

March 2016 Federal Legislation News

Boxer/Feinstein Nix Expanded Vetting of Refugees

A big *thank you* to all who contacted CA Senators Boxer and Feinstein in response to SDCFRW's alert regarding the Senate's vote on **H.R. 4038 (expanded vetting processes for refugees)**. Our Action Alert supported a YES vote from **Senators Boxer and Feinstein**; both voted NO in the cloture vote. Congress.gov.

ALERT! New Tax Proposed by SANDAG

Before we can even get to federal legislation this month, be aware that the **San Diego County Association of Governments** (SANDAG at sandag.org) proposes a **half-cent tax increase** that will be on an upcoming 2016 ballot and needing 2/3 (66%) voter approval. This would raise \$18 billion for the next **40 years** for expenditures **yet to be determined**. The San Diego Republicans organization has already come out in opposition to this tax increase. *San Diego Union-Tribune*

IN CONGRESS

Sanctions Imposed on North Korea

[H.R. 757 North Korea Sanctions Enforcement Act of 2016](#) passed both the House and Senate and was signed by the President 18 Feb 2016. Click on the title to read more about it. The new measures are intended to deny North Korea the money it needs to develop **miniaturized warheads** and the **long-range missiles** required to deliver them. *Reuters*

Anti-Terrorism Legislation: ACTION ALERT!

Currently, there are three important pieces of legislation involving terrorism that have been reported out of House committees, i.e., recommended for further action by Congress and only about 1 in 4 bills make it out of committee. All concern the threat of terrorism:

HR 4401 Amplifying Local Efforts To Root Out Terror Act of 2016 provides for training of local law enforcement re our domestic terror threat.

HR 4403 Enhancing Overseas Travel Vetting Act provides for the setting up of a database for vetting travelers against a watch list.

HR 4408 National Strategy To Combat Terror Travel Act of 2016 requires that the Administration actually formulate a strategy against terror travel.

Contact your representatives! by clicking on the following hyperlinks underlined in blue:

House Speaker Paul Ryan at speaker.gov and **Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell** at mccconnell.senate.gov to ask that these bills be taken up by House and Senate respectively.

Senator Dianne Feinstein at Feinstein.senate.gov and **Senator Barbara Boxer** at Boxer.senate.gov to voice your support.

Choose your Representative and contact him or her to voice your support:

Rep. Scott Peters at scottpeters