

**FIDALGO DEMOCRATS’ NEWS BULLETIN” for MARCH 14, 2017**

**FEDERAL ACTION/EVENTS**


**Forcing Trump:** Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) has a bill to close the loophole that exempts the president and vice president and their families from conflict of interest rules. The bill would force Trump to disclose and fully divest his financial interests. (CREDO Action, 2-17-17) The Presidential Tax Transparency Act would force presidents/candidates to show their taxes.

**Dems re-introduce:** Democrats just re-introduced a new Constitutional Amendment to overturn Citizens United. Sign support: http://act.endcitizensunited.org/Pass-The-Amendment

**Nuclear precaution:** A coalition has developed support for Sen. Ed Markey’s (D-MA) and Rep. Ted Lieu’s (D-CA) companion bills to prevent the President from being able to launch a nuclear first strike without Congress declaring war. Please call Sens. Cantwell and Murray to support S. 200 and call Rep. Rick Larsen for HR 669. (202-224-3121 toll-free for all 3) (Peace Action)

**Terminating the EPA and more:** Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) introduced HR 861 to terminate the EPA as of 12-31-18, co-sponsored by Reps. Thomas Massie (R-KY), and 2 others. (Daily Kos, 2-15-17) Massie also has a one-phrase bill, HR 899, to terminate the Dept. of Education. (Daily Kos, 2-22)

**Sending a postcard:** Since Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) is not receiving calls, emails, or petitions, send a post card to his home address saying no to privatizing Medicare, repealing the ACA, and defunding Planned Parenthood: Paul Ryan, 700 St. Lawrence Ave., Janesville, WI 53545.

**Trump unhinged:** 35 doctors and mental health professionals wrote an unprecedented letter to the New York Times Feb. 14th warning of Trump’s “grave emotional instability.” (Daily Kos 2-16)
**Hiding information:** The NSA is so worried about Trump’s Russia connection that they’re hiding information from him during their investigation of his ties to Russia. (Free Speech TV, 2-17-17)

**Single payer bill:** California state Sen. Ricardo Lara introduced a single-payer health care bill, sponsored by the California Nurses Association. (Progressive Democrats of America, 2-18-17)

**Expanding Social Security:** Sen. Bernie Sanders re-introduced the Expanding Social Security Act to make the top 1.6% pay their fair share. 72% of Americans, including 51% of Republicans, support expanding it, not restricting it. Become a co-sponsor. (Social Security Works, 2-18-17)

**National right to work:** Rep. Steve King (R-IA) introduced the National Right to Work Act, allowing workers to benefit from union representation without paying dues, which is an attack on unions. Twenty-eight state legislatures have passed these laws. “Right to work” is really the right to work for less, because workers in those states earn less and have fewer protections. Pres. Trump’s press secretary says Trump believes in “right to work.” A right to work bill was just defeated in New Hampshire by a bipartisan coalition. (Democracy for America, 2-20-17)

**Voter suppression:** Sen. Bernie Sanders is pushing Congress to investigate voter suppression. If you agree, see go.turnoutpac.org/Investigate-Voter-Suppression. (Voter Turnout Project, 2-21)

**Demanding disavowal:** After Jeff Sessions was confirmed as U.S. Attorney General, domestic terrorist group Operation Rescue’s Troy Newman offered documentation to DOJ for targeting abortion providers. During his confirmation hearing Sessions refused to disavow the group’s endorsement. Newman believes the federal government should execute abortion providers. Demand that Sessions disavow Operation Rescue and decline partnership with domestic terrorist organizations. Sessions’ job is to protect all Americans. (NARAL Pro-Choice, 2-21-17)

**Democrat Jon Ossoff** is running for Tom Price’s Congressional seat in Georgia. Ossoff, endorsed by his mentor Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) and End Citizens United, leads a company that investigates corrupt politicians and organized crime. We need to flip this seat to a Democrat! http://act.endcitizensunited.org/Elect-Jon-Ossoff. (EndCitizensUnited.org, 2-22-17)
Block the RAISE Act: Sens. Tom Cotton (R-AR) and David Perdue (R-GA) introduced the Reforming American Immigration for Strong Employment (RAISE) Act to restrict green cards, bar immigrants from reuniting with families, and end the diversity visa lottery. It would cut immigration 50%. White supremacists are praising the bill, which attacks all immigrants. Ask Sens. Cantwell and Murray (202-224-3121) to block the RAISE Act. (CREDO)

New DNC chair: On Feb. 25th the 447 DNC members elected Tom Perez (D-MD) as Chair in a close election; Perez immediately named his opponent, Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN), Deputy Chair.

51 lies: People called Trump’s Feb. 28th speech to Congress “Presidential,” but The Center for American Progress cited 51 lies in the 61-minute speech. (David Pakman, Free Speech TV 3-3-17)

Sessions lies: The Washington Post reported that Attorney General Jeff Sessions lied under oath in his confirmation hearing, denying he’d met with any Russian official during the Trump campaign, but he met twice with the Russian ambassador. He agreed to recuse himself in any investigation of Russian ties, but Democrats demand he resign and that his successor should appoint an independent prosecutor to investigate Trump’s ties to Russia. Ask Rep. Rick Larsen to demand this. (202-225-2605) (CREDO 3-2-17) Pres. Nixon’s AG resigned over the same thing.

