



Jewish Center for Justice Legislative/Activism Update Spring/Summer/Fall 2018

The 2018 JCJ legislative and activism guide is a fluid synthesis of the key issue areas we have identified with potential opportunities for activism where there is viable legislation. For areas where legislation has yet to be determined, we have provided additional activism opportunities. We will identify our activism priorities for State of Washington this summer following conversations with coalition partners and thought leaders during the spring.

Gun Violence Prevention

For this reason, one individual was created first, to teach that anyone who causes one life to be lost it is as if they have destroyed the entire world, and anyone who saves one life it is as if they have saved an entire world. -Talmud Bavli Sanhedrin 37a

From mass shootings to shootings on streets in our cities, to suicides and accidental shootings in homes, we believe in the need to act on behalf of our tradition to save lives and prevent gun violence.

Federal

- Both the United States House and Senate have been unable to pass meaningful legislation that would help prevent gun violence. From increased background checks to the assault weapons ban, from closing the gun show loophole to ensuring that individuals convicted of domestic abuse are not allowed to purchase guns. JCJ calls on all Members of Congress to work across the aisle and help pass meaningful gun violence prevention legislation.

California

- AB 2888 (Ting) Gun Violence Restraining order, “clean up” bill: Existing law enables family and law enforcement to prevent gun-related tragedies before they happen by pursuing a gun violence restraining order (GVRO) in court. If granted by a court, a GVRO results in a temporary seizure of firearms possessed by a dangerous individual and a prohibition of their ability to purchase new firearms. This bill logically expands who can petition a court for a GVRO by adding co-workers, employers, and teachers.
- B 1200 (Skinner), our Gun Violence Restraining Order “clean-up” bill: This bill would expand the definition of a firearm for the purpose of the GVRO to include firearms

parts and components, which would be further defined as unassembled parts and components of a firearm that are clearly designed and intended to be used to assemble a functional weapon. It also would expand the definition of ammunition to include a magazine for purposes of the GVRO. Additionally, it would prohibit a filing fee to submit a GVRO application to the court and a fee in connection to service of process by the sheriff or marshal. Lastly, SB 1200 would require the court to submit to DOJ a receipt of firearms and ammunition surrendered by the restrained person and for DOJ to keep a record of this information.

- SJR 24 (Jackson) Federal Assault Weapons Ban Resolution. We support this powerful statement by our state elected officials calling on Congress to act.

Action

- Let them hear your voice! Stop typing and start calling! For both our federal and state legislation our elected officials need to hear our voices.
- Raise your voice! The public needs to stay concerned. Use the power of your social media and the other platforms in your professional and social life to ensure that gun violence prevention conversations are taking place.

Women's Rights

And Deborah, wife of Lappidoth, was a prophetess; she led Israel at that time. – Judges 4:4

From reproductive choice to equal pay, we stand with and for the full equality of women in our society. Women are the best qualified and suited to make the reproductive choice for their own body.

Federal/State-wide activism

- We are joining our partners at NARAL with their *End the Lies* campaign around the Supreme Court case NIFLA v. Becerra. To organize around this case we are putting together FACT Squads—groups of activists who are going to take direct actions outside of Fake Women's Health Centers. We will do a number of activities including canvassing neighborhoods to raise awareness for the campaign, drop banners, and table at events in our communities.

California

- SB 320 (levya) would require that public colleges and universities provide medication for abortions at their health centers.

Action

- Join our FACT Squads! We need to ensure that the community is informed about the un-ethical practices of these clinics. Join JCJ as we canvas neighborhoods with information.
- Call your California State Senator and ask them to support SB 320.

Economic Justice

We care for non-Jewish poor along with Jewish poor. – Talmud Bavli Gittin 61A

Our tradition demands that we speak up and care for the needy in our community. With 45 million Americans living below poverty, and the gap between the rich and the poor growing rapidly, we must work on behalf of our moral tradition to ensure that our community takes

Federal

- We are partnering with Mazon to advocate for a strong 2018 Farm Bill which will promote food security through effective federal nutrition programs as well as remove barriers to assistance for specific vulnerable populations.

California

- SB 1275 (Stern) Public postsecondary education: Plan Against College Hunger Act of 2018. The act would establish the Plan Against College Hunger Program for the purpose of preventing hunger among students at public postsecondary educational institutions. The bill would require the commission to provide awards to eligible students equal to the amount of the cost of a meal plan that would cover 10 meals per week, as provided.
- AB 686 (Santiago) would create an obligation under California law to affirmatively further fair housing.
- AB 2500 (Kalra) – Safe Consumer Lending Act
- SB 974 (Lara) AB 2965 (Arambula) Health4All: Medi-Cal should cover all income-eligible adults regardless of their immigration status. Of the 2.8 million Californians who remain uninsured, 58% are undocumented adults, who are excluded from comprehensive Medi-Cal.
- SB 1021 (Wiener) would maintain a \$250 cap on prescription drug co-pays, other consumer protections.
- SB 982 (Mitchell) -- CalWorks: This proposal seeks to address childhood deep poverty by raising the CalWORKs cash grant.

