

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

Prepared by Brigid Lawlor, RGS

COVID-19 RELATED

NAC FOCUS AREA: FAMILIES/POVERTY

ISSUE: KEEP FAMILIES IN HOUSING DURING THE PANDEMIC

General Content: Letter urging President-elect Biden to take immediate action to issue an Executive Order that extends, improves, and enforces the federal eviction moratorium through the end of the pandemic.

Sent to: President-elect Biden

Sponsored by: National Low Income Housing Coalition

ISSUE: EXPANSION OF COVID RESPONSE PACKAGE TO INCLUDE EITC AND CHILD TAX CREDIT

General Content: Request to the Biden team in finalizing its COVID response package to provide for expansions to the EITC and Child Tax Credit included. The expansion of the refundable tax credits that lift million out of poverty.

Sent to: President-elect Biden and team

Sponsored by: Friends Committee on National Legislation

ISSUE: STUDENT DEBT

General Content: Letter urging our President-Elect and Vice President-Elect to honor their commitment to relieving the student debt burden that is oppressing low-wealth families and dragging down our economy.

Sent to: President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris

Sponsored by: Center for Responsible Lending

ISSUE: CONSUMER PROTECTION

General Content: For consideration in the next COVID -19 stimulus package: The letter highlights the need for: *No garnishment of tax refunds, which will contain stimulus payments, EITC payments and child tax credits. Funding for foreclosure prevention and housing counseling, *Cancel student loans.”

Sent to: President Biden along with applicable House and Senate Committees.

Sponsored by: Consumer Federation of America

NON COV-19

NAC FOCUS AREA: IMMIGRATION

ISSUE: EXECUTIVE ACTION TO TRANSFORM INTERIOR IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

General Content: Letter urging President-Elect Biden to undertake ambitious reforms to the interior enforcement system via executive action, starting with a moratorium on deportations and new arrests and detention.

Sent to: President - Elect Joe Biden

Sponsored by: Community Change

ISSUE: PERMANENT PROTECTION AND A PATH TO CITIZENSHIP FOR UNDOCUMENTED ESSENTIAL WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, DREAMERS, AND TPS HOLDERS.

General Content: Letter to incoming Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi urging them to use all necessary legislative tools to pass a long overdue comprehensive national relief and recovery package that includes permanent protection and a path to citizenship for undocumented essential workers and their families, Dreamers, and TPS holders.

Sent to: Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

Sponsored by: Center for American Progress

NAC FOCUS AREA: IMMIGRATION

ISSUE: PROTECTING SENSITIVE LOCATIONS ACT (Reintroduced)

General Content: The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act will prohibit immigration enforcement in certain “sensitive locations” such as courthouses, schools, community centers and houses of worship, a tactic for targeting vulnerable immigrant communities that has become common under the Trump Administration.

Sent to: House of Representatives

Sponsored by: Office of Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13)

ISSUE: REUNITE ACT (Reintroduced)

General Content: The Reunite Every Unaccompanied Newborn Infant Toddler and Other Children Expeditiously (REUNITE) Act, would require the immediate reunification of children who were separated from their parent or legal guardian as a result of the administration’s “zero tolerance” policy.

Sent to: House of Representatives

Sponsored by: Office of Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13)

ISSUE: THE ICE AND CBP BODY CAMERA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (Reintroduced)

General Content: That the Director of U.S. 7 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the 8 Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection 9 (CBP) ensure that agents and officers of ICE and 10 CBP, as the case may be, wear body cameras when such 11 agents and officers are engaged in official operations.

