

NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER (NAC) PRIORITIES AND NAC SIGN-ONS BY U.S. PROVINCE LEADERS: May 2022

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The NAC Focus Areas are issues that primarily impact women, children and families on the margins, including but not limited to human trafficking, immigration, poverty and U.S. policies that affect the Good Shepherd mission worldwide. Related areas include the root causes that underlie the concern, or current situation). They include but are not limited to: Covid-19, environmental degradation, families, racism, and violence.

NAC FOCUS AREA: IMMIGRATION

ISSUE: REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF RACIALLY DISPARATE DECISIONS REGARDING THE USE OF TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

General Content: Letter to President Biden to urge that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in consultation with the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to:

(a) conduct a comprehensive audit and investigation of the administration's internal regulatory and sub-regulatory policies regarding the utilization of Temporary Protected Status (TPS), which has led to disparate racial impacts in how and which countries are designated and when; and

(b) designate or redesignate, at minimum, the following countries for Temporary Protected Status (TPS): **Burkina Faso, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Sierra Leone.** All are currently experiencing country conditions that satisfy one or more of the qualifying conditions for a designation of TPS under 8 U.S.C. § 1254(a), extensively documented by conditions experts and advocates. These countries and others should receive their timely due diligence for initial designation and redesignation for TPS. We have also shared this request with the Inspector Generals for both DHS and State in the hopes that they conduct independent investigations into the apparent racialization and politicization of TPS designation decisions.

Sent to: President Biden

Sponsored by: Masa Group

- Also: US POLICIES THAT AFFECT GS MISSION IN OTHER COUNTRIES

NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY

ISSUE: Reject Leaked Text and Negotiate a True TRIPS Waiver

General Content: The recently leaked text of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver proposal at the World Trade Organization (WTO) is worse than no waiver if successfully pushed through, and would make it harder for developing countries to produce generic COVID vaccines. Public health groups including Oxfam, Doctors Without Borders and

Health GAP drafted the letter because it is critical we have a unified civil society condemnation of this text.

Sent to: The Biden Administration through Ambassador Tai

Sponsored by: Public Citizen

ISSUE: PREGNANT WORKERS FAIRNESS ACT

General Content: This bipartisan, common-sense legislation promotes healthy pregnancies and economic stability for working families in all communities. Despite previous legislation, pregnant workers are routinely denied basic, temporary accommodations to ensure a healthy pregnancy. These accommodations are often as simple as a stool to sit on, a break from lifting heavy boxes, schedule changes, and protection from dangerous conditions. These accommodations are especially important for workers in jobs requiring physical activity or exposure to hazardous environments. In lieu of reasonable accommodations at the workplace, many pregnant workers face undue pressure to take a leave of absence, which may jeopardize their livelihood.

The reality of persistent discrimination in the workplace and the lack of clarity around employer obligations calls for new legislation to provide straightforward guidance for both employers and pregnant workers. The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act is that long-needed piece of legislation. It is not right to force workers to make impossible decisions between their job and their health.

Sent to: Members of the Senate

Sponsored by: NETWORK

ISSUE: HRSA COVID-19 UNINSURED PROGRAM

General Content: The request is for Congress to fund the program. Protecting the health and wellbeing of all communities as next phase of the pandemic unfolds requires lawmakers to prioritize the policies and programs that have shown to have the greatest impact. Congress must act urgently to restore the COVID-19 Uninsured Program to fulfill the promise of access to testing, treatment, and vaccinations without cost-sharing

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

Sponsored by: American Academy of Pediatrics and Unidos US and Coalition on Human Need

ISSUE: PRO-WORKER PROVISIONS IN THE COMPETES ACT

General Content: Th letter asks Members of Congress to maintain key aspects of the House-passed version of the bill. These include work pro-worker provisions in the: Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC), The Generalized System of Preferences and Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Modernization Act of 2021, and De Minimis Reform. The programs outlined above are necessary to ensure a level playing field between workers here and abroad and promote shared economic abundance. U.S. trade policies have for decades hollowed out the American middle class reducing our manufacturing capacity and contributing to a race to the bottom. Your committee must create trade policy centered on values that protect our common home and improve the lives of all people—especially those who historically benefit the least from international trade.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: NETWORK

ISSUE: THE BIDEN-HARRIS RACIAL ECONOMIC EQUITY PLAN

General Content: Letter urging President Biden and Vice President Harris to strengthen the economy, tackle racial disparities, and provide much-needed relief to help all Americans weather the pandemic and record inflation by using executive authority to cancel federal student debt immediately.

Cancelling student debt would help borrowers of color, respond to the coronavirus crisis, and provide much needed economic relief

Sent to: President Biden and Vice President Harris

Sponsored by: Student Borrower Protection Center

*Also, Racism and Covid

ISSUE: BUDGET BASED ON HUMAN NEED

General Content: Letter urges Congress to push back on the massive proposed budget for weapons and war increase, and instead calls for investments in programs that benefit people in need. The most serious challenges to the security of Americans arise from non-military threats, such as pandemic disease, climate change, poverty, and racism. This fiscal year presents Congress with an opportunity to invest in areas that address these root causes of insecurity. The letter urges Congress to dramatically cut the level of spending allocated for weapons and war in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget far below President Biden's request of \$813 billion and to instead invest that money in programs that serve human needs.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: American Friends Service Committee

- Also, violence, racism, environment, and poverty

NAC FOCUS AREA: U.S. POLICIES THAT AFFECT GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION IN OTHER COUNTRIES

ISSUE: BABIES OVER BILLIONAIRES

General Content: This bill will propose an income tax on the ultra-wealthy that will disproportionately impact the roughly 700 billionaires in the country to raise over \$1 trillion over 10 years. The income tax reform would deem the untaxed investment gains of billionaires realized creating an immediate tax liability rather than waiting for billionaires to sell their assets.

