2018.09.22 Issues/Addresses

**CONSUMER PROTECTIONS and WORKING CONDITIONS**

The “tax reforms” of 2017 have added about $100 billion (that’s *billion*, with a *b*) to the national debt and will add an estimated $1 trillion (that’s *trillion* with a *t*) over the next ten years. The Republican administration’s “tax reform 2.0” would make the tax cuts for the wealthy permanent and add a projected $657 billion to the deficit (and $3.6 trillion over the long term). Republicans see making the massive national debt even larger as the route to credibly cutting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, claiming they must offset the debt they themselves created. (Write-up 9/22/18) (h/t *Rogan’s List* and *Small Deeds Done*)

**ENSURE** that our Congresspeople know that we object to lining the pockets of the already-wealthy, but taking away basic support systems from the rest of us

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202)224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**ENVIRONMENT**

We all know that the proposed border wall will wreak havoc on vulnerable species, but let’s consider some of the specifics as outlined by Tiffany Kersten in *Birder’s Guide to Conservation and Community*. First, when we think “wall,” we probably think of something a yard or two wide. The proposed border wall would require a 150 foot “enforcement zone” free of plant life and any natural features that might obstruct the militarized road this zone will contain. One flood-control levee along the Rio Grande currently consists of a road atop a gently sloped mound covered in native vegetation. Animals from snakes to ocelots to tortoises can comfortably walk or crawl over this mound. The proposed border wall would replace the levee with an 18-foot vertical concrete wall topped by steel bollards reaching up to a height of 30 feet. This wall will make it impossible for animals to pass through, limiting their movement and decreasing their genetic diversity. When the area floods—and it will flood—animals trapped by the wall will drown. In places, the wall would be as much as a mile and a half from the Rio Grande, affecting accessibility of dozens of National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) and other public lands and cutting some communities along the border off from the rest of the U.S. The seizure of private land takes time. Public land can be built upon almost immediately, which means that Wildlife Refuges and other public lands will be particularly vulnerable as funding for the wall becomes available. Among the vulnerable sites are the Santa Ana NWR, Bentsen Rio Grande State Park, and the National Butterfly Center. (Write-up 9/22/18)

**EXPLAIN** that the wall is too expensive, not just in terms of money, but also in terms of biological communities, individual species, and public lands and protected areas, and **INSIST** that our Congresspeople fight as fiercely as possible against any wall funding

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202)224-3841

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• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

In a trial this past spring, a group of five current and former California Coastal Commissioners were found guilty of breaking rules designed to ensure fairness and transparency. They’ve been fined a total of $1 million for failing to follow rules ensuring their private meetings were fairly and fully reported before they voted on beach projects. But don’t worry about the effect this will have on the Commissioners’ pocketbooks because the current Coastal Commission made a pre-trial decision to indemnify them in the case of a guilty verdict. According to the Commission’s statement explaining this self-serving move, “The law entitles Commissioners to representation by the State absent malice, fraud, or corruption.” In other words, you can get away with violating transparency rules and make the people of California pay for it—just as long as you weren’t *malicious* in breaking the rules. C*areless* and *uninformed* and *refusing to follow the rules* apparently don’t count. Our State Assemblymembers will have changed before this issue can be raised in the Legislature, so for now the appropriate contacts are probably the Governor, our State Senator, and Commission members themselves, particularly the two (Vargas and Howell) who benefitted from the indemnification. Note that comments sent to the Coastal Commissioners, must also be sent to the Coastal Commission staff, and you must state in communications to the Commissioners that duplicate comments are being sent to the Commission’s staff, so this will be a two-postcard job. (Write-up 9/22/18)

**DECRY** the power of the Coastal Commission (and other State bodies) to indemnify themselves for failing to follow transparency procedures and URGE legislation to end this practice and to require better training for the Coastal Commission on transparency obligations

• **Governor Edmund G. Brown**, c/o the State Capitol, Suite 1173, Sacramento, California 95814, (916) 445-2841

• **Senator Bill Monning**, 701 Ocean St., Suite 318A, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-0401

• **The California Coastal Commissioners**, 45 Fremont St., Suite 2000, San Francisco 94205, (415) 904-5202

• **The California Coastal Commission Staff**, 45 Fremont St., Suite 2000, San Francisco 94205, (415) 904-5202

One of the consequences of Hurricane Florence is the Carolinas has been the overflow of coal ash dumps and “hog lagoons” resulting in what will be long-term water pollution. The states contain 41 Superfund sites. We would hope that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would track and make public the environmental effects of the storm, but hoping is almost certainly not enough. (Write-up 9/22/18) (h/t *Rogan’s List*)