Sent to: House of Representatives

Sponsored by: Office of Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13)

NAC FOCUS AREA: FAMILIES/POVERTY

ISSUE: THE FAMILY ACT

General Content: The Family Act would create a national paid family and medical leave insurance program. The program would provide working Americans with up to twelve weeks of paid time off to address their own serious health issue, including pregnancy or childbirth; to deal with the serious health issue of a family member; to care for a new child; and for certain military caregiving and leave purposes.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: National Partnership for Women & Families

ISSUE: LOWER DRUG PRICES

General Content: Letter to President-elect Biden regarding executive actions to lower drug prices – to provide relief from prescription drug corporations price gouging patients, including:

- Breaking monopoly control and licensing competition pursuant to 28 USC 1498 (govt use), 35 USC 203 (march-in) and otherwise;
- Requiring reasonable pricing of medicine developed with govt funding;
- Launching a CMMI demonstration project to model to lower prices for some prescription drugs under both Medicare Part B and Part D to the median price paid in countries similar to the United States economically, while taking measures to ensure patient access;
- Prosecuting anti-competitive behaviors more aggressively and launching an FTC investigation into the “Big 3” insulin corporations.

Sent to: President-elect Biden

Sponsored by: Public Citizen

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

ISSUE: ROOT CAUSES OF POVERTY AND VIOLENCE DRIVING MIGRATION

General Content: Letter to the Biden Administration drafted by a group of NGOs and faith groups with partners in the region, and focused on needed changes in US foreign policy toward Central

America in order to address the structural roots of poverty and violence driving migration. Beyond Biden's emphasis on foreign assistance and private investment as primary ways to address root causes, this letter importantly calls on his Administration to examine US security assistance, US backing of governments w/egregious human rights records, and US support for extractive and exploitative development models.

Sent to: Biden Administration

Sponsored by: Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

NAC FOCUS AREA: VIOLENCE

ISSUE: FEDERAL DEATH PENALTY PROHIBITION ACT

General Content: Letter in support of Congresswoman Pressley and Senator Durbin who are seeking endorsement of their repeal bill that is the same as it was in the 116th Congress; the House and Senate bills are identical. While Espaillat and Pressley's bills have different language, they carry the same effect, repealing the federal death penalty for all death eligible offenses and prompting resentencing for those under sentence of death upon enactment. Calls for Amnesty to endorse both, and other organizations to do the same.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Amnesty International

NAC FOCUS AREA: OTHER RELATED CONCERNS

ISSUE: WHITEHOUSE FAITH-BASED OFFICE

General Content: Because the restoration of a White House faith-based office is in question, a letter with signatures of faith-based organizations was sent to President Biden, asking for this office.

Sent to: President Biden

Sponsored by: CW Global

ISSUE: TAX ENFORCEMENT

General Content: Letter signed-on by a broad coalition of groups dedicated to social, racial, gender, and economic justice to urge the new administration and Congress to make strengthening Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax enforcement a top priority in 2021 and beyond. Fair and adequate tax enforcement is critical for ensuring a tax system and an economy that works for ordinary Americans, not just the wealthy and powerful.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Center of Budget and Policy Priorities

ISSUE: HUMAN RIGHTS

General Content: A letter to the U.S. State Department asking the Biden Administration to take stronger action to support human rights defenders. This letter will help to demonstrate that there is widespread civil society interest in this issue, so that the U.S. government treats it as a priority. “As the Administration prepares to re-engage the U.S. government at the United Nations and other multilateral institutions, we encourage you to elevate the protection of human rights defenders as a U.S. foreign policy priority and commit to play a global leadership role on this issue.”

Sent to: letter to the U.S. State Department, CC: Senator Robert Menendez, Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator James Risch, Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Representative Gregory Meeks, Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Representative Michael McCaul, Ranking Member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Sponsored by: Coalition for Human Rights in Development

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STATEMENTS

Joint Statements with other Advocacy Organizations:

NAC FOCUS AREA: VIOLENCE

Joint Interfaith Statement on the Entry into Force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is entering into force on 22 January. This is a historic moment and Faith Communities Concerned about Nuclear Weapons, an informal group of faith organizations active at disarmament discussions at the UN, wanted to celebrate this milestone and inform more people about this important Treaty.

In collaboration with: Office of UN Affairs