

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

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Focus areas that the U.S. Province Leader's sign on to represent the outcome of the strategic plan covering 2019 – 2023. The four primary areas are: Human Trafficking, Immigration, Poverty and US Policy that affect the Good Shepherd Mission in other countries. They also sign on to those issues generated by the Congregation as an NGO present at the United Nations that contains US Policy, as well as the issues of concern expressed in the Congregational and Province Direction Statements.

SIGN ONS:

NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY

ISSUE: HUMAN NEEDS FUNDING TO MEET TODAY'S DEMAND

General Content: The letter is a request to congress urging them to enact **OMNIBUS FY 2022** appropriations legislation including all twelve subcommittee bills. It asks them to focus on a host of essential services in order to meet the needs of the young and aging, workers, people with disabilities, the poor, families and retirees, immigrants, students, and youth disconnected from education, women, and people of color. The dislocations of the pandemic, including the past year's rising prices and disrupted employment, have made things much harder for millions of Americans – their constituents.

Sponsored by: Coalition on Human Need

Sent to: Members of the House and the Senate

ISSUE: END CHILD POVERTY

General Content: Letter to Congressional leadership asking them to establish a national child poverty reduction target in the United States by passing the **CHILD POVERTY REDUCTION ACT (S. 643/H.R. 1558)**. This letter is an updated version of a March 2021 that we signed on to organizations.

Sent to: Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Neal, Ranking Member Brady, Chairwoman Maloney, Ranking Member Comer, Chairman Wyden, and Ranking Member Crapo.

Sponsored by: First Focus

ISSUE: PROTECT THE CTC AND EITC FROM GOVERNMENT SEIZURE

General Content: The Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) are intended to support families and low-income workers and are rightly celebrated for lifting millions of children out of poverty. This year's fully refundable credit was especially effective in reaching the 27 million children (including half of Black, Latinx, and rural children) who previously lost out on the full credit because their parents' income was too low. But due to Treasury's practice of offsetting tax refunds to collect government debt, millions of low-income families are at risk of not

receiving these critical lifelines. While Congress protected advance CTC payments, families who receive some or all of their CTC and EITC payments through tax refunds are at risk of having those refunds withheld for government debts. Education Secretary Cardona recently committed to ensuring that families with student loans will not have their CTC funds offset this year, which is good progress, but this solution is only partial and temporary. The letter urges Sec. Yellen to use existing authority to gather Treasury data about the scope of the problem and to waive offsets where authorized, and to work with the Administration and Congress to develop more complete solutions.

Sent to: Janet Yellen, Secretary of the Treasury

Sponsored by: National Consumer Law Center

ISSUE: LIVABLE WAGES AND FAIR PRACTICES

General Content: The letter is in support of roughly 100 striking workers in Santa Fe Springs, CA who are members of BCTGM (Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers' International Union). These workers, over 90% of whom are Latina women, have been on strike since November 3rd. The parent company, Rich Products (based in Buffalo, NY), has already received a letter signed by 7 senators urging them to negotiate fairly with the workers who have outlined basic asks for livable wages and fair practices. We are hoping to build additional support for the workers and pressure on the company with this interfaith letter.

Sent to: Robert E Rich, Jr., Chairman, Rich Products Corporation

Sponsored by: NETWORK

ISSUE: DECREASE PENTAGON BUDGET AND CHANNEL FUNDS TO HUMAN NEEDS

General Content: Biden Administration's is considering a significant increase in the Pentagon budget for this next FY (close to \$800 billion). By comparison, the Build Back Better bill, which would fund a variety of programs that address critical needs such as climate change, education, healthcare, paid family leave and childcare, is vilified as reckless and wasteful spending even though it costs less than half of the current military budget. This letter to the Administration calls on President Biden to lower the top line for the Pentagon in his budget request to Congress.

Sent to: President Biden

Sponsored by: PAX Christi USA

ISSUE: THE PREGNANT WORKERS FAIRNESS ACT

General Content: The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act already passed the House with overwhelming support and is now ready for Senate passage. The best chance to get the bill over the finish line is through its inclusion in the upcoming omnibus spending bill Congress must pass by March 11. The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act promotes healthy pregnancies, long-term economic security, and workplace fairness. No one should have to choose between a healthy pregnancy and a paycheck that allows them to provide for their families.

Sent to: Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell and Leader McCarthy:
Sponsored by: A Better Balance: The Work & Family Legal Center

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

ISSUE: GLOBAL VACCINE

General Content: Letter urging President Biden to announce concrete steps to help increase global production, in addition to any new vaccine pledges.

NAC: OTHER RELATED AREAS

Explanation of RELATED AREAS (Root Causes, implicated in the Concern, or Current Situation). These would generally be contained within a FOCUS AREA. They include but are not limited to: **COVID-19, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, FAMILIES, RACISM, and VIOLENCE.**

AREA: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

ISSUE: THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022 (VAWA)

General Content: Already passed in the House, VAWA now goes to the Senate. The Act:

Improves services for survivors, improves the criminal justice response, responds to the needs of diverse populations, addresses survivors' economic needs, improves the civil legal response, invests in prevention and in young people, increases access to safety and justice for Indian survivors and increases victim access to safe housing

Sent to: Senate

Sponsored by: Jewish Women International

ACTION ALERTS: Sign on opportunities for individuals to respond directly by contacting their Senators and Representatives by a simple process of signing on to one alert with email and zip code information. After that, it is a matter of tapping the sign-on button and the response is immediately directed to the individual's congress person

February 2022: Voting Rights
Human Trafficking Awareness Day
Freedom to Vote – John R. Lewis Act
Violence Against Women Act

February 2022: Continued State Flexibility to Assist Older Foster Youth Act (S.3078)
Structures Racism and Housing