

NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER (NAC) PRIORITIES AND NAC SIGN-ONS BY U.S. PROVINCE LEADERS: August 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: Urge Biden Administration to Set FY23 Presidential Digression (PD) at 200,000

General Content: Letter asking President Biden to restore, strengthen, and expand the US refugee resettlement program. Specifically, we urge you to set the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Presidential Determination (PD) at 200,000 by October 1st, and hold meaningful consultations with Congress before the end of FY22 in support of rebuilding the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). Throughout FY23, we urge you to meaningfully invest in rebuilding the resettlement infrastructure to increase refugee arrivals in the United States.

Sent to: President Biden

Sponsored by: Church World Service

NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY/FAMILY

ISSUE: ACCESS TO FOSTER CARE TO 21 ACT

General Content: Society has changed since we first established foster care to age 18, with young people often relying on parents and other family members as they seek steady employment, housing, and education opportunities, and yet we continue to expect youth in foster care to become independent on their 18th birthday. Federal data tells us that compared to youth that “age out” of care at age 18, youth who remain in care have better outcomes across multiple measures. Youth who remain in care have higher rates of employment, housing, school attendance and graduation, and health coverage. They also have lower rates of incarceration, drug treatment referrals, and giving birth or fathering a child. This important legislation would give all young people the option to remain in care, allowing them the opportunity to achieve such improved outcomes.

Sent to: Representative Judy Chu (D-CA)

Sponsored by: CWLA and Youth Villages

ISSUE: NATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKERS BILL OF RIGHTS (DWBOR)

General Content: Letter urging the House to move forward on the bill. Persistent and systemic racial and gender discrimination have diminished the value of domestic work, such as cooking, cleaning, child care, and care for the aging and people with disabilities. This work is some of the most important and fastest-growing work in our economy, and yet it's still undervalued, unprotected, and treated as less than real work. The workforce has been systematically written out of most workplace protections as a result of the legacy of slavery and outdated and unjust cultural norms that define work in the home as "help" or less than real work. The explicit exclusion of domestic workers from the protections offered by our labor laws normalized the abuses and the devaluing of the work and the workforce. Even when domestic workers do have legal rights and protections, they often face systemic barriers that prevent them from exercising their rights.

Sent to: House of Representatives

Sponsored by: National Domestic Workers Alliance

ISSUE: H.R. 4826, THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKERS BILL OF RIGHTS (DWBOR).

General Content: This legislation is coming at a **critical time for working women**. The pandemic not only showed us how essential care is to keep our society and economy going, it highlighted the precarious nature of work that domestic workers, disproportionately composed of Black, Latinx, Asian, and Indigenous women and immigrant women, face every day. Our elected leaders have an opportunity to ensure that care jobs are good jobs. The National Domestic Workers Bill of Rights is a critical step in making that possible.

Sent to: Speaker Pelosi and Chairman Scott,

Sponsored by: National Domestic Workers Alliance, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada, Care in Action

ISSUE: R 8151 AND S 3479, THE BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE WORKFORCE FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ACT

General Content: This bipartisan legislation strengthens federal support for community health workers to improve health outcomes in medically underserved communities. The bill would improve the program's focus on serving areas with a high burden of disease, low socio-economic status, or shortages of health professionals. The bill would also facilitate the sharing of best practices and technical assistance in the U.S. to help grantees augment the services they provide to communities. These improvements will help address the long-standing health inequities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and strengthen a workforce that has been essential to health equity response in communities across the U.S.

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

Sponsored by: Families USA

ISSUE: MAINSTREAMING ADDICTION TREATMENT ACT (H.R. 1384 / S. 445) (MAT)

General Content: The letter specifically asks the Senate leaders to attach the MAT Act to the upcoming September continuing resolution. The MAT Act will prevent overdoses, increase access to treatment, and reduce stigma by removing outdated rules (known as the X-waiver) that prevent health care providers from prescribing buprenorphine, a lifesaving medication for opioid use disorder. The bill will also launch a national education campaign on best practices for treating substance use disorder.

Sent to: Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell

Sponsored by: End Substance Use Disorder

OTHER RELATED AREAS

AREA: ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

ISSUE: OPPOSE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY PROPOSED LEGISLATION

General Content: Senator Manchin and Majority Leader Schumer agreed to introduce massive polluter giveaway legislation in September to fast-track new fossil fuel projects, including the Mountain Valley Pipeline. This is a cruel and direct attack on environmental justice communities and the climate. This proposed legislation - clearly drafted by the American Petroleum Institute - would truncate and hollow-out the environmental review process, weaken Tribal consultations, and make it all but impossible for frontline communities to have their voices heard. Any new fossil fuel projects would also push us far past the 1.5-degree limit necessary to avoiding the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

We ask Congress to reject the Manchin/Schumer proposed legislation and side deal.

Sent to: Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer

Sponsored by: Center for Biodiversity

STATEMENTS WITH OTHER GROUPS

STATEMENT ON THE HISTORIC INVESTMENTS IN CLEAN ENERGY AND CLIMATE IN THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT OF 2022.

The statement addresses both positive aspects and troubling aspects contained in the bill.

In conjunction with primary writers: Washington Interfaith Staff Community (WISC) Energy and Ecology Working Group (EEWG), we signed on along with 17 Advocacy Groups. By the deadline for signing on we anticipate more groups will join.

ACTION ALERTS

Action Alert to contact Representatives to support for the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

Action Alert to join Prosperity Now's August 23rd campaign, Build Back for Justice, in calling on Congress to legislate justice now.

OTHER NEWS

Video Released

NAC announced the release of its new video. It was created by Good Shepherd Volunteer, Erin Hood. It can be viewed at NAC's website, our YouTube channel, and on our social media platforms (@nac4justice). The first NAC video (2003) can also be viewed on the website. It was developed by NAC's first Good Shepherd Volunteer, Katherine Ward.

Survey Conducted

NAC's 2022 Advocacy Issue Survey was conducted. It is in the process of being analyzed.