

**NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER PRIORITIES AND
NAC SIGN-ONS BY U.S. PROVINCE LEADERS: December 2021**
Prepared by Brigid Lawlor, RGS

NAC FOCUS AREA: IMMIGRATION

ISSUE: MIGRANT PROTECTION PROTOCOLS MPP & TITLE42

General Content: Sign-on letter calling on the Biden Administration and Andrés Manuel López Obrador, president of Mexico to put a complete end to Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP). MPP, also known as the Remain in Mexico program, began in the Trump Administration and is now continuing in the Biden Administration to refrain asylum seekers from entering the U.S.

Under MPP, asylum seekers who arrive at the border are being turned away and told to wait in Mexico while they await their pending court dates. The result of the Biden Administration's decision to continue this deadly program, has led to countless assaults and significant harm against those seeking asylum in the U.S. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has called for an ending to the restart of the program, and it is imperative that as many as possible heed to the call.

- Also U.S. Policies that affect the Good Shepherd Mission in other Countries

Sent to: President Biden's Administration, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, President of Mexico

Sponsored by: NETWORK, CLINIC, Jesuit Refugee Service/USA

ISSUE: END INHUMANE IMMIGRATION DETENTION

General Content: Letter to President Bidet by Interfaith groups o keep his promise to end inhumane Immigration Detention. Urges the Biden administration to take doable and concrete steps that will: -halt current immigration detention expansion efforts, -terminate current ICE contracts, -invest in rights-respecting border management and, enact just and humane immigration policies.

Sent to: President Biden

Sponsored by: Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, Church World Service, UCC National Collaborative on Immigration, Interfaith Immigration Coalition, and Detention Watch Network.

ISSUE: LIBERIAN REFUGEE IMMIGRATION FAIRNESS (LRIF)

General Content: The LRIF program was one of the first pathways to citizenship passed via Congress in decades, and it specifically benefits Black immigrants. Congress has extended the deadline for LRIF once, and we need them to extend it further. LRIF allows certain Liberians who have been living in the U.S. since November 2014 to adjust their status, get Green Cards, and naturalize as U.S. citizens—with many people being eligible to naturalize as soon as they are approved. We understand clearly that the success or failure of LRIF is an urgent racial justice and migrant justice issue.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: UnDocuBlack Network

- Also – Racial Justice

NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY

ISSUE: BUILD BACK BETTER

General Content: General letter to the Senate urgently calling for enactment of Build Back Better. The urgency of passing this before the recess is imperative and because the last monthly Child Tax Credit payment will arrive on December 15, and the IRS is saying they cannot guarantee continuity of these payments unless BBB is enacted by 12/28.

Sent to: Senate

Sponsored by: Human Rights Watch

ISSUE: INSURING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUTH

General Content: Letter urging the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to prioritize police-free youth mobile response services as it defines implementation strategies. "The Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services has a chance to change history---to issue and implement incentives, regulations and guidance that will make police-free mobile response more accessible and fully reimbursable for youth and young adults across the nation. CMS must support youth mobile response models that focus solely on mental health supports, and provide federal guidance, regulations, and funding to ensure these models are sustainable, consequently making a step to better support young people."

Sent to: Chiquita Brooks-Lasure, Administrator of Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services and Daniel Tsai Deputy Administrator, Director of Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

Sponsored by: Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

ISSUE: BUILD BACK BETTER

General Content: Letter urging Senators and their colleagues in the U.S. Senate to swiftly pass the Build Back Better Act (BBB) before the end of this year. The letter discusses poverty and economic mobility, COVID-19 Relief, childcare, student tuition. It focuses on economic and racial justice.

Sent to: Senate Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

Sponsored by: Interreligious Domestic Human Needs (DHN) Working

- Also, COVID 19 and Racial Justice

ISSUE: BUILD BACK BETTER ACT

General Content: The letter addresses several concerns:

1. Supports the progressive tax provisions in the House BBBA, which raise \$1.8 trillion towards the bill's \$2.1 trillion in investments. These new taxes on the rich and corporations are virtually all contained in the Senate Finance Committee text released on Saturday. That text is being called "placeholder" text to start the Byrd

bath with the Parliamentarian, as the Senate negotiates over the rest of the tax and investments package.

2. Explains we do not want the Senate to weaken the 15% Corporate Profits Minimum Tax designed to ensure that the largest corporations pay some tax. This provision raises more than \$300 billion, or one-sixth of the tax revenue total. It has come under significant corporate attack in recent weeks.

3. Supports three changes that we believe could be in play based on our conversations with Senate Finance Committee staff: -- The Billionaires Income Tax (BIT), which Sen. Wyden is pushing hard for and tells us he's working on a possible deal with Sen. Manchin. Note that [Manchin's latest complaint](#) is that the Child Tax Credit is only paid for one year. The \$550 billion the BIT would raise would pay for another four years or so. -- Closing the carried interest loophole: If this provision is not added to the base bill, we think it's likely to be offered during vote-a-rama, since Sen. Sinema is the only Democratic senator opposing it. -- A modest reform that would close some estate and gift tax loopholes that were in the Ways and Means tax bill but got stripped out before floor action; Sen. Wyden is very sympathetic to them.

BBBA is historic legislation, providing about \$2 trillion in new investments benefiting working families and largely paid for by the rich and corporations. Please help us get this over the top with the strongest revenue package possible.

