consistent with general travel restrictions — and extend security check validity periods for refugees and special immigrants.

Sent to: Members of Congress
Sponsored by: Interfaith Immigration Coalition

ISSUE: SUPPORT IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITIES DURING COVID-19

General Content: As Congress considers the fourth package (COVID #4), it is critical that any proposal prioritize resources for our refugee neighbors and ensure that all community members are able to mitigate risks to their vulnerability to COVID-19. Together, we urge Congress to:

Provide \$642 million in Refugee and Entrant Assistance (REA) funds for the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for resettlement services (including Transition and Medical Services (TAMS) and Refugee Support Services (RSS)). This funding would go toward cash and medical assistance, housing/rent, utilities, transportation, food, and health needs unavailable through normally operating public channels.

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Clarify that all refugees, including those who were admitted in 2019 and 2020, should be eligible for the direct cash rebate.

Sent to: Members of Congress
Sponsored by: Church World Service

ISSUE: SUPPORT IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITIES DURING COVID-19

General Content: In the midst of a global pandemic that impacts people across all borders. It is time to come together --U.S. born citizens, immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees--to work through this challenging time. When one person is at greater risk of COVID-19, all are at greater risk. Letter includes immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in all COVID-19 recovery plans - and keep families and communities together.

Sent to: Members of Congress, Trump Administration
Sponsored by: American Friends Committee

ISSUE: ASYLUM PROTECTIONS AT THE BORDER FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS AND ALL OTHER REFUGEES

General Content: Letter to DHS urging the agency to restore asylum protections at the border for domestic violence survivors and all other refugees, in light of the increase in domestic violence around the world as a result of social distancing/isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sent to: Department of Human Services
Sponsored by: Center for Gender & Refugee Studies

NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY

ISSUE: COVID-19: FAMILIES FIRST AND THE CARES ACTS OMISSIONS

General Content: The federal response to the COVID-19 crisis, including the Families First and the CARES Acts, left many low- and moderate-income immigrants out of the public health and stimulus policies. This exclusion threatens the well-being of immigrants, their families - which include millions of U.S. citizen children - and our communities as a whole. This omission will greatly undermine the nation's ability to overcome this unprecedented crisis. call on Members of Congress to support rapid passage of a COVID-19 relief package and ensure that it includes the following provisions:

- Halt implementation of the Department of Homeland Security and State Department public charge regulations.
- Ensure that access to health care is available regardless of a person's immigration status, income or categorical eligibility. Testing and treatment of COVID 19 symptoms and related health conditions, and vaccines (when available) should be covered through emergency Medicaid and other Medicaid options.
- Ensure access to the stimulus rebates for everyone who files tax returns, whether they use a Social Security Number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number.

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- Ensure access to nutrition assistance through programs like the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP), and extend the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program through the summer of 2020.
- Ensure that health services, and information about COVID-19 and about how to access benefit programs is available in multiple languages and through trusted community providers and that providers have the resources they need to access interpretation services.
- Ensure adequate funding for Community Health Centers, which are essential providers in many immigrant and low-income communities.

Sent to: Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy

Sponsored by: National Immigration Law Center

NAC FOCUS AREA: US POLICY THAT AFFECTS OTHER COUNTRIES

ISSUE: COVID-19 IMPACT ON MARKETS, HEALTHCARE, FINANCIAL CRISES

General Content: As COVID-19 takes lives, impacts the markets, affects healthcare and drives a global financial crisis, we urge the International Monetary Fund, the G20 and White House to:

- Cancel debt payments and expand debt relief for developing countries to bolster healthcare, protect the vulnerable and workers as they confront COVID-19
- Mobilize additional resources to support all countries impacted by the economic and health impacts of the coronavirus
- Improve debt restructuring, issue debt payment moratoriums and create expedient debt reprofiling processes for countries impacted by the coronavirus
- Support all countries to emerge from the crisis with more resilience by encouraging policies and agreements to increase protections for the vulnerable, instill greater public budget transparency, implement financial crisis and market protections, promote responsible lending and borrowing and curb corruption and tax evasion

Sent to: White House, IMF, G20

Sponsored by: Jubilee

ISSUE: SANCTIONS LIFTED FOR EMERGENCY MEASURES

General Content: Letter urging that to take immediate emergency measures, and consider long-term measures as well, that would allow the peoples of sanctioned countries to respond to the devastating human and economic fallout of COVID-19.