**DEMAND** a clear, public reporting from the EPA of the environmental consequence of Hurricane Florence

• **Andrew Wheeler**, Acting Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Email Code 1101A, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460, (202) 564-4700  
**REQUEST** an investigation of Hurricane Florence’s environmental impact and its relationship to global climate change from key members of the Senate’s Environmental and Public Works Committee

• **Senator John Barrasso** (R-WY), Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6176

• **Senator Thomas R. Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 456 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-8832

• **Senator Jeff Merkley** (D-OR), Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 456 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-8832

• **Senator Kirsten Gillibrand** (D-NY), Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 456 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-8832

• **Senator Cory A. Booker** (D-NJ), Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 456 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-8832

• **Senator Tammy Duckworth** (D-IL), Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 456 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-8832

Did you know there are no national standards for drinking water in public schools? Pair that with the fact that Detroit (to give one example) had to shut off water taps at 106 public schools at the start of this school year because of elevated levels of copper and lead. Perhaps it’s time to consider national standards. (Write-up 9/22/18)

**EXPLAIN** to the Secretary of Education that instead of focusing on arming teachers and blocking student debt forgiveness, she might want to consider the issue of safe drinking water for schoolchildren

• **Betsy DeVos**, Secretary of Education, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington DC 20202, (800) 872-5327

One of the Republican administration’s recent projects has been rolling back limits on methane emissions. Methane is a particularly dangerous greenhouse gas. Over twenty years methane produces 86 times the warming effect of an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide (that’s 86 *times* more, not “just” 86% more). That figure drops to 36 times the warming effect of carbon dioxide over one hundred years, but given the rate of global climate change, 100 years is an inappropriate timeline to be considering. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed rule changes that would reduce required methane line inspections from every six months to once a year; would give gas drillers 60 days, rather than the current 30, to fix methane leaks; and would allow methane producers to comply with state, rather than federal, methane guidelines if the state guidelines are weaker than the federal ones. These proposals are currently open for a formal public comment period. The Interior Department’s Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has already released weakened methane pollution rules for drillers on public lands. Given administration commitments to these dangerous proposals, we should contact Congress, as well as the agencies themselves. (Write-up 9/22/18)

**OBJECT** to existing and proposed weakening of methane regulations to

• **Andrew Wheeler**, Acting Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Email Code 1101A, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460, (202) 564-4700

• **Ryan Zinke**, Interior Secretary, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240, (202) 208-3100

• **Brian Steed**, Deputy Director, Policy and Programs, Bureau of Land Management, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Room 5665, Washington DC 20460, (202) 208-3801

**EXPRESS** your dissatisfaction with these rules changes to key members of Congressional committees overseeing the EPA and the BLM

• **Senator John Barrasso** (R-WY), Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6176

• **Senator Thomas R. Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 456 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-8832

• **Senator Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK), Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4971

• **Senator Maria Cantwell** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4971

• **Senator Tammy Duckworth** (D-IL), Member, Environment and Public Works and Energy and Natural Resources Committees, 524 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2854

**FAMILY SEPARATION, DENATURALIZATION, and IMMIGRATION**

Currently our immigration court system is under the authority of Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who can handpick judges and restrict asylum. He is now moving to limit immigration judges’ ability to dismiss immigration cases. An Article 1 immigration court system would operate independent of the Department of Justice. (Write-up 9/22/18) (h/t *Chop Wood, Carry Water*)

**SUGGEST** to our Congresspeople that the time for an Article 1 immigration court system has arrived, so that these courts will not be subject to the whims and biases of Sessions or future attorneys general

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202)224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

When the Republican administration’s family separation policy went into effect, many immigration advocates feared that family members already in the U.S. would be afraid to step up to sponsor children who were part of their extended families because potential sponsors would be subject to immigration scrutiny themselves. This is exactly what has come to pass. Health and Human Services (HHS), which houses separated and unaccompanied children, has signed an agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to fingerprint and run immigration background checks on anyone coming forward to sponsor these children. As of September 20th, this agreement had resulted in the arrests of 41 people who have come forward as potential sponsors.