Sent to: Senate

Sponsored by: Americans for Tax Fairness

ISSUE: BUILD BACK BETTER ACT AND THE VOTING RIGHTS LEGISLATION

General Content: The timing of consideration between BBB and voting rights bills is very much in question. Preserving voting rights is a litmus test for the willingness of our government to protect everyone's human and civil rights during times of tranquility and turmoil. It is inevitably the people on the periphery who become the most vulnerable when democracy is failing or is under threat.

Particularly in our African American communities, these efforts at voter suppression strike palpable fear into hearts and communities. Their historical experience of intimidation and violence, current events and hateful rhetoric, and the lack of a legislative response to these attacks are causing real harm to Black communities.

A vital antidote is the freedom to vote — a matter of dignity and agency for every American.

Sent to: Members of the Senate

Sponsored by: NETWORK

Explanation of RELATED AREAS (Root Causes, implicated in the Concern, or Current Situation)

These would generally be contained within a FOCUS AREA listed above and noted to assist

NAC with statistics for grant writing, etc. **COVID-19, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, FAMILIES, RACIAL JUSTICE, VIOLENCE, OTHER**

NAC: OTHER RELATED AREAS

AREA: RACIAL JUSTICE

ISSUE: REPAIR CAN'T WAIT - IMMEDIATELY PASS H.R. 40, THE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND DEVELOP Reparations Proposals for African-Americans Act

General Content: Letter to get [H.R. 40](#), the *Commission to Study & Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act*, over the finish line. In April, the House Judiciary Committee voted to move H.R. 40 to the House Floor for full consideration, the first time in the bill's 32-year history. H.R. 40 now has a record 195 co-sponsors (far more than ever before) and commitments from 20 additional members to vote "yes" when the bill comes to the House floor for a vote. With this level of support, it will pass the House, so long as Leadership sticks to public promises to advance the bill. This is a once-in-a-generation moment for this reparations study to advance and for the federal government to stop stalling on this critically important measure amidst overwhelming support and momentum. We are demanding a vote before the end of January.

Sent to: Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, Majority Whip Clyburn, Minority Leader McCarthy, and

Honorable Members of the House of Representatives:

Sponsored by: Human Rights Watch

ISSUE: H.R. 40, THE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND DEVELOP Reparations Proposals for African-Americans Act

General Content: A coalition of interfaith denominations and faith-based organizations has drafted a letter to Speaker Pelosi urging her to bring HR 40 to the floor for a vote. The bill has 195 co-sponsors and extensive additional support.

It is particularly important to have a strong Catholic showing given it will go to the Speaker. The overall legislative goal is to get the bill through the House early next session to provide political impetus for President Biden to take Executive Action.

We believe we can't have racial healing without a full accounting of the harm done to Black Americans by slavery and systemic racist policies that still impact communities.

Sent to: Speaker Nancy Pelosi

Sponsored by: NETWORK

ISSUE: JOIN CLERGY, PERSON RELIGIOUS, AND MARTIN LUTHER KING III, ARNDREA KING, YOLANDA RENEE KING IN THE CALL FOR VOTING RIGHTS

ISSUE: This coming Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend, Martin Luther King III, Andrea Waters King, and Yolanda Renee King will be joining with faith and civil rights leaders across the country to make clear there is to be no celebration without legislation- it's time our elected leaders deliver for voting rights._

Throughout the holiday weekend and in the days leading up, we are honoring the historic legacy of the civil rights fight and its roots in the faith community by continuing to use our voices to press the urgency of legislative action. But we can't wait for January to make our voices heard. We are calling for action now and telling our elected leaders we'll be mobilizing in January if they don't get it done.

To that end, clergy and women, men, person religious are joining the Kings to send a letter to President Biden and Senate Democrats next week stating it must be their number one priority to pass comprehensive voting rights legislation, namely the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and ensuring the filibuster does not stand in the way.

60 years ago, faith leaders joined side-by-side with Dr. King to ensure the moral arc of the universe does indeed bend toward justice.

Sent to: President Biden and Senate Democrats

Sponsored by: The Hub Project and Council of Jewish Women

AREA: TECHNOLOGY

ISSUE: PROTECT CONSUMERS FROM SCAMS AND ERRORS IN PAYMENT APPS

General Content: Letter urging the Bureau of Consumer Finance Protection (CFPB) to protect consumers from scams, errors, and inappropriate use of their data in both big tech payment apps (like PayPal, Venmo, Cash App) and also bank-to-bank faster payments like Zelle and the coming FedNow system.

Sent to: Director Rohit Chopra, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection

Sponsored by: National Consumer Law Center

ISSUE: THE EARN IT ACT

General Content: The EARN IT Act (Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies Act) repeals near blanket immunity from liability enjoyed by interactive computer service companies and gives victims access to justice by allowing them to use federal civil law, state criminal and civil law, to sue for harm they suffered because of the rampant sexual abuse occurring on digital platforms. It also establishes a new National Commission on Online Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention to prevent predatory grooming and sex trafficking.

It will help parents and schools do a better job of shielding children from damaging online content, while providing guidance to policymakers, judges, and private industry regarding patterns of exploitation, gaps in protection, filters, and age gating. Earn It Act is a BIPARTISAN proposal that has NOTHING to do with privacy protection or the first amendment. BIG TECH can't lobby for child pornography, so they bring up a lot of irrelevant issues to oppose this critical bill.

Sent to: Chairman Durbin, Chairman Nadler, Ranking Member Grassley and Ranking Member Jordan

Sponsored by: National Center on Sexual Exploitation