Action

- Let them hear your voice! Stop typing and start calling! For both our federal and state legislation our elected officials need to hear our voices.
- Spread the word! Ensure that the public knows about the plight of the poor in your city and how you can help.

Civil Rights

At a time when the community is suffering, no one should say, "I will go home, eat, drink, and be at peace with myself." – Talmud Bavli Ta'aint 11A

When an individual or a group in our society suffers, then we all suffer. From communities of color to the LGBTQ community, we work in both interfaith and intra-faith coalitions to protect citizens and remain a beacon of hope and promise for those who seek a safe and free way of life. Generations of the Jewish community know all too well the cold hand of persecution. Like the generation who came before us, we must now work to ensure that all are treated with dignity, respect and equality.

Federal

- S1917 The Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act is a long-overdue, bipartisan bill that is an important first step in addressing some of the injustices in the criminal justice system. The bill makes important strides to address the most egregious mandatory minimum sentences for people convicted of low-level drug offenses, and it would help to right past wrongs by retroactively applying the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 to more than 3,000 people currently in prison. It would also provide pathways to rehabilitation for current prisoners without compromising public safety.
- S1820 and HR401 would protect transgender service members from being denied entry in the military based on their gender identity.

California

- SB 10 (Hertzberg) Bail Reform This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would safely reduce the number of people detained pretrial, while addressing racial and economic disparities in the pretrial system, and to ensure that people are not held in pretrial detention simply because of their inability to afford money bail.
- AB 2684 (Bloom) Family Modernization Act: This bill updates the Uniform Parentage Act to ensure equal application to and closes gaps for protection of same-sex couples.
- SB 918 (Wiener) Establishing Services for Youth Experiencing Homelessness: Four out of ten young people experiencing homelessness in California's major cities identify as LGBTQ. SB 918 will establish \$60 million in grants for housing, services and supports for

youth experiencing homelessness and create the Office of Homeless Youth within the California Department of Housing and Community Development to oversee them. This bill will invest in low-barrier and diverse housing opportunities so each county can have an array of options for youth to escape homelessness. SB 918 also requires that participating programs be safe, inclusive, non-stigmatizing, and culturally competent to address the epidemic of LGBTQ youth homelessness.

- AB 2119 (Gloria) Gender Health in Foster Care-Child: Welfare agencies are required to assess the health needs of all young people in foster care, and to ensure they receive appropriate and timely care to address the needs identified by qualified professionals. This bill makes clear that, to meet this obligation for transgender and gender nonconforming youth, child welfare agencies must ensure access to clinicians who provide gender-affirming treatment consistent with established standards of care.
- AB 2153 (Thurmond) LGBTQ Cultural Competency Training for Teachers and School Staff: This bill will provide California schools with resources to support LGBTQ students and create safer school environments.

Action

- Let them hear your voice! Stop typing and start calling! For both our federal and state legislation our elected officials need to hear our voices.
- Be a safe space! Open your doors and ears and begin to engage in conversation that allows all to feel welcome and allows a flow of diverse opinions. Contact JCJ for guides and conversations starters.

Criminal Justice Reform

Forgive the iniquity of the people according to the greatness of Your compassion. And continue to forgive them as you have forgiven them since Egypt. -Numbers 14:19

One of central beliefs of our tradition is the ability for repentance and acceptance back into the community. We seek a criminal justice system that honors rehabilitation and creates pathways for repentance and a second chance back into the community.

Federal

- S1917 The Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act is a long-overdue, bipartisan bill that is an important first step in addressing some of the injustices in the criminal justice system. The bill makes important strides to address the most egregious mandatory minimum sentences for people convicted of low-level drug offenses, and it would help to right past wrongs by retroactively applying the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 to more

than 3,000 people currently in prison. It also would provide pathways to rehabilitation for current prisoners without compromising public safety.

California

- SB 1050 (Lara, Mitchell): Provides services and support for exonerated people after prison including healthcare, work training and updating exoneree records to reflect their wrongful convictions.
- SB 1391 (Lara, Mitchell): Ensures that youth ages 14 and 15 who commit crimes get the services and help they need by prohibiting them from being tried as adults and keeping them in the juvenile justice system.
- SB 439 (Lara, Mitchell) Minimum Age Incarceration: This juvenile justice-reform measure would exclude children age 11 and younger from juvenile court jurisdiction and would promote the rights, health and well being of the child by curbing premature exposure to incarceration.

Action

- Let them hear your voice! Stop typing and start calling! For both our federal and state legislation our elected officials need to hear our voices.
- Work with JCI to visit a prison, meet with inmates, have conversations with individuals who were formally incarcerated. Engage in conversation with local law enforcement. Hear their story and work together to build bridges.