**DECRY** this new cruelty being heaped on top of the administration’s existing cruelties and **DEMAND** that relatives who come forward to sponsor separated and unaccompanied minors not be subjected to immigration checks themselves

• **Kirstjen Nielsen**, Secretary of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494

• **Ronald D. Vitiello**, Deputy Director and Senior Official Performing the Duties of Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St. SW, Washington DC 20536,(866) DHS-2-ICE

• **Alex Azar**, Secretary of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20201, (877) 696-6775

• **Steven Wagner**, Acting Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, (202) 401-9200

• **Scott Lloyd**, Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Mary E. Switzer Building, 330 C ST SW, Washington DC 20201, (202) 401-9246

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202)224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

One of the pieces of legislation still awaiting California Governor Jerry Brown’s signature is S.B.1194, which would ensure that the guest and passenger records of all California patrons of lodging establishments and private bus companies are not disclosed to third parties, other than California peace officers, without a court-issued subpoena, warrant, or order. This comes in response to the voluntary release of guest and passenger records to Immigrations and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection officers by Greyhound Bus Lines and several Motel 6 facilities.

**URGE** the Governor to sign off on S.B.1194 so that people can safely and comfortably travel across our state

• **Governor Edmund G. Brown**, c/o the State Capitol, Suite 1173, Sacramento, California 95814, (916) 445-2841

The Trump Administration has announced its intention to limit refugee admittance to the U.S. next year to just 30,000 individuals, by far the lowest number since the current refugee program was put in place in 1980. This decision comes at a time when the world is experiencing huge growth in refugee populations, including many individuals fleeing regions in which the U.S. had been supporting military conflicts—such as those in Yemen and Syria.

**DEMAND** that the Republican administration raise this obscenely low quota

• **Mike Pompeo**, U.S. Secretary of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520-2204, (202) 647-6575

**EXPLAIN** to key members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee that this unacceptably low quota be opposed

• **Senator Bob Corker** (R-TN), Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

• **Senator Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4651

• **Representative Ed Royce (**R-CA), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2066 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515 (202) 225-5021

• **Representative Francis Rooney** (R-FL), Vice-Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2066 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515 (202) 225-5021

• **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2066 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515 (202) 225-5021

**IMPLORE**, **EXHORT**, and **INSIST** that our Congresspeople push back against this unacceptably low quota with every tool at their disposal

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202)224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**GENERAL DECENCY**

There have been many demands for a Congressional hearing on the Republican administration’s response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, where the estimated death toll has now been raised to 3,000. Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) has called the lack of hearings “a shameful failure of leadership,” telling MSNBC that Republicans decided “they didn’t want to embarrass the administration and therefore weren’t going to examine the cause of so many people dying.” Trump, however, claimed that “3000 people did not die in the two hurricanes that hit Puerto Rico” and the numbers were inflated by Democrats to make him look bad. (Write-up 9/22/18)

**JOIN** the calls for a hearing by contacting our Congresspeople

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202)224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

A Customs and Border Protection (CBP) report notes that more than a dozen points were breached during recent tests of prototypes of the proposed border wall. These tests were run by a group composed of members from CBP, U.S. Special Operations Command, and the Marine Corps and assessed the prototypes for breaching, scaling, aesthetics, and constructability. In one case, crews were able to make a prototype wall unstable to the point of collapse. While the Republican administration may use these tests to call for increased wall funding, given the current costs of the wall, the unlikelihood of its effectiveness, and the dubious reasoning behind the project in the first place, we can point to these tests to demonstrate that the entire wall project should be abandoned.

**EXPLAIN** that the administration itself has demonstrated the ineffectiveness of a border wall and that the project should be abandoned

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202)224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

In the lead-up to Hurricane Florence, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster made the decision not to evacuate nearly 1,000 prisoners housed in prisons within the flood zone, even though at least one of those prisons experienced flooding in the past—without the assistance of a Hurricane. Prisoners were denied bottles and buckets for storing extra water. This comes after some truly horrific conditions suffered by the incarcerated during Hurricanes Katrina, Harvey, and Maria, which included people left without food and water and people standing in contaminated water for extended periods. (Write-up 9/22/18)

**EXPLAIN** to the Governor that prisoners’ lives are human lives—and that the State’s incarcerated population deserved better

• **Governor Henry McMaster**, State House, 1100 Gervais St., Columbia, South Carolina 29201, (803) 734-2100

A recent statistical study of the Global Terrorism Database by the Southern Poverty Law Center found that nearly two-thirds of terror attacks in the U.S. are conducted by right-wing extremists.

