

NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER (NAC) PRIORITIES AND NAC SIGN-ONS BY U.S. PROVINCE LEADERS: July 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: REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES

General Content: Letter urging Congress and the administration to support the reunified families who were separated by “zero tolerance” and ensure they have access to case management services, such as behavioral health, legal counsel, family case management, and mental healthcare.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: National Immigration Forum (NIF)

NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY

ISSUE: CHILD NUTRITION

General Content: Letter calling for critical child nutrition investments in the upcoming reconciliation package. The letter asks for the following three provisions to support children, families, and schools in the upcoming school year and beyond.

- Allow schools to continue offering free meals to all students through the 2022-2023 school year
- Expand Community Eligibility
- Create a Nationwide Summer EBT Program

Sent to: Leader Schumer and Chairwoman Stabenow

Sponsored by: Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)

ISSUE: TAX BREAK OPPOSITION

General Content: This sign-on endorsed a letter from Members of Congress to Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer urging them to oppose the inclusion of corporate tax breaks in any must-pass bill that is brought to the floor for a vote unless workers and families are provided with commensurate support and relief.

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

Sponsored by: Coalition on Human Needs

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

ISSUE: HEALTH EQUITY FOR MIDDLE EASTERN AND NORTH AFRICAN GROUPS

General Content: Calling on Congress to affirm "Middle Easterners and North Africans" (MENA) as a racial and ethnic minority group. This letter expresses support for MENA inclusion in the broader fight for health equity!"

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)

ISSUE: THE FUTURE OF COVID-19 VACCINES

General Content: Letter urging Biden to maintain public control of the Walter Reed pan-coronavirus vaccine and share its benefits and technology openly in the US and with the world. If this happens, there will not be patent issues that limit access.

Sent to: The Biden Administration

Sponsored by: NETWORK

OTHER RELATED AREAS

AREA: GUN VIOLENCE

ISSUE: FAITHS UNITED TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE'S LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR STEVE DETTELBACH AS THE NEXT ATF DIRECTOR.

General Content: Religious communities in the United States understand that gun violence in our country is an attack on human dignity. We have seen our houses of worship targeted in mass shootings, we have grieved with our members who mourn those lost to homicides and suicides, and we have expressed dismay at how easily conflicts turn deadly due to easy access to guns. We need principled leaders to address gun violence and that is why we write today to express our strong support for the nomination of Steve Dettelbach as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Dettelbach's experience as a prosecutor makes him eminently qualified for this position, and we believe he should be confirmed quickly.

Sent to: Members of the Senate

Sponsored by: Jewish Women International (JWI)

AREA: PENTAGON SPENDING

ISSUE: National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) (Two amendments)

General Content: The Sign on focuses challenging the request of the Biden Administration for a major increase in FY-23 Pentagon spending, up to \$813 billion. The House Armed Services

Committee voted for an increase of \$37.5 over-and-above what the president requested. The Senate Armed Forces Committee raised it even more.

One of the two amendments would roll back the \$37.5 billion top-up added in Committee, bringing the overall Pentagon topline back to the number initially proposed by President Biden. The second would cut the authorized Pentagon topline by \$100 billion, excluding personnel and the Defense Health program.

Sent to: Members of the House of Representatives

Sponsored by: Medical Mission Sisters Justice Office

AREA: SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

ISSUE: H.R. 8048, THE SOLITARY CONFINEMENT STUDY AND REFORM ACTRONE SOLITARY CONFINEMENT BILL

General Content: The Act would create a bipartisan commission focused on studying the effects of solitary confinement in the U.S. prison system. On any given day, tens of thousands of adults and children, a disproportionate number of whom are people of color, are subjected to solitary confinement in U.S. prisons, jails, and federal detention centers, in conditions that constitute torture according to the United Nations, leading medical and mental health experts, and other developed countries.

Sent to: Legislative Directors in the House

Sponsored by: National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)

ACTION ALERTS

Sisters, partner-in-mission, benefactors, and friends were invited to individually sign on to the following NAC Action Alerts:

HUMAN TRAFFICKING ALERT: Invitation to ask your members of Congress to support H.R.5150, the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act, as well as S.4171, the International Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022.

THE POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN: An Educational Advocacy Alert was sent to our action alert network about NAC's participation in the Poor People's Campaign and encouraging them to join.

Other Advocacy Ventures included our use of the Congress Plus software to alert individually those senators who originally co-sponsored the Abolish Human Trafficking Act that became law in 2018. At Senator Klobuchar's request (the lead co-sponsor of the pending reauthorization), we urged them to continue their efforts to combat human trafficking and support survivors by co-sponsoring the Abolish Human Trafficking Reauthorization Act of 2022, S. 3946.