

**NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER PRIORITIES  
AND NAC SIGN-ONS BY U.S. PROVINCE LEADERS: April 2021**

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**NAC FOCUS AREA: IMMIGRATION**

**ISSUE: SOUTHEAST ASIAN DEPORTATION**

General Content: Letter to Secretary Mayorkas with asks focused on their enforcement guidelines, prosecutorial discretion, the 234(d) sanctions and bilateral agreements, and OCC policies.

Sent to: Secretary Mayorkos, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Sponsored by: Asian Americans Advancing Justice, NCAPA, SEARAC, and SEAFN

**ISSUE: IMMIGRANTS IN CARE INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE**

General Content: Letter to urge President Biden and Congress to support a pathway to citizenship for essential workers, Dreamers, and TPS holders in the next economic recovery package. Nearly 23 million immigrants have been putting their lives on the line in essential roles that keep our children and families healthy, and keep our child care, health care system, long term care, food supply chain and our economy running. To create a strong care infrastructure, healthy children and families, and a strong economy, we need to ensure that immigrant children and families have a pathway to citizenship.

Sent to: President Biden and Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Moms Rising

**ISSUE: ASYLUM SEEKERS RIGHTS**

General Content: Open letter to Congress about Wilmer, a Honduran asylum seeker who has been detained by ICE for over two years in the two immigrant detention centers located in Virginia. He should have had a hearing and been granted parole. Request is to Congress to revise the policy. People fleeing from violence should not be punished. Wilmer is a survivor of.

Sent to: Members of Congress with delivery to Senator Kaine, Senator Warner and President Biden

Sponsored by: Disciple Home Missions

\*Also Human Trafficking and Violence

**NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY**

**ISSUE: SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) REFORM  
'BUILD BACK BETTER' PLAN**

General Content: The President and Congress prepare the next round of legislation, it's essential that they take the opportunity to aggressively push to overhaul and transform the UI system using a people-first perspective.

Sent to: President Joseph R. Biden Jr., cc: Dr. Cecilia Rouse, Dr. Susan Rice, Mr. Brian Reese

Sponsored by: National Employment Law Project

\*Also Racism, Covid-19

## **ISSUE: TAX HAVENS AND OFFSHORING ACT**

General Content: The letter that would support corporate tax transparency Tax Havens and Offshoring Act. It would significantly increase the transparency of corporate tax practices by requiring large corporations registered with the SEC to publicly disclose critical information — including profits, taxes, revenues, employees, and tangible assets — on a country-by-country basis. Shining a light on offshore corporate tax practices will act as a major deterrent against multinational tax avoidance, a practice that drains an estimated \$77 billion in U.S. tax revenue each year. This is money that can be invested in community.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: OXFAM

## **ISSUE: THE INCLUSIVE PROSPERITY ACT**

General Content: The Inclusive Prosperity Act would raise massive revenue for critical services, such as free public college, infrastructure, expanded healthcare, affordable housing, and climate change mitigation. One economic analysis estimated revenue of nearly \$220 billion per year. Even using much more conservative assumptions, the tax would raise at least \$600 billion over ten years

Sent to: Members of the Senate and House of Representative

Sponsored by: Public Citizen's Congress Watch

## **ISSUE: American Families Plan**

General Content: Letter calling on the Biden Administration and Congress to include robust Medicare drug price negotiation in the American Families Plan package and to reinvest the significant savings from negotiations back into the Medicare program. By using the savings to improve dental, vision, and hearing services, capping out-of-pocket costs and lowering the Medicare eligibility age, the Biden administration and Congress would be delivering on key promises and improving the lives of millions. Expanding Medicare would help to increase coverage and access to care for communities of color, a crucial step in reducing racial and ethnic health inequities and injustices.