**EXPLAIN** to director of homeland security and key members of the Senate and house Homeland Security Committees that focusing on this threat would do much more to protect lives than systematically incarcerating asylum-seeking families does

• **Kirstjen Nielsen**, Secretary of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154

• **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Homeland Security Committee, 176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8417

• **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Homeland Security Committee, 176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8417

First, it was the Department of Homeland Security paying for zero-tolerance detention centers by making cuts to FEMA and the Coast Guard (and during hurricane season, no less!). Now the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is making its own cuts to pay for the cost of detaining immigrant children. Secretary of HHS Alex Azar has cut nearly $80 million from other Office of Refugee Resettlement Programs, which need less funding due to the Republican administration’s draconian cuts in refugee admissions. $16.7 million is being taken from Head Start, which provides preschool programs for low-income families. $5.7 million is being taken from the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program. $13.3 million is being taken from the National Cancer Institute. Smaller cuts are being made to mental and maternal health programs, substance abuse programs, and women’s shelters. After all, what could make us feel more “secure” and “healthy” than locking up children rather than funding emergency, educational, and health programming? Cancer? No problem, as long as they don’t let the kids out from behind the chain-link fences. (Write-up 9/22/18)

**DEMAND** that the Secretary of HHS and other officials to keep their hands off of preschools, cancer research, AIDS treatment and prevention, drug abuse programs (opioid crisis, anyone?), and battered women’s shelters to continue locking up asylum-seeking children

• **Alex Azar**, Secretary of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20201, (877) 696-6775

• **Steven Wagner**, Acting Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, (202) 401-9200

• **Scott Lloyd**, Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Mary E. Switzer Building, 330 C ST SW, Washington DC 20201, (202) 401-9246

**INSIST** that our Congresspeople keep these transfers of funds in mind when voting on future budgetary legislation

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202)224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**HEALTH and HEALTHCARE**

The effort to end pharmaceutical gag rules—which present pharmacists from telling patients if their medicine can be purchased for less than the cost of their insurance co-pay—is gaining headway. The Senate has passed S.2553, which prohibits these gag rules in Medicare part D insurance plans; this legislation now moves to the House. The “Patient Right to Know Drug Prices Act,” S.2554, which bans gag orders in non-Medicaid plans has also passed the Senate. Its House equivalent, H.R.6143 is currently with the House Energy and Commerce Committee. (Write-up 9/22/18)

**URGE** quick movement on H.R.6143 by key members of the Energy and Commerce Committee

• **Representative Greg Walden** (R-OR) Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Joe Barton** (R-TX), Vice-Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Frank Pallone** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

**ASK** our Representative to support both the House version of S.2553 and H.R.6143 when they reach the floor of the House

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**JUDICIARY**

Dr. Christine Blasey Ford has alleged that she was sexually assaulted by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavenaugh when they were both high school students. This comes after allegations of Kavanaugh lying under oath, and the Senate Judiciary Committee being given incomplete materials from Kavanaugh’s work with previous administration. At the same time, Senate Majority Leader has reassured conservatives that the Senate will “plough right through” the Kavanaugh nomination, and Senate Judiciary Committee chair Chuck Grassley insists that Kavanaugh’s confirmation be wrapped up as quickly as possible.

**EXPLAIN** to the Senators that the measure of an effective confirmation process isn’t its speed, but the thoroughness and seriousness with which it is conducted

• **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-2541

• **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

**#METOO**

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is about to expire and it appears the best we can hope for is a stop-gap continuation of funding, which would allow another three months of VAWA funding before we come back to the same crisis state. Nearly fifty Republican House members, including House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), have urged Speaker of the House Paul Ryan to allow consideration of real legislation, rather than kicking the issue down the road. One of the problems seems to be that the new VAWA legislation would add a prohibition against gun ownership by anyone convicted of stalking or domestic abuse. Consider the statistics: one in three U.S. women will experience domestic violence in her life, one in five U.S. women will experience rape, and another 20 million U.S. women will be stalked. But let’s make sure that those abusers, rapists, and stalkers (of whatever gender) don’t lose the right to carry a firearm while abusing, raping, and stalking because guns are what keep us safe. Right?

**DEMAND** real action and leadership, not stop-gap measures, from Speaker Paul Ryan

• Representative Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3031

**EXHORT** our Representative to keep pushing on this issue and to refuse to settle for stopgap measures

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, who has spoken up about being sexually assaulted by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh when they were both in high school has been forced to go into hiding with her family because of credible death threats and continuous harassment. Let’s send her messages of solidarity and thanks at the university where she teaches. They may take a little extra time to reach her, but she needs to hear that we are with her.

**BRACING** messages to

• Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, Palo Alto University, 1791 Arastradero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94304