**Issues/Addresses Write-Ups for 2019.1.19**

**ASYLUM SEEKERS, FAMILY SEPARATION, DENATURALIZATION, and IMMIGRATION**

There’s no text available for H.R.479, but the title says it all: “To Amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to Eliminate the Diversity Immigrant Program.” This legislation is headed to the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 1/18/2019)

**TELL** the Judiciary Committee Chair that we don’t want to see this bigoted piece of legislation moved forward

• **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6909

Another piece of “no-text-but-the-title’s-enough-to-inspire-opposition” legislation is H.R.440, “To Amend the Immigrations and Nationality Act to Clarify the Authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to Take Property Using Eminent Domain and for Other Purposes.” Given the number of protected areas and threatened species that may suffer if a wall is constructed, eminent domain is the last thing we want the Secretary of Homeland Security to have. This legislation is headed to the House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees. (Write-up 1/18/2019)

**TELL** the chairs of the committees that are receiving this legislation that the wall is a threat to our biodiversity and won’t improve security—so we don’t want H.R.440 to go anywhere

• **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6909

• **Representative Bennie G. Thompson** (D-MS), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 176 Ford House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-2616

**CONSUMER PROTECTIONS and WORKPLACE RIGHTS**

California law requires cities and counties to plan for enough new housing so that residents can live affordably. Unfortunately, the law says nothing about that housing actually being built. Governor Newsom has threatened to withhold state transportation revenue from cities and counties that block homebuilding. While Newsom doesn’t have unilateral authority to make this happen, it isn’t a bad idea. Until California has an adequate supply of housing, housing costs will continue to eat up 50% or more of too many Californians’ incomes. (Write-up 1/18/2019)

TELL Newsom and our state legislators that we think this is an idea worth exploring

• **Governor Gavin Newsom**, c/o State Capitol, Suite1173, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-2841

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

• **Assemblyperson Robert Rivas** [for Watsonville], 275 Main St. Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 768-3035

• **Assemblyperson** **Mark Stone** [for Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St. #318b, Santa Cruz, CAS 95060, (831) 425-1303

From *Rogan’s List*: “With the partial government shutdown [now] the longest in U.S. history, many housing advocates fear thousands of low-income Americans are at risk of being evicted. More than 1,000 government-backed housing contracts have already expired and potentially more will do so in the coming weeks. Since the shutdown began last month, approximately 1,150 federal rental assistance contracts have not been renewed due to funding lapses at the Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD]. These lapses impact Project-Based Rental Assistance agreements between private property owners and the federal government. These landlords are contracted to house low- and very low-income residents. The property owner charges tenants modest rents and HUD kicks in subsidies to make up the difference.” The only ‘crisis’ is the one that Trump is creating by not signing a bill passed by the House that he promised his GOP Senators he would sign.” (Write-up 1/18/2019)

**TELL** Trump and Senate Majority Leader McConnell it’s time to quite holding Americans hostage and to end the shutdown

• **Donald Trump**, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

• **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader, 217 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2541

**ELECTIONS**

H.J.Res.24 proposes a constitutional amendment that would grant the right for residents of all U.S. territories and commonwealths to vote in Presidential elections. Hurricane Maria allowed us to see exactly how the President can treat residents of territories (in this case Puerto Rico), yet these residents have no voice in the election of the President they will depend upon. Winning a constitutional amendment is a long process—but that process needs to be started if the amendment is to be achieved. H.J.Res.24 is currently with the House Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 1/18/2019)

**ASK** the House Judiciary Committee chair to prioritize this effort to take a first step toward granting voting rights to residents of U.S. territories and commonwealths

• **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6909

S.26 would allow all eligible voters the right to vote by mail in federal elections and would also provide for automatic voter registration. Both Feinstein and Harris are cosponsors of this legislation which is currently with the Senate Rules and Administration Committee. (Write-up 1/18/2019)

**INFORM** the Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Rules and Administration that is the kind of legislation you’d like to see prioritized

• **Senator Roy Blunt** (R-MO), Chair, Senate Rules and Administration Committee, 305 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6352

• **Senator Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN), Ranking Member, Senate Rules and Administration Committee, 305 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6352

