

**ADVOCACY CENTER PRIORITIES AND NAC SIGN-ONS
BY U.S. PROVINCE LEADERS MONTH OF: August 2020**

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COVID-19 RELATED

NAC FOCUS AREA: ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

ISSUE: FOSSIL FUELS

General Content: Letter to Vice President Biden, indicating that his leadership on climate and environmental justice is why the various justice networks are urging him to ban all fossil fuel executives, lobbyists, and representatives from any advisory or official position on your campaign, transition team, cabinet, and administration. It also expresses thank for making combatting the climate crisis a top priority for his campaign. The networks commit to assist to build back better, create a new, clean energy economy that creates millions of good-paying, union jobs, and address the crises of climate change, COVID-19, mass unemployment, and the environmental injustice and racism that have plagued our nation for too long.

Sent to: Vice President Biden

Sponsored by: Price of Oil

NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY

**ISSUE: ENSURE ACCESS TO MEALS THIS SCHOOL YEAR: URGE USDA TO EXTEND
WAIVERS**

General Content: As the new school year rapidly approaches, urgent action is necessary to give schools and child nutrition program sponsors the flexibility needed to provide meals under rapidly evolving circumstances. Join the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Feeding America, the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), the School Nutrition Association (SNA) and Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign in asking the USDA to extend critical nationwide child nutrition program waivers through the coming school year, including allowing the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option to be used to feed children during the upcoming school year, along with other important flexibilities.

Sent to: Congress

Sponsored by: Feed America

ISSUE: Extend Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT)

General Content: Senator Gillibrand is currently working on a bill to extend and make improvements to the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program. The bill provides an opportunity to highlight your support of the P-EBT provisions in the HEROES Act as well as some additional ways to ensure access and make program operations easier this school year. She plans to introduce it as a bipartisan bill.

P-EBT provides an important opportunity to offer nutritional resources to families who have lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to COVID-19 school closures. Eligible families receive the value of the free school breakfast and lunch on a new or existing EBT card for the days that schools are closed. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have been approved to operate P-EBT, so now is the time to build on the success of P-EBT from this past spring as we head into a new school year.

Sent to: Members of the Senate

Sponsored by: Food Research & Action Center

**ISSUE: CORONAVIRUS ASSISTANCE FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES (CAAF) ACT”,
ECONOMIC SUPPORT IN OUR COVID RESPONSE (STATE SPECIFIC)**

General Content: The next federal package must include a second round of direct cash payments and must be as inclusive as possible to provide acute assistance to families. 55,000 U.S. citizens in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Texas who did not receive stimulus payments in the CARES Act. The ACT makes immigrant families with a U.S. citizen parent are made eligible for funding in the next COVID-19 package. It also ensures that all U.S. citizen children, including those whose parents file taxes using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), are eligible for stimulus payments. Inclusion would be consistent with the Child Tax Credit provisions in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and would ensure that all U.S. citizen children receive desperately needed support to maintain stability and good health.

Sent to: Senator Toomey, PA; Senator Portman, OH; Senator Cornyn, TX

Sponsored by: Friends Committee on National Legislation

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**NAC FOCUS AREA: US POLICIES THAT AFFECT OUR GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION
IN OTHER COUNTRIES**

**ISSUE: GARCIA AMENDMENT RE: GLOBAL PANDEMIC EFFECTS ON HEALTH AND
ECONOMY**

General Content: Letter of support to Nancy Pelosi for her endorsement of the Garcia amendment which “Directs the U.S. to support the IMF’s issuance of 2 trillion special drawing rights [SDRs] and to support debt relief to help countries around the globe recover economically from COVID-19,” demonstrates congressional leadership on the international stage at a time when it is urgently needed to address the twin global public health crisis and global economic crisis brought on by the coronavirus pandemic..