Sent to: President Trump, Secretary Mnuchin and Secretary Pompeo

Sponsored by: American Friends Service Committee

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**NAC FOCUS: OTHER RELATED ISSUES
AREA: DEFENSE PROCUREMENT ACT**

ISSUE: LETTER TO PRESIDENT TRUMP - INVOKE DEFENSE PROCUREMENT ACT

General Content: Letter urging President Trump to invoke the authority provided by the Defense Production Act (DPA) and to engage in a more comprehensive, systems-wide application of the statute. Using the full force of the DPA to advance the manufacturing of critically needed medical equipment will help to ensure that frontline health care providers are able to provide the care needed by their patients with COVID-19. And it will ensure that those same professionals have the personal protective equipment to keep them safe from the virus, and able to continue treating patients.

Sent to: President Trump

Sponsored by: Families USA, Medicaid Coalition

AREA: ELECTION PROTECTIONS

ISSUE: ELECTION PROTECTIONS IN COVID-19 PACKAGE

General Content: Within the COVID 19 context and there is broad agreement that these are the steps needed to ensure a fair election in 2020. Therefore Congress is asked to: 1) Provide a firm \$4B request to include cost estimates to support remaining primary elections, 2) Use Language urging support of USPS as necessary infrastructure for vote by mail, 3) Include additional language re: racial justice implications of voter suppression.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Franciscan Action Network

AREA: FAMILY

ISSUE: CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING COALITION LETTER: PHASE IV COVID-19 CONGRESSIONAL STIMULUS

General Content: With work beginning on the next COVID-19 package already, funding is not sufficient (3.5B) to address the full scope of needs facing families, educators, and providers as a result of this crisis. Therefore, this request is at least \$50 billion in funding dedicated to child care. This funding must allow funding for needs that they identify, including (but not limited to):

- Paying providers to cover ongoing operating costs while they are closed;
- Providing essential duty pay for child care workers in programs that are remaining open during the crisis;
- Providing materials, resources, training and other public health supports regarding health and safety practices;
- Eliminating copayments or tuition for families during this public health and economic crisis while ensuring that providers are still paid;
- Funding and paying substitute educators where needed and available;
- Purchasing materials for providers that cannot afford or find supplies;

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- Providing virtual learning opportunities when appropriate and mental health supports for families; and
- Support for helping child care providers navigate small business loan application processes.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: National Women's Law Center

ISSUE: IMMEDIATE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE JOHN H. CHAFEE FOSTER CARE (CHAFEE) PROGRAM FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD IN COVID-19 RELIEF BILL PHASE IV

General Content: Five recommendations to ease the regulatory burden on states and improve synchronization of Chafee with HUD's programs to eliminate the gaps through which youth might fall into homelessness during this unprecedented national crisis:

- Lift the 30% cap on room and board in Chafee
- Extend Chafee eligibility to age 23 nationwide
- Include and pass the *Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act*
- Synchronize Chafee with HUD's Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative
- Provide emergency supplemental funding for Chafee for six months

Sent to: Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth

Sponsored by: National Center for Housing & Child Welfare

ISSUE: COVID – 19 AND THE AGING POPULATION

General Content: Letter to The Secretary of Health and Human Services urging his Department to fix issues with Medicare and marketplace enrollment that are currently acting as barriers for older adults and people with disabilities to access health care coverage.