**THANK** Feinstein (who is also a Rules and Administration Committee member) and Harris for cosponsoring S.26

• **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

The summary of H.R.44, the “Coretta Scott King Mid-Decade Redistricting Prohibition Act” is pretty straightforward: “This bill prohibits any state whose congressional districts have been redistricted after a decennial census from carrying out another redistricting until after the next apportionment of Representatives following a decennial census, unless a court requires such state to conduct a subsequent redistricting to comply with the Constitution or enforce the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The bill is applicable to any congressional redistricting which occurs after the regular decennial census conducted during 2020.” The goal here is to avoid frequent (re)gerrymandering as power shifts in state elections. This legislation is currently with the House judiciary Committee. (Write-up 1/18/2019)

**EXPRESS** your support for a fairer election districting process to the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee

• **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6909

**ENVIRONMENT**

Oil and gas companies are being allowed to drill without supervision on public lands during the shutdown, and the Department of the Interior continues to issue permits. (Write-up 1/18/2019)

**DEMAND** of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, key legislators, and our own Congresspeople that all oil- and gas-related activities on public lands (including drilling, permit processing, inspections, public meetings, and regulatory documents) and all timber operations on public lands be halted until the shutdown is completely lifted

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

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

• **Representative Frank Pallone, Jr.** (D-NJ), Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2322A Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3641

• **Representative Raúl M. Grijalva** (D-AZ), Chair, House Natural Resources Committee, 1329 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6065

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

• **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), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

From *Rogan’s List*: “The advocates of business-as-usual are pumping out a steady stream of screeds deriding the Green New Deal as economically unrealistic…, while ignoring the fact that climate science has told us we have only 12 years to renounce our carbon-belching ways. Our situation is a bit like that of a person standing on the beach, watching an approaching tsunami while the guy next to you whines about the path to high ground being rocky and steep. We could all wait for someone to pave a highway to safety for us but that would take far too long.” (Write-up 1/18/2019)

**TELL** the Speaker of the House and our Congresspeople to join the legislators supporting a Green New Deal because we can't afford NOT to do it

• **Representative Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA), Speaker of the House, 1236 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4965

• **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), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

Also from *Rogan’s List*: “Ex-coal lobbyist Andrew Wheeler is being considered by the Senate for confirmation as head of the EPA. When asked whether he agreed with the conclusions of the Fourth National Climate Assessment, Wheeler said he couldn't answer because he had not been fully briefed on the report; ‘That's unacceptable,’ responded Sen. Ed Markey, (D-MA), ‘You're looking to be confirmed as the head of the Environmental Protection Agency… and you… haven't had enough time yet to review whether or not there's an extra level of urgency to this problem.’ Wheeler’s opposition to environmental regulation and his efforts to roll back pollution standards are widely known; climate change, in Wheeler’s view, does not constitute the ‘greatest crisis’ facing the EPA.” (Write-up 1/19/2019)

**URGE** our Senators to vote against Wheeler’s confirmation on the grounds that he has not only demonstrated his ignorance to the Senate but lied about the effects of deregulation

• **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

The Associated Press (AP) reports that the EPA's criminal referrals in pollution cases sat at 166 last year, the lowest number since the Reagan administration. Former members of the EPA’s Criminal Investigation Division told the AP that the reason for the decreased caseload stemmed not from a lack of leads, but rather a lack of resources to pursue those leads. (Write-up 1/18/2019)

**URGE** our Congresspeople to do all they can to make sure polluters don’t get away with violating the minimal regulations we still have in place

• **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), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

One of the ways we can fight climate change is by insisting on frequent, factual coverage of the problem by our news media. (Write-up 1/19/2019)