Sent to: President Biden, Majority Leader Schumer, and Speaker Pelosi

Sponsored by: Public Citizen

\*also Racism

## **ISSUE: DOMESTIC NUTRITION PROGRAMS**

General Content: Letter to House and Senate Appropriators in support of the Alliance to End Hunger FY22 domestic nutrition programs.

Sent to: House and Senate Appropriations Committee

Sponsored by: Alliance to End Hunger

**ISSUE: CENSUS**

General Content: Reintroducing legislation to amend title 13, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Commerce to provide advance notice to Congress before changing any questions on the decennial census, for other purposes. The new language which does not make substantive changes, but focuses on clarity and readability to reduce litigation risk as much as possible.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Office of U.S. Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)

**ISSUE: EQUITY-CENTERED NATIONAL SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**

General Content: Call on Congress to include an equity-centered national subsidized employment program as a part of the forthcoming recovery package as recommended by President Biden in his American Jobs Plan. Through large-scale federal demonstrations and our experience running subsidized employment programs, we know that subsidized employment is an effective strategy for getting people who would not otherwise be working rapidly connected to jobs and earning income. This includes workers who have been displaced due to economic downturns as well as those who face chronic unemployment even when the economy is growing.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), Heartland Alliance, the National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC)

\*also Racism, Covid-19

**ISSUE: TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS AT HOME AND Abroad**

General Content: Comments on the Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crises focus on the fact that Equity is a Foundational Basis for Tackling the Climate Crisis. It raises Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Questions, a Concentration, Land Tenure and Climate and that Federal Investments in Climate Resilience Must Address a Wider Range of Environmental Injustice and Ecological Threat, Addresses Catastrophic Wildfire Questions, includes Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities Questions and contains Equity Recommendations

Sent to: Secretary Tom Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Sponsored by: The Rural Coalition

\*Also Environmental Degradation, Racism and U.S. Policy that affects other countries

**ISSUE: CHILD TAX CREDIT**

General Content: The letter requests the Implementation of the Child TAX Credit is key to the alleviation of child poverty so as to better connect families who have not recently filed taxes with simple, easy, and straightforward

Sent to: Commissioner Rettig, Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service and Secretary Yellen, Secretary of Treasury

Sponsored by: Children's Defense Fund

**ISSUE: APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE VITA PROGRAM (VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM).**

General Content: For over half a century, the VITA program has provided free tax preparation services to lower-income Americans. Built on public-private partnership, and led by the IRS, the VITA program trains and certifies

volunteers to help low and moderate-income families those who cannot afford the fees for professional tax services, but who still need assistance to accurately complete their taxes

Sent to: Chairman Leahy Vice Chairman Shelby and (Senate), Chairwoman DeLauro, and Ranking Member Grange (House)

Sponsored by: United Way and Prosperity Now

**ISSUE: HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS**

General Content: Letter urging the inclusion of Healthy School Meals for All in the upcoming federal infrastructure bill, which would ensure that every child in the U.S. has access to a nutritious breakfast and lunch at school to support their academic success. g the inclusion of Healthy School Meals for All in the upcoming federal infrastructure bill, which would ensure that every child in the U.S. has access to a nutritious breakfast and lunch at school to support their academic success.

Free school meals for all could be life-giving before students, their families, schools, and communities, particularly as the nation works towards recovering from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's infrastructure bill provides the perfect opportunity to ensure that all students are hunger-free and ready to learn through Healthy School Meals for All Students.

Sent to: State of Maryland Federal Senators

Sponsored by: Hunger Solutions

\*Also Covid-19

**ISSUE: IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTIONS OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT**

General Content: The letter calls for the inclusion of hundreds of thousands of good new jobs in public and community health in the *American Rescue Plan Act*. To combat COVID and advance health equity and racial justice.