Specifically, among other things it will:

- Affect people worth at least \$100 million—the richest 0.01% (about 20,000 households).
- Treat the growth in a person's stock and other assets as taxable income each year similar to the way wages are taxed. The tax rate will be the 23.8% capital gains tax rate. Right now, the growth on value of these assets is not taxed unless they are sold.
- It will annually tax 30% of the unrealized capital gains from publicly traded securities like stocks and bonds.
- It will tax half of all unrealized gains from private capital assets every 5 years.
- It is expected to raise at least \$500 billion over 10 years.

By taxing billionaires and other ultrarich people annually on their investment gains — just like workers are taxed every year on their wages — the Babies Over Billionaires Act will make the tax system more fair while raising hundreds of billions of dollars for core priorities from the very wealthiest individuals who typically pay a lower tax rate than nurses and truck drivers

Sent to: House of Representatives
Sponsored by: Americans for Tax Fairness

OTHER RELATED AREAS

AREA: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

ISSUE: Sexual and Domestic Violence

General Content: Request to Congress to:

- fully fund VAWA, FVPSA, and related programs;
- provide steady funding for VOCA, and maintain a tribal funding stream, without transferring funds from VOCA to fund other programs;
- maintain a housing set-aside for survivors in the HUD homelessness program; and
- increase funding to address the backlog in victims' applications at USCIS' Vermont and Nebraska Service Centers.

Sent to: Members of Congress
Sponsored by: National Taskforce to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

AREA: DRUG REFORM

ISSUE: RESTORING HOPE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING ACT

General Content: This letter to the U.S. House's Energy and Commerce Committee urges them to include the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act (H.R. 1384 / S. 445) to remove the buprenorphine X-waiver in the mental health and substance use disorder package. The package, known as the *Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act*, will be the bipartisan bill that the House and Senate will seek to pass to address the overdose crisis.

Right now, the MAT Act is not included in the draft of the *Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act*, but the Committee will consider adding the MAT Act during its mark-up of the package next week. The letter asked them to ensure that the MAT Act makes it into the package,

Sent to: U.S. House's Energy and Commerce Committee.
Sponsored by: NETWORK Ally

AREA: ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

ISSUE: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

General Content: As the Congress considers budget reconciliation legislation, the letter asked them to prioritize funding for environmental justice in any final reconciliation package. Specifically, to include the \$162.9 billion in environmental justice funding that formed part of the \$555 billion in climate investments in H.R. 5376, the Build Back Better Act, as passed by the House of Representatives. All of us have a right to clean air, clean water, and healthy, vibrant communities.

Sent to: Majority Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi
Sponsored by: Friends Committee on National Legislation

STATEMENTS

NAC STATEMENTS

NAC STATEMENT: BUFFALO (Mass Shooting) RESPONSE

A call to pray for the victims, and also to transform our prayers so that they might be a tool to transform of hearts and mind and spur us to action. The statement was a series of questions to help all of us go deeper about the racism associated with this particular mass shooting in an effort to make inroads in combatting this sin.

NAC STATEMENT ON GUN VIOLENCE IN RELATION TO UVALDE SHOOTINGS

As we pray for the terrible losses, once again in a school, we recognize that “God does not move mountains alone;” that he works through us. The statement called for gun control, including strengthening background checks, and banning assault weapons.

COLLABORATIVE STATEMENTS WITH OTHER GROUPS

BUFFALO MASS SHOOTING & TITLE 42

The purpose of the statement was to urge Democratic leaders to first and foremost carry out the policy priorities of Black leaders and civil rights organizations to address white supremacist violence and hate crimes against Black communities. “We further call on Congressional leaders to reject right-wing demands to pursue a border policy debate rife with scare-mongering, anti-Black, and anti-immigrant sentiment as Congress seeks to pass important COVID funding legislation.”

LCWR COLLABORATIVE STATEMENT ON GUN SAFETY

The Killing Must End: LCWR Calls for Action to Prevent Gun Violence

ACTION ALERTS

Sisters, partner-in-mission, benefactors and friends were invited to individually sign on to the following NAC Action Alerts. Action Alerts also contain statements and educational pieces.

1. NAC Welcomes New Hire Leslye Colvin as Policy Advocate (info only)
2. Reflection on the Buffalo Shooting
3. Sharing of Uvalde Statement
4. Please Take Action for Low-Income Families (*Push to get Child Tax Credit included in Reconciliation – linked to trip to WV where GS has a presence*)

PUBLICATION APPEARANCES

A section of NACs Gun Violence appeared in the [Global Sisters Report](#). Fran Eskin-Royer, Executive Director, was quoted as saying “We must use the laws already on the books and we must pass additional common-sense legislation such as strengthening background checks and banning assault weapons.”