URGE more frequent—and factual—reporting on climate change from

• **ABC News**, 47 West 66th Street, New York, NY 10023,

• **CBS News**, 524 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019,

• **CNBC**, 900 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632

• **Fox News Channel**, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036,

• **MSNBC**, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112,

• **NBC**, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112

• **PBS**, 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202-3785

**ETHICS, TRANSPARENCY, and SEPARATION of POWERS**

S.20, the “Presidential Tax Transparency Act,” requires the President and candidates for President to disclose federal income tax returns for the three most recent taxable years in reports filed with either the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) or the Federal Election Commission (FEC). The OGE or the FEC must make the disclosed tax returns publicly available after making appropriate redactions. If the income tax returns are not disclosed as required by this bill, the OGE or the FEC must request the returns from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The bill requires the IRS, upon receiving a written request from the FEC or the OGE, to provide any income tax return that is required to be disclosed under this bill. The bill also establishes civil and criminal penalties for failing to file or falsifying income tax returns that are required to be disclosed pursuant to this bill. S.20 is currently with the Senate Rules and Administration Committee. Feinstein and Harris are cosponsors. (Write-up 1/18/2019)

**TELL** Senate Rules and Administration Committee that we’re tired of waiting for the President’s taxes and don’t want to go through this process of promises betrayed in the future

• **Senator Roy Blunt** (R-MO), Chair, Senate Rules and Administration Committee, 305 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6352

• **Senator Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN), Ranking Member, Senate Rules and Administration Committee, 305 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6352

**THANK** Feinstein (who is also a Rules and Administration Committee member) and Harris for cosponsoring S.20

• **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

The *Washington Post* reports, “President Trump has selected a Washington outsider to head the government agency responsible for paying back dissolved pensions…. Yet Trump’s nominee, Gordon Hartogensis, is well known to some of Washington’s most politically influential people: He is the brother-in-law of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and McConnell’s wife, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao…. Hartogensis was nominated to direct the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp., a Labor Department agency that collects insurance premiums from sponsors of defined-benefit plans and pays out benefits when companies cannot meet their obligations…. His nomination by Trump raised questions among government ethics experts on the selection process and vetting for Hartogensis, a nominee with no apparent public service experience or direct insight into the agency’s mission…. Hartogensis does not appear to have any government experience as he readies for a job that protects the current and future pensions of 1.5 million people.” This is a position that requires Senate confirmation. (Write-up 1/19/2019)

**URGE** our Senators to take a fierce stance against the inappropriate appointment of an unqualified nominee

• **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

*The Trace* reports: “The National Rifle Association appears to have illegally coordinated its political advertising with Republican candidates in at least three recent high-profile Senate races, according to Federal Communications Commission records. In Senate races in Missouri and Montana in 2018, and North Carolina in 2016, the gun group’s advertising blitzes on behalf of GOP candidates Josh Hawley, Matt Rosendale, and Richard Burr were authorized by the very same media consultancy that the candidates themselves used—an apparent violation of laws designed to prevent independent groups from synchronizing their efforts with political campaigns…. In at least 10 instances across the Missouri, Montana, and North Carolina races, FCC [Federal Communications Commission] records show that ad purchases for both the NRA and the Senate campaigns were authorized by National Media’s chief financial officer, Jon Ferrell. Campaign finance laws bar outside groups from sharing any election-related information—including advertising strategy—with the candidates they support. While it is not illegal for independent groups and campaigns to use the same vendors, the Federal Election Commission requires consultants to prevent staffers from sharing information, usually through the creation of internal ‘firewalls.’ ‘All evidence points to coordination,’ said Larry Noble, the general counsel of the FEC [Federal Elections Commission] from 1987 to 2000, in response to a detailed description of the documents. ‘It’s hard to understand how you’d have same person authorizing placements for the NRA and the candidate and it *not* be coordination.’” The House Committee on Administration oversees federal elections, so would be an appropriate committee from which to request an investigation of this apparent violation of election law. (Write-up 1/19/2019)

**REQUEST** an investigation of these apparent election improprieties by the House Administration Committee

• **Representative Zoe Lofgren** (D-CA), Chair, House Administration Committee, 1316 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2061

**GENERAL DECENCY**

Appalling. Deplorable. Despicable. High school students, many sporting MAGA hats, bussed into Washington DC from a school in the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky, for the annual Walk for Life (aka Walk Against Reproductive Rights), did a fair bit more than walk. They heckled and harassed Native American Elder of the Omaha Tribe—and Vietnam veteran—Nathan Phillips, who was conducting a ritual as part of the Indigenous People’s March, also being held in DC. The diocese has issued a firm apology. (Write-up 1/19/2019)

