

**ADVOCACY CENTER PRIORITIES AND NAC SIGN-ONS
BY U.S. PROVINCE LEADERS: Month of October 2020**
Prepared by Brigid Lawlor

COVID-19 RELATED

NAC FOCUS AREA: ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

ISSUE: PLASTICS ACTION PLAN #PLASTICFREEPRESIDENT

General Content: The "Presidential Plastics Action Plan" is a plan for the top 8 executive actions that the next president can take to address the plastic pollution crisis.

The next president can lead the United States towards a fundamental transformation of the plastics economy, one that reduces the amount of plastic produced and shifts responsibility for pollution onto the plastics manufacturer themselves. Implementing the steps in this plan would protect frontline communities from plastic factories' toxic emissions while also preventing plastic pollutions from contaminating our rivers and oceans. And these ideas will resonate with the American public, who overwhelmingly support measures to reduce our dependence on using-use plastic. Through innovation and design, we can rediscover how to product and deliver goods in a way that responds our communities and our planet.

Sent to: To be determined and launched in December

*Also NAC Focus area on RACISM

NAC FOCUS AREA: IMMIGRATION

ISSUE: PROTECTING IMMIGRANT FAMILIES CAMPAIGN

General Content: As the nation's official COVID-19 death toll approaches 200,000 and more than 13 million Americans remain unemployed, we challenge members of the United States Senate to insist on enactment of comprehensive pandemic relief legislation prior to any floor vote to confirm a nominee for associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: National Immigration Law Center

ISSUE: MORATORIUM ON DEPORTATIONS TO CAMEROON AND REVIEW OF ALL CASES OF CAMEROONIANS IN ICE CUSTODY

General Content: For months now, Cameroonian people in detention have been sounding the alarm on the racist and violent conditions ICE has subjected them to via videos, hunger strikes, and protests. Last week, a civil rights complaint was filed by the Cameroon American Council, Freedom For Immigrants, Southern Poverty Law Center, and others detailing the most recent violence ICE is using trying to coerce Cameroonians to sign their deportation. Advocates are receiving widespread reports that ICE is now planning large group deportations of Cameroonians this week. (October 14th)

Deportations are never safe, and immediate action is needed now on behalf of black migrants currently slated for imminent deportation. There is no safe way to deport people during a global pandemic.

Sent to: Members of the Congressional Black Caucus:

Sponsored by: Detention Watch Network

*Also NAC Focus area on RACISM

NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY

ISSUE: 'TELEHEALTH ACCESS DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY' LETTER

General Content: A request that the patient cost-sharing for telehealth visits for the duration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency be waived

Telehealth has proven to be critical to the populations we represent, but patient-cost sharing has varied significantly amongst insurers. We believe that waiving patient cost-sharing for telehealth removes a significant barrier to diagnosis and treatment which is critical when trying to slow the spread of a highly contagious disease in the midst of an economic downturn.

Sent to: AHIP - Matt Eyles, CEO, UnitedHealth Group – David Wichmann, CEO, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. – Greg A. Adams, Chairman and CEO, Anthem, Inc. – Gail Boudreaux, President and CEO, Humana – Bruce Broussard, CEO, CVS Health – Larry J. Merlo, President and CEO Health Care Service Corporation – Maurice Smith, President and CEO, Cigna Corporation – David Cordani, President and CEO

Sponsored by: American Diabetes Assn.

NAC FOCUS AREA: THE FOLLOWING INCLUDES ENVIRONMENT, POVERTY, RACISM, Violence, U.S. Policies that affect other countries,

ISSUE: PANDEMIC PREVENTION PLAN

General Content: Letter endorses the plan to end the current COVID-19 pandemic and prevent the pandemics of the future that is being advanced by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Rep. Ro Khanna, and Rep. Barbara Lee.

- 1) First, Congress must invest in domestic programs, systems, and supply chains that will help, improve Americans' health outcomes, combat the spread of new disease, and ramp up public health capacity during global health emergencies.
- 2) Congress must support global public health efforts to identify and mitigate the spread of new diseases before they become global pandemics.
- 3) Congress must create at least 250,000 permanent, high-paying public health jobs to rebuild our depleted public health workforce and ensure the rapid deployment of contact tracers and other support workers during future pandemics.
- 4) Congress must address the systemic racism and discrimination embedded in our health care system and pass legislation ensuring that health care treatments, pandemic countermeasures, vaccines, and primary disease prevention measures are accessible for all.