Sent to: House Majority Leader, Nancy Pelosi

Sponsored by: Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

ISSUE: SOUTH SUDANESE TPS HOLDERS

General Content: Safe return to South Sudan is impossible at this time, as war and one of the world's most devastating humanitarian crises continues. Famine, COVID-19 are all part of the crises. In addition to extending TPS for 18 months and protecting the 84 current South Sudanese TPS holders, the Department of Homeland Security must re-designate and extend protection to people who are more recently arrived.

Sent to: Acting Secretary Chad Wolf, Department of Homeland Security

Sponsored by: Catholic Legal Immigration Network

ISSUE: FINANCIAL RELIEF TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES DUE TO COVID-19

General Content: Letter urging the Treasury Department to address to support the issuance of Special Drawing Rights at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and debt cancellation for countries struggling to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although African countries have recorded fewer cases than the US, they face unique challenges given their minimal resources, inadequate health systems and medical personnel, and acute shortages of basic essential services like reliable water and electricity. Massive and crowded informal settlements, internally displaced peoples, and people in refugee camps remain vulnerable to the coronavirus.

Without financial support from the US and the international community, COVID-19 can easily overwhelm these countries.

Sent to: Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, United States Department of Treasury

Sponsored by: The Advocacy Network for Africa Covid-19

NAC FOCUS AREA: VIOLENCE

ISSUE: Support for Peacemaking Activities in many Countries by the UK

General Content: Letter addressed to the UK's FM Raab on ODA Cuts and to show our appreciation for the invaluable leadership that the United Kingdom plays in supporting healthy, just, and safe societies around the world and request that they continue their leadership on these issues. Of note has been COVID-19 which has been a challenge to working on peace related issues within violent societies.

Sent to: The Rt Hon Dominic Raab, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, U.K.

Sponsored by: Alliance for Peacebuilding

OTHER INDIRECTLY RELATED AREAS

ISSUE: EXTENDING EXTEND THE STATUTORY DEADLINES FOR CENSUS ACTIVITIES

General Content: Letter to Senate Leaders to extend the statutory deadlines because: (1) COVID-19 forced delays in door-to-door Census follow-up, one of the many dislocations caused by the pandemic; and (2) failure to extend count activities will lead to a serious undercount of many of the people most harshly affected by COVID and its consequences: people of color, immigrants, low-income people, and children. Failing to count these groups accurately will

result in underfunding of education, health, and many other programs they need for the next decade.

Sent to: Senators Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader and Chuck Schumer Minority Leader
Sponsored by: The Census Project

ISSUE: STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE DEATH OF JAMES HILL AT THE HANDS OF ICE AND ICA.

General Content: On August 8, 2020 James Hill, a 72-year-old man who died of COVID-19 after contracting the disease while detained at the Farmville, VA detention center, operated by the private prison company Immigration Centers of America (ICA). Despite being high-risk of death from COVID-19 due to his age, James Hill had been detained at ICA-Farmville between April and July of this year, as the global pandemic spread like wildfire in ICE facilities across the country. He was supposed to return home to Canada on July 9th, but fell ill and was hospitalized days before his flight. On Wednesday night, he lost his fight against COVID and became the 17th person to die in ICE custody this fiscal year.

Sent to: Public Statement
Sponsored by: Disciples Home Missions

ISSUE: CORONAVIRUS LANGUAGE ACCESS ACT

General Content: his bill will address the exclusion of people who are limited English proficient (LEP), over 25 million people in the United States, from the COVID-19 response. Due to the inadequate response effort, LEP individuals have received inadequate care and are not receiving important public health information about the pandemic. If passed, it would both require federal agencies to translate consumer-facing documents into at least 19 languages while providing resources to states, localities and communities to provide in-language services on the ground.

Sent to: Members of Congress
Sponsored by: Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

ISSUE: PANDEMIC RESPONSE TO PROTECT AND INCREASE RESILIENCE IN THE FOOD AND FARM SYSTEM

General Content: Food, farming, and seafood system workers; historically underserved, tribal, and beginning family farmers and ranchers; and rural and immigrant communities of color have been especially vulnerable during the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic and largely excluded from previous and newly proposed relief packages. As Congress negotiates the next COVID-19 stimulus package, we, allies in the food, farming, and seafood systems, demand they include measures that ensure just and equitable our communities

Sent to: Members of Congress
Sponsored by: Alianza Nacional De Campesinas, Inc.