Sent to: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Sponsored by: Partners in Health

\*Also: Covid-19 and Racial Equity

**ISSUE: FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION FOR FARM WORKERS**

General Content: Letter is a call on British American Tobacco (BAT) 1) to negotiate a memorandum of understanding – as requested by the Farm Labor Organizing Committee – that will guarantee freedom of association, without retaliation, to farm workers employed on Reynolds American's contract farms. 2) to prohibit contract growers and H2A farm labor contractors from retaliating against farm workers for exercising basic workplace rights. Workers who sign union cards, advocate for higher wages, or organize for better living and working conditions should not be subject to retaliation.

Sent to: Mr. Richard Burrows, Chairman of the Board, British American Tobacco

Sponsored by: Disciple Home Missions

\*Also, Covid-19 and Human Trafficking

**ISSUE: PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO DRUG ABUSE**

General Content: Letter urges Congress and the Biden administration to let the Trump administration temporary "class-wide" emergency scheduling of fentanyl-related substances expire in May 2021. Class-wide scheduling would exacerbate pretrial detention, mass incarceration and racial disparities in the prison system, doubling down on a fear-based, enforcement-first response to a public health challenge. As we approach the 50-year

milestone of President Nixon's announcement of the War on Drugs, there is ample evidence that these unscientific policies destroy communities, entrench racial disparities, and do nothing to reduce drug supply or demand. Lawmakers should instead support legislation grounded in public health and evidence-based approaches to illicit fentanyl-related overdose deaths.

Sent to: Chairman Richard Durbin and Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member Senate Judiciary Committee, Chairman Jerrold Nadler Rep. Jim Jordan, Ranking Member House Judiciary Committee with cc to: Chairwoman Patty Murray, Senate HELP Committee; Ranking Member Richard Burr, Senate HELP Committee; Chairman Frank Pallone, House Energy and Commerce Committee; Ranking Member Cathy McMorris Rodgers, House Energy and Commerce Committee

Sponsored by: ACLU, Cure, Due Process, Drug Policy Alliance, The National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, The Sentencing Project

\*Also Racial Equity

### **ISSUE: STUDENT DEBT**

General Content: The letter requests the Secretary to take immediate action to cancel student debt owed by all public service workers who have completed a decade of public service, and outlines three principles the U.S. Department of Education must address to improve Public Service Loan Forgiveness. The burden of student debt falls disproportionately on Black and Brown borrowers— those who, as a result of a racial wealth gap driven by systemic Racial Equity, most often lack the familial wealth necessary to obtain a debt-free higher education in America. Unfortunately, a growing body of evidence also demonstrates that these borrowers frequently miss out on existing avenues for debt relief enacted by Congress.

Sent to: Hon. Miguel Cardona, Secretary, United States Department of Education

Sponsored by: Student Borrower Protection Program

\*Also Racial Equity

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

### **ISSUE: SANCTIONS ON CUBA**

General Content: U.S. policy should not inflict harm or suffering on Cuban individuals and families. There are a number of regulatory and administrative changes that could improve food security, livelihoods, and economic growth in Cuba, while also supporting U.S. national security.

The first step toward these goals is to restore the Cuban Assets Control Regulations (CACR) and the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) regarding Cuba to their status on January 20, 2017.

Sent to: Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen

Sponsored by: Mennonite Central Committee

### **ISSUE: NEW PATH FORWARD FOR U.S.-NORTH KOREA RELATIONS**

General Content: Letter to President Biden asking that as his administration plans to conduct a North Korea policy review, urging him to consider a secure and sustainable path forward for U.S.-North Korea relations. That the review would be viewed as an opportunity to pursue a new approach that other approaches have failed.

Sent to: President Biden

Sponsored by: Rep Marilyn Strickland's office

**ISSUE: AFGHANISTAN WITHDRAWAL**

General Content: Support for the Veteran’s Association and their families regarding their letter to President Biden urging him to follow through on the Doha agreement’s negotiated May 1st Afghanistan withdrawal deadline to support the safety of our troops, better steward vital American interests, and uphold the will of the American people.