- 5) Fifth, Congress must halt the environmental degradation that increases the likelihood of global pandemics.

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

Sponsored by: Right to Health

NAC FOCUS AREA: HUMAN TRAFFICKING

ISSUE: SURVIVORS AGENDA

General Content Letter calls for resistance to that part of the Agenda that includes a call for full decriminalization of the sex trade, including buyers, pimps, and brothel owners, a move that based on research only increases cases of human trafficking in order to respond to growing demand while normalizing this type of sexual violence and exploitation against women and men. to as well. It also calls for them to shift their policy to the Equality Model which only decriminalizes the victims while providing them with needed resources and exit strategies and holds criminally accountable those responsible for the exploitation (buyers, pimps, etc.).

Sent to: Survivors Agenda Leadership

Sponsored by: Sisters Against Human Trafficking

NAC FOCUS AREA: IMMIGRATION

ISSUE: ADOPTEE CITIZENSHIP ACT OF 2019 (revision)

General Content: Although the Adoptee Citizenship Act has been introduced twice before, this is the first time that this legislation has reached large bipartisan support (54 Democrats and 31 Republicans). On September 23, Adoptees For Justice and Adoptee Rights Law Center submitted a statement about the Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2019 to the “Immigrants as Essential Workers during COVID-19” hearing in the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship-

H.R. 2731, the Adoptee Citizenship Act, closes the loophole in the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 that left the adopted children of thousands of Americans without citizenship. These children, who are now adults, have grown up without the protections intended by virtue of American adoption law. Adoptees without citizenship in the United States live in fear of separation from their families and the only home they have ever known.

Sent to: House Judiciary Committee

Sponsored by: National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)

NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY

ISSUE: HEALTH EQUITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2020

General Content: The coronavirus pandemic has shown how important it is for all people—no matter where they were born or where they live in our country—to have easy access to affordable health care. The pandemic has also exposed long-standing racial and ethnic health disparities that we have sought to eliminate for decades, including:

- Black adults are 60% more likely than White adults to be diagnosed with diabetes.
- Adults living with a disability are more likely to have cardiovascular (heart) disease.
- Nearly six in 10 Latino adults are unable to communicate with their doctors due to language barriers.
- Black women are three to four times more likely to experience a pregnancy-related death than White women.
- Asian Americans comprise 60% of the U.S. population living with Hepatitis B.
- 45% of undocumented adult immigrants are uninsured, compared to 8% of citizens.
- American Indians and Alaska Natives continue to die at higher rates than other Americans in many categories, including cirrhosis, diabetes, suicide, and colorectal cancer.

Sent to: Members of the Senate

Sponsored by: Unidos US

ISSUE: 340B DRUG DISCOUNT PROGRAM

General Content: For more than 25 years, the 340B drug discount program has allowed safety net providers to purchase discounted drugs, allowing them to enhance their services to millions of low income and vulnerable patients. The statutory intent of the program is to allow 340B providers “to stretch scarce Federal resources as far as possible, reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive services.” As policymakers prepare to consider changes to the 340B program, we urge Congress to reject any proposals that would have the effect of:

- Limiting access to affordable, clinically appropriate, pharmaceuticals for low-income, uninsured, underinsured, and other vulnerable patients
- Reducing access to care by cutting safety net providers out of the program
- Curtailing the ability of providers to use 340B savings to reach more eligible patients and provide more comprehensive services

Sent to: Secretary Azar, Health and Human Services

Sponsored by: 340B Health Organization

STATEMENTS SIGNED ON TO ON BEHALF OF THE U.S. PROVINCES WITH OTHER GROUPS

1. FAITH LEADERS’ STATEMENT ON INTEGRITY, SAFETY, AND FAIRNESS IN THE 2020 U.S. ELECTION (October 9, 2020)
2. PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT on the 75th anniversary of the UN
On UN day, 24 October 2020, Pax Christi International will release a statement to mark the 75th anniversary of the UN calling for its strengthening in the (post) COVID-19 era.