EPA rolling back protections: The EPA will soon roll back federal regulations on vehicle pollution that adds to global warming, obliterating an important part of Pres. Obama’s environmental legacy. They’ll also begin dismantling the Clean Power Plan, and revoking California’s stricter regulation on tailpipe emissions. (The New York Times, 3-3-17)

Eviscerating voting rights: “The Nation” reported the GOP has introduced 42 bills in 21 states this session making it harder to vote. Dems must increase turnout. (Prog. Turnout Project, 3-4)

Crisis of public trust: Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE) issued a statement that “we are in the midst of a civilization-warning crisis of public trust,” referring to Trump’s tweetstorm accusing Pres. Obama of wiretapping Trump Tower during the campaign. (Daily Kos, 3-4-17) The FBI denies it.

Public Citizen v. Donald J. Trump: The watchdog organization has sued Pres. Trump over his executive order that for any new regulation, two existing ones must be eliminated and which requires costs of unrelated regulations to be considered. It argues this requires federal agencies to violate a great many
statutes and affects planned new rules on everything from keeping miners from getting crushed to averting oil train derailments or explosions. (Public Citizen, 3-4)

Class action on slave wages: A 2014 lawsuit against a private prison company on behalf of 60,000 immigrant detainees forced to work for $1/hour or nothing reached class-action status this week, the first such action ever allowed to go forward. (Washington Post, 3-5-17)

Revised Muslim ban: Pres. Trump issued his revised travel ban against six Muslim nations on March 6th, saying it has “minor technical differences” from the first one. It’s still religious discrimination and unconstitutional. Ask our senators to publicly oppose it. (ACLU, 3-6-17)

Trumpcare: The GOP released its plan, the American Health Care Act, to rush through ACA repeal, Planned Parenthood defunding, tax breaks for the wealthy, and high, new costs for families. (DSCC, 3-6-17) The CBO says fewer would be insured than pre-ACA. (Daily Kos, 3-13)

Foreign aid: 121 retired U.S. generals are opposing cuts to foreign aid, but Trump plans to raise military spending by $54 billion to over 60% of discretionary spending. (World Beyond War 3-7)

“Until we see his taxes we don’t know how much money he owes Russia, China, or other countries.”--Ben Wikler, Washington Director, MoveOn.org

“Trump must be impeached and removed with all haste..”—Mark Painter, retired GOP judge

LOCAL ACTION/EVENTS

Manka Dhingra, Democratic senior King County prosecutor, has filed to run for the 45th LD state Senate seat of Republican Sen. Andy Hill, who died recently. If she wins, the Senate would flip to a Democratic majority. A special election will be held later this year. (“Seattle P-I,” 2-14-17)


Funding education: House Democrats passed their education bill and the GOP theirs. The latter propose a big property tax hike and a “levy swap” in which richer districts help poorer ones. Democrats propose new revenue
through capital gains and carbon emission taxes, but without specifics. The state remains in contempt of court since 2014 for not fully funding education, paying fines of $100,000 per day since August, 2015 into a special education fund. (Seattle Times, 2-23-17) Both houses passed the levy cliff bill, assuring funding next year. (Stand 3-7-17)

**Alliance bill:** The Clean Energy Transition Act, HB 1646, had a hearing today, March 14th, in the House Environment Committee. It’s a climate solution based on principles of the Alliance for Jobs & Clean Energy—investing in new infrastructure and environmental and economic justice for communities and workers heavily affected by pollution and poverty. (Alliance for.., 3-3-17) The companion bill, SB 5509, co-sponsored by Sen. Kevin Ranker, is in committee. (leg.wa.gov)

**Oil Transportation Safety Bill:** HR 1611, sponsored by Rep. Jessyn Farrell (D-46th LD) and Sen. Reuven Carlyle (D-36th LD), is stalled in the House Finance Committee. (leg.wa.gov)

**Constituent rallies:** When all 4 GOP members of the WA Congressional delegation refused to hold town halls, their constituents rallied without them—almost 1,000 in Issaquah demanding Rep. Dave Reichert protect the ACA, oppose a Muslim ban, and meet with them. (Fuse WA 3-4)

**Half Work-Half Pay:** The judge did not allow the repeal case against state Sen. Doug Ericksen (R-42nd LD) to go forward, as there is no minimum standard for legislative job performance, but citizens will seek that correction and a new Legislative Ethics Board complaint. (Change.org 3-4)

**Gun safety, voting rights and equal pay:** These bills passed the House before the March 8th cutoff date: HB 1501 to protect law enforcement and abuse survivors (Alliance for Gun Responsibility, 3-7-17); HB 1800, the Washington Voting Rights Act, for the 5th year; and Rep. Tana Senn’s (D-41st) HB 1506, the Equal Pay Opportunity Act. (“The Stand,” 3-7 and 3-9-17)

**Neglecting the Sound:** Pres. Trump slashed the EPA 25%, which means 93% less federal funding for Puget Sound recovery. But WA will fight. (Rein Attemann, WA Environmental Council, 3-11)

**Sat., March 18th, 40th LD Democrats general meeting, 11 am:** Bellingham location TBD.

**Sun., March 26th, MoveOn Skagit meeting, 3 pm:** Anacortes Senior Center
Sat., April 15\textsuperscript{th}, Tax Return Day Rally, March: 2 pm rally at Causland Park with music, speeches; 3 pm march on Commercial to say, “Show Us Your Tax Returns!” Coincides with national march.

by Corinne Salcedo, Chair