**THANKS** for the apology and **REQUESTS** for follow through on appropriate discipline and multicultural training for students and staff

• **Bob Rowe**, Principal, Covington Catholic High School, 1600 Dixie Highway, Park Hills, KY 41011

• **Bishop Roger Joseph Foys**, Covington Diocese, 1125 Madison Ave., Covington, KY 41011, (859) 392-1500

• **Michael Clines**, Superintendent, Diocesan Board of Catholic Education, 1125 Madison Ave., Covington, KY 41011, (859) 392-1500

Eliot Engel, Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, has decided to shut down Foreign Affairs’ Terrorism Subcommittee. Instead, he will be forming a new subcommittee, Oversight and Investigations, to track the administration’s international activities. Engel explained to the *New Yorker*, “We just thought, if we’re going to do something relevant in this era where Congress is going to reassert itself, where there are so many questionable activities of this Administration vis-à-vis foreign policy, that it made sense to have this.” (Write-up 1/19/2019)

**THANKS** to Engel for establishing this new subcommittee and scrutinizing the Administration’s relationships with foreign governments

• **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2206 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8467

From the *Hollywood Reporter*: “North Carolina's controversial legislation is impacting Hollywood's decision to film in the state. Netflix has opted to film its upcoming North Carolina-set series OBX, a coming-of-age drama set in a fictional town in the state's Outer Banks, in South Carolina instead due to remnants of North Carolina's anti-LGBTQ House Bill 2. Best known as "the bathroom bill," the law requires transgender people use the public restrooms that correspond to the sex on their birth certificate. The legislation first drew criticism when it was enacted in 2016, with some studios even pulling their projects out of the state. Despite the fact that North Carolina repealed a section of the law in 2017 following a year of backlash, it didn't completely overturn HB2. One problematic piece of the replacement bill, per insiders, is a clause that forbids municipalities from enacting nondiscrimination ordinances for any group not included in state law — including LGBTQ people — until 2020. (Write-up 1/19/2019)

**THANK** Netflix for standing up to hate

• **Reed Hastings**, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Netflix Corporate Headquarters, 100 Winchester Circle, Los Gatos, CA 95032, (866) 579-7172

CBS News reports: In mid-January, “Puerto Rico welcomed more than 30 members of Congress—the largest Congressional delegation to ever visit the island. The contingent of Democratic lawmakers set foot on Puerto Rican soil during a trying time for the U.S. territory, still grappling with a prolonged debt crisis and recovering from two destructive storms. ‘It is more devastating than many of us realized. I'm glad that we came,’ Rep. Tony Cárdenas, D-California, told CBS News…. [T]he delegation held a round table with local officials to discuss post-Hurricane Maria recovery efforts, unpopular austerity measures and federal investment to the island. Some of Puerto Rico's mayors and legislators pleaded with congressional leaders for more federal assistance, the repeal of the Jones Act, the end or modification of the fiscal oversight board established by Congress in 2016 and more local control over recovery funds sent by Washington. ‘The fact that we as Congress have approved tens of billions of dollars and then a small, small amount of that money has actually been approved and actually has arrived in Puerto Rico is shocking,’ Cárdenas said. ‘And that, in my opinion, has continued to contribute to the demise of Puerto Rico's economy, to the death toll in Puerto Rico.’” (Write-up 1/19/2019)

**REMIND** our Congresspeople that Puerto Rico deserves better and that we want to see action taken to remedy the current situation and to prevent such problems in the future

• **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), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

From *Rogan’s List*: “In the critical opening round of a battle that will probably end in the Supreme Court, a federal judge has ruled against the Commerce Department’s attempt to put a citizenship question on the 2020 census. Turns out, according to the *NY Times*, that Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross spent months campaigning to get the DoJ [Department of Justice] to ask for the inclusion of the question, and ‘In sworn testimony, the department’s senior civil-rights official conceded that census data was not necessary to enforce the Voting Rights Act,’ although that was the excuse used for the inclusion of the citizenship question. The American Civil Liberties Union called the judge’s ruling a ‘forceful rebuke of the Trump administration’s attempt to weaponize the census for an attack on immigrant communities.’” (Write-up 1/19/2019)