Sent to: President Biden

Sponsored by: Friends Committee on National Legislation

**ISSUE: U.S. GOVERNMENT COVID-19 STRATEGY**

General Content: This letter urges the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to ensure conflict prevention and peacebuilding programs are robustly funded and integrated in the U.S. government’s COVID-19 strategy and supplemental funding from the American Rescue Plan. The call is to prioritize conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the U.S. government’s COVID-19 strategy and foreign assistance funding provided for in the American Rescue Plan in tandem with health and humanitarian aid. Failure to do so will have significant long-term implications on global instability and U.S. national security.

Sent to: Secretary of State Antony Blinken, U.S. Department of State

Sponsored by: Alliance for Peace Building

\*Also Covid-19

**OTHER RELATED AREAS**

**ISSUE: DEATH PENALTY**

General Content: letter urging the Biden administration to fulfill it’s 100 day promise by placing a moratorium on the federal death penalty

Sent to: President Biden and his administration

Sponsored by: Jesuit Conference of Canada and the USA

**ISSUE: Democracy Restoration Act, S. 481**

General Content: Letter from faith leaders stating the belief that all people are created in God’s image and are deserving of redemption and forgiveness as well as believing that standing up for racial justice is part of putting our faith in action. Based on these beliefs, it is crucial that the United States Senate stand up against state felony disenfranchisement laws that deprive our neighbors of the fundamental right to vote.

Sent to: Senator Cardin (D-MD)

Sponsored by: Coordinated by The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law

\*also Racism

**NOTE: \*RELATED AREAS (Root Causes, Implied in the Concern, or a Current Situation that demands a response)**

These would generally be contained within a **FOCUS AREA** listed above and noted by an asterisk to assist NAC with statistics for grant writing, etc. They are: **COVID-19, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, FAMILIES, RACIAL EQUITY, VIOLENCE, OTHER.**

## **STATEMENTS**

### **INTERFAITH STATEMENTS**

#### **WORLD RELIGIOUS LEADERS CALL FOR A PEOPLE'S VACCINE**

As religious leaders, we have witnessed the personal stories behind the Covid statistics - we have, every day, heard the cries, shared with us, of the suffering, the frightened, and the bereaved. We have witnessed too the profound love shown by those working at the frontline, and by those who have reached out to help their neighbors. . . .

Themes include: our interdependence, access of people, consequences for the most poor, call for global solidarity.

#### **INTERFAITH STATEMENT ON RACISM**

Statement sent to the House Leaders urging House Leadership to swiftly pass H.R. 40: man-dating the Commission to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans Act.

As our nation works to heal from COVID-19, we must also have a national reckoning with our legacy of enslavement and systemic racism. Until the United States acknowledges the systemic failings that we have allowed to persist and offer Black people redress for these harms, there will be no healing in our nation. Reparations is a matter of Justice, and the time is now to act by passing H.R. 40.

### **STATEMENTS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **ORGS CONDEMN UNITED STATES' RANKING IN GLOBAL MILITARY SPENDING**

**NOTE: XX% is to be published shortly**

Once again, the United States tops one of the world's most infamous rankings lists— top military spenders. In 2020, the United States' spending on the military and nuclear weapons made up XX% of the global total, according to an annual report released today by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. This is the XX year in a row that the United States' percentage of global military spending has XX. . . .

Even as it becomes increasingly apparent that militarized spending isn't the answer to today's global problems, the Biden administration proposed increasing the 2022 discretionary defense budget to a whopping \$753 billion. Members of Congress must do better. We call on them to significantly decrease spending on the military and nuclear weapons for FY2022 and to re-allocate that money into true national priorities like public health, diplomacy, infrastructure, and addressing climate change.

## **ACTION ENDORSEMENT**

May 8<sup>th</sup> has been declared the "John Lewis Voting Rights Day of Action. "The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity, US Provinces and The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd will join with other organizations: NETWORK, Sisters of Mercy, Franciscan Action Network, and many others as endorsers.