Sent to: The Honorable Alex M. Azar II, Secretary of Health and Human Services

Sponsored by: Justice in Aging

ISSUE: COMMONSENSE LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO EXPAND RECOVERY REBATES TO MIXED STATUS AND OTHER HOUSEHOLDS LEFT OUT BY THE CARES ACT

General Content: support Rep. Ilhan Omar's legislative proposals to address the eligibility concerns of most mixed status couples and families who will not be receiving relief payments under current statute in Public Law 116-136 (i.e. CARES Act):

- 1) Congresswoman Omar is leading a letter to Treasury to request improved and streamlined IRS guidance on the current eligibility and delivery methods of relief payments.
- 2) Congresswoman Omar is introducing a bill to expand the eligibility for such payments to all mixed status couples who file jointly.

Sent to: Rep. Ilhan Omar's office

Sponsored by: NETWORK

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ISSUE: AUTOMATIC STIMULUS PAYMENTS FOR PEOPLE ON SSI AND CERTAIN VA BENEFITS

General Content: Letter urging Treasury, SSA, and the VA to automatically issue stimulus payments to SSI and certain VA recipients. Treasury released a web form that allows for some non-filers to submit information to receive their stimulus payments. This is a step in the right direction, but we are extremely concerned that this portal is not accessible to mobile phone users (including those who only access the internet via their phones), does not include solutions for people who do not have bank accounts, and also requires additional steps for low-income beneficiaries who are already in governmental systems that can be used to make automatic payments.

Sent to: Treasury Dept, Social Security Administration and Veterans Administration
Sponsored by: ARC

AREA: HEALTH

ISSUE: COVID-19 RESPONSE HEALTH PRIORITIES

General Content: Request to Congress as they address key health policy priorities in the next pandemic response package. To support the health of all families in this country, Congress should advance policies that will:

- Ensure access to affordable health insurance coverage for all.
- Provide states, localities, and tribes with the financial support they need to respond effectively.
- Protect the health and safety of the health care workforce.
- Organize national public health capacity.
- Protect all patients' access to care and prohibit price gouging of health care services.

Sent to: Members of Congress
Sponsored by: Families USA

ISSUE: COVID-19 Response Health and Economic Security Priorities

General Content: Key measures in the health care, employment, and housing and lending areas that Congress needs to include in response efforts. 1) Overarching principles for coronavirus response, 2) Ensuring access to quality health care for all people in America, including targeted relief for those most impacted, 3) Protecting the livelihoods of the most vulnerable working people in our nation). Keeping people in homes, safeguarding their financial health, and protecting people who are homeless, 5) Providing assistance with basic living standards; and 6). Stimulating the economy and investing in our future

Sent to: Members of Congress
Sponsored by: The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

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ISSUE: “PHASE 4” LEGISLATION ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

General Content: Soon, Congress will return to take action on “phase 4” legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This letter is a call to ensure that all people in our nation can get the care they need to stay healthy, including increasing Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) for states and FMAP incentives for states to expand Medicaid. In addition to Medicaid issues, Congress must:

- Ensure access to affordable health insurance coverage for all.
- Provide states, localities, and tribes with the financial support they need to respond effectively.
- Protect the health and safety of the health care workforce.
- Organize national public health capacity.
- Protect all patients’ access to care and prohibit price gouging of health care services.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Families USA

AREA: HOUSING

ISSUE: HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) RULEMAKING SUSPENSION

General Content: Letter asking HUD to suspend all non-emergency rulemaking until after the end of the declared national emergency. The request is for the US to freeze comment periods or suspend the rulemaking process for a specific proposal; this letter builds off those requests and expands the ask to specifically mention several other rules, including mixed status families, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, and Disparate Impact.

Sent to: HUD Officials

Sponsored by: The National Low-Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) and National Women’s Law Center (NLWC)

ISSUE: LEAD POISONING PREVENTION AND HEALTHY HOMES

General Content: Request to continue funding in 2021 noting that Congress should protect the most vulnerable citizens, children, and the elderly. Request that COVID-19 not change funding.