Immigration

You shall not oppress the stranger, for you know how it feels to be a stranger in a new land for you were a stranger in the land of Egypt. -Exodus 23:9

From our biblical narrative to our family narrative we are descendants of an immigrant tradition and we hold near to our hearts and our collective memories the feelings of the immigrants. We believe in creating an immigration system that honors the ideals of this country as a beacon of hope for all who seek a better life. In consultation with our coalition partners and guided by our tradition's strong belief in welcoming the stranger, JCI is advocating for a system that is humane and compassionate.

Federal

- The DREAM Act combines principles and ideals of both the Jewish tradition and the American people by creating laws which focus on the dignity and humanity of immigrant families who have dedicated their lives to this country and society. S1615 in the Senate and HR 3440 in the House have broad bi-partisan support and would grant lawful permanent resident status on a conditional basis to DACA recipients.

- JCJ is also supporting the Uniting and Securing America (USA) Act (S. 2367/ H.R.4796), introduced by Senators McCain (R-AZ) and Coons (D-DE) and Representatives Hurd (R-TX) and Aguilar (D-CA). These similar bi-partisan bills would offer a path to citizenship for dreamers and authorize funding for data-driven border technology. The USA Act would also address the root causes of forced migration by authorizing \$1.04 billion in fiscal year 2018 for El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala to strengthen the rule of law, combat corruption and narcotics trafficking, and address underlying causes of poverty. Children, families, women, and men are fleeing violence, gang conscription, human trafficking, and sexual exploitation in these countries. Since 2005, in Honduras alone, murders of women and girls have increased by 346 percent, and murders of men and boys have grown by 292 percent. Because of this, the USA Act is a step toward a more long-term approach to responding to conditions that compel migration.

California

- AB 2184 (Chiu and Lara) This bill enables the integration of immigrant business owners into the state economy and protects their personal information. It reduces barriers for immigrant business owners to apply for local business licenses and aligns the business license process with efforts to advance the social and economic interests of the state. In order to ensure that persons without an SSN may apply for local business licenses, this bill would require local governments that license businesses to accept alternative numbers or a driver's license in lieu of an SSN.

Action

- Let them hear your voice! Stop typing and start calling! For both our federal and state legislation our elected officials need to hear our voices.
- Be a safe space for those who are undocumented and for those who have family who are undocumented. Work with JCJ to understand the law, to be connected to our Lawyers' Committee and to ensure that we are informed citizens.

Environmental Justice

God said: Take care not to spoil or destroy My world, for if you do, there will be no one to repair it after you. – Midrash Kohelet Rabba 7:13

The effects of Climate Change demand sustainable solutions that are implemented at all levels of government. We must challenge ourselves, and our communities, to prevent further damage. JCJ is building a diverse coalition to combat environmental injustices both globally and within the low-income communities most affected by environmental issues.

Federal

- Defend the Clean Power Plan: We oppose all efforts by the current administration to either weaken or repeal the Clean Power Plan which is the most effective plan we have to fight climate change. The plan which was announced by the Obama administration is the first ever plan to put limits on carbon pollution from power plants, which is this country's largest source of pollution.
- Prevent offshore oil drilling: The current administration is reversing a policy which will put our oceans, coastlines and wildlife at risk. We oppose all efforts to open offshore oil drilling.

California

- SB 100 (De Leon): This bill sets a new 100% clean renewable target for California's electrical grid by 2045 and directs our climate and energy agencies to use this new target to ensure our state's energy grid is 100% clean before the middle of the century.
- SB 606 (Hertzberg and Skinner) and AB 1668 (Friedman): This bill, jointly with AB 1668, will provide authority for long-term standards for the efficient use of water, and expressly limit that authority to the 2020-2026 UWMP planning cycle. This bill requires the standard to be a water budget based methodology.
- SB 49 (De Leon and Stern): Enacts the California Environmental, Public Health, and Workers Defense Act of 2017, which prohibits a state or local agency from amending or revising its rules to be less stringent than the federal baseline standards pertaining to environmental protection.
- Support Energy Efficiency for All

Action

- Let them hear your voice! Stop typing and start calling! For both our federal and state legislation our elected officials need to hear our voices.
- Be an example in your everyday practice. Push for change in our laws but let's push for change in our individual everyday lives to ensure that our actions are helping and not hurting the environment.

Israel

My heart is in the East, and I am at the edge of the West. – Yehudah HaLevi

After more than 2,000 years of our ancestors dreaming of a Jewish state, the necessity of defending its reality is a cultural and religious obligation. Join us in protecting the existence and sustainability of the land of Israel and ensure our Jewish state is vibrant, moral, safe, and secure.

Federal

- In both the Senate and the House we are asking our Senators and Representatives to support the US-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act.

Action

- Let them hear your voice! Stop typing and start calling! For both our federal and state legislation our elected officials need to hear our voices.
- Be a proud and informed Zionist! Read the news www.timesofisrael.com, engage in open an honest conversation with those who share our views and those who differ. Travel to Israel with JCJ in the summer of 2019.

Poor People's Campaign

JCJ sits on the steering committee of the CA Poor People's Campaign, which is national call for moral revival. In consultation with faith based and community based groups we will be supporting a number of legislative positions regarding a moral economy.