ISSUE: RELIABLE MAIL SERVICE

General Content: In the midst of a pandemic, the American people have never been more dependent on reliable mail service for essential needs, even survival, than they are right now. The letter calls on Postmaster General Louis DeJoy to immediately resign or for the Board of Governors to dismiss him from his position – and replace him with an experienced official who is committed to keeping mail delivery reliable. Yet Mr. DeJoy not only has taken several steps that are disrupting mail service to American families and businesses, but he has also failed to eliminate disqualifying ethical conflicts.

Sent to: Board of Governors United States Postal Service
Sponsored by: American Progress

ISSUE: SUPPORT FOR UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

General Content: Letter urging emergency funding and support for the USPS at this critical time of pandemic. The House had a successful vote to pass the Delivering for America Act on Saturday, August 22, 2020 and both chambers are investigating USPS changes and problems. Now is the time to weigh in to support the Postal Service—a model of service to the common good, a critical delivery system for GOTV efforts and a lifeline for vulnerable people in COVID 19.

Sent to: Public Media
Sponsored by: Faith in Public Life

NON-COVID-19 RELATED

NAC FOCUS AREA: IMMIGRATION

ISSUE: TRANSFORMATION OF AMERICA’S IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

General Content: By centering human dignity, family unity, community well-being and American prosperity, the 2021 Action Plan to rebuild our nation’s immigration system envisions a new approach to migration and border governance that will live up to our core American values and power the economic recovery of our nation. The 2021 Action Plan is a set of concrete, actionable, and fully articulated proposals addressing every stage of immigration policy and processing for a new administration.

Sent to: Press

Sponsored by: Church World Service

NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY

ISSUE: HOMES FOR ALL

General Content: Last year, Rep. Ilhan Omar introduced the Homes for All Act—which would dramatically expand the public housing stock in the United States and guarantee housing as a human right. The federal government has not made a large-scale investment in affordable housing since the New Deal. The construction of new public housing has been banned since the 1990s – forcing millions onto waitlists for both public housing and voucher programs.

The Homes for All Act transforms the nation’s public housing system by investing a total of \$1 trillion into the affordable housing market, with the goal of creating 12 million new units over 10 years. Fully realized, this proposal will guarantee safe, accessible, sustainable, and permanently-affordable homes for all, create a true public option and affirm housing as a basic human right for every American.

Sent to: Members of the House

Sponsored by: National Center for Healthy Housing

NAC FOCUS AREA: RACISM

ISSUE: EQUAL PAY

General Content: Vigorous enforcement of equal pay laws is critical to ensuring that women and people of color are paid fairly for the work that they perform. There is need for a review. The letter calls for a panel to be establish. It includes key recommendations for the selection of panelists and stakeholders to be consulted, and issues for the panel to consider in evaluating the data.

Sent to: The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Committee on National Statistics

Sponsored by: National Women’s Law Center

OTHER INDIRECTLY RELATED AREAS

ISSUE: AMENDMENT ON SANCTIONS IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS REPORTING

General Content: This amendment is called 2021 National Defense Authorization Act which requires the US government to provide reports on the impact of comprehensive sanctions on civilian populations as well as gauging their effectiveness in achieving foreign policy goals.

Sent to: House of Representatives

Sponsored by: Congresswoman Gabbard

ISSUE: "RENT-A-BANK" SCHEME WOULD TRAMPLE CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

General Content: The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) proposed a rule that will allow for the evasion of state interest rate caps in all states through the rent-a-bank scheme. There are several predatory lenders that are engaged in this practice currently in more than 20 states. They partner with FDIC and OCC-supervised banks in order to launder loans and evade state interest rate caps. The letter opposed this rule that will limit the ability of states to defend their interest rate caps.

Sent to: Acting Comptroller of the Currency

Sponsored by: The Faith and Credit Roundtable