- 1) Sent to: Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Chair of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Service, Education, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives and The Honorable Tom Cole, Ranking Member
- 2) NOTE: Similar letter re: Environmental Protection sent to: Rep Betty McCollum Chair of the Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations and Rep. David Joyce Ranking Member
- 3) NOTE: Similar Letter sent to: Rep. David Price, Chai Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations and Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart Ranking Member

Sponsored by: National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition

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AREA: INCARCERATION ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

ISSUE: EMERGENCY COMMUNITY SUPERVISION ACT

General Content: The Booker/Jeffries Emergency Community Supervision Act of 2020 seeks home confinement for those vulnerable and detained in BOP. In the light of the corona virus, The Emergency Community Supervision Act of 2020 would immediately place vulnerable individuals – those who are pregnant, those with underlying health issues, and those who are age 50 or older – in community supervision outside of prison, unless they pose a violent threat to the community. The bill also addresses pretrial detention and stops arrests for technical violation. The law would expire 60 days after the epidemic is ended.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: College & Community Fellowship

ISSUE: HELP INCARCERATED PEOPLE DURING COVID-19

General Content: During the COVID-19 pandemic incarcerated and detained individuals are being deprived of family visits across the country in conditions that make them uniquely at risk to contracting COVID-19. The attached sign-on letter is in support of the Media Justice campaign to ask the Federal Communications Commission to:

- Request predatory prison phone companies offer free phone and video calls with no fees to incarcerated and detained individuals immediately for the next 60 days;
- Press the prison phone industry to commit to the Keep Americans Connected Pledge;
- Deny Securus' and all companies' request to stop paying into the Universal Service Fund.

Sent to: Federal Communications Commission

Sponsored by: Media Justice

AREA: NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS & SOCIAL SERVICE BLOCK GRANTS

ISSUE: NONPROFIT COMMUNITY LETTER ON REFORMS TO THE CARES ACT

General Content: Letter from national nonprofits asking Congress to create in the next stimulus bill a **Nonprofit Track** to ensure that charitable nonprofits are supported in their service on the front lines of responding to the COVID-19 crisis.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: National Council of Non-profits

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ISSUE: SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

General Content: Request for an increase to SSBG funding by \$4.1 billion to respond to the growing needs of older people, children and families, and people with disabilities in the midst of COVID-19. The letter also urges Congress to include no less than a 5 percent set-aside for Tribes, which does not exist in the current Title XX statute.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Generations United

AREA: SPECIFIC STATE REQUESTS

ISSUE: MARYLAND: PROPOSALS ADDRESSING THE PANDEMIC

General Content: Letter to elected officials in Annapolis in the state of Maryland. The letter begins by expressing gratitude for the significant efforts in addressing the pandemic. It then calls for the implementation of a number of proposals. 1) expand healthcare access to all affected by the pandemic, 2) provide emergency relief funds to assist struggling Marylanders and help forestall or avoid a catastrophic recession, 3) expand protections for workers, 4) support our public school teachers, staff, and students, 5) robustly reduce incarceration, 6) require landlords and banks to ensure housing justice, and 7) uphold fair elections.

Sent to: Governor Hogan, Speaker Jones, President Ferguson, and Members of the Joint COVID-19 Response Legislative Workgroup

Sponsored by: We Are CASA

AREA: WORKERS RIGHTS

ISSUE: ENSURING ACCESS TO JUSTICE RE RIGHT TO SUE NOTICES AND FILING DEADLINES

General Content: COVID-19 is increasing workers' exposure to a variety of workplace violations as well as creating economic, medical and other barriers to their ability to enforce their rights during this crisis. Letter asking the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) take some critical steps to ensure access to justice during this time, in particular:

- 1) issuing a moratorium on right-to-sue notices and tolling of all right-to-sue notices that would require a lawsuit to be filed after February 29, 2020;
- 2) tolling the time periods for federal workers to start and engage in the EEO process; and
- 3) tolling the 180/300 day filing period for private sector and state and local government charges.

Sent to: Chair Janet Dhillon, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Sponsored by: National Women's Law Center

STATEMENTS FROM US PROVINCE LEADERS

U. S. Province Leaders were quotes on an official statement made by NAC against the **Withdrawal of Funds to the World Health Organization** during this time of corona virus.