**JOIN** in this rebuking of the Administration for its duplicity and anti-immigrant stance

• **Donald Trump**, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

• **Wilbur Ross**, Secretary of Commerce, Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC 20230, (202) 482-2000

**GUNS**

H.R.511 is another of those pieces of legislation the importance of which is clear from the title alone. In this case, that title is “To Amend Title 18, United States Code, to Protect More Victims of Domestic Violence by Preventing Their Abusers from Possessing or Receiving Firearms and for Other Purposes.” The *Washington Post* reported that “an analysis of 4,484 killings of women in 47 major U.S. cities during the past decade found that nearly half of the women who were killed—46 percent—died at the hands of an intimate partner. In many cases, they were among the most brutal deaths, and the most telegraphed. In a close analysis of homicides in five of the cities, the *Post* found that more than one-third of all men who killed a current or former intimate partner were publicly known to be a potential threat to their loved one ahead of the attack. In Fort Worth, Las Vegas, Oklahoma City, San Diego and St. Louis, 36 percent of the 280 men implicated in a domestic killing had a previous restraining order against them or had been convicted of domestic abuse or a violent crime, including murder, the *Post* found.” H.R.511 is currently with the House Judiciary Committee. Jimmy Panetta is a cosponsor of H.R.511. (Write-up 1/18/2019)

**URGE** quick action on H.R.511 from the House Judiciary Committee chair

• **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6909

**THANK** Panetta for cosponsoring H.R.511

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 212 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

S.42, the “Background Check Expansion Act,” would do what its title suggests and expand background checks for firearms purchases. It’s currently with the Senate Judiciary Committee. Feinstein and Harris are cosponsors. (Write-up 1/19/2019)

**ASK** for action by the Senate Judiciary Committee on this much-needed legislation—and **THANKS** to Feinstein and Harris for cosponsoring

• **Senator Lindsey Graham** (R-SC), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 290 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5972

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

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

S.66, the “Assault Weapons Ban of 2019,” was introduced by Dianne Feinstein. This legislation would ban the sale, transfer, manufacture and importation of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines. Kamala Harris is one of its twenty-eight cosponsors. S.66 is currently with the Senate Judiciary Committee. (Write-up 1/19/2019)

**ASK** for action by the Senate Judiciary Committee on this much-needed legislation—and **THANKS** to Feinstein and Harris for introducing/cosponsoring

• **Senator Lindsey Graham** (R-SC), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 290 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5972

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

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

**HEALTH and HEALTHCARE**

From Reuter’s: “A top U.S. lawmaker launched an investigation into pharmaceutical industry pricing practices…, less than a week after he and fellow Democrats introduced legislation aimed at lowering medicine prices. Representative Elijah Cummings, who chairs the House Oversight Committee, sent letters to 12 drugmakers seeking information on price increases, investment in research and development, and corporate strategies to preserve market share and pricing power, his office said in a statement. AbbVie Inc, Amgen Inc, AstraZeneca PLC, Celgene Corp, Eli Lilly and Co, Johnson & Johnson, Mallinckrodt PLC, Novartis AG, Novo Nordisk, Pfizer Inc, Sanofi and Teva Pharmaceutical all received letters seeking information about their pricing practices…. Cummings’ letters focused on drugs that are the costliest to Medicare Part D, a program that helps beneficiaries of the federal health insurance program for the elderly and disabled pay for self-administered medicines like those purchased at drugstores, as well as drugs that have had the largest price increases over a five-year period. They include AbbVie’s Humira, the world’s top-selling medicine that had a price increase at the start of the year, Johnson & Johnson’s blockbuster cancer drug Imbruvica and several diabetes medications.” (Write-up 1/19/2019)

**THANKS** for initiating this investigation

• **Representative Elijah E. Cummings** (D-MD), Chair, House Oversight and Reform Committee, 2471 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5051

**HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS**

H.R.615, “To Provide Women and Girls Safe Access to Sanitation Facilities in Refugee Camps,” has been introduced in the House and is now with the Foreign Affairs Committee. (Write-up 1/19/2019)

**EXPRESS** your support for this legislation and **URGE** swift consideration by the Foreign Affairs Committee

• **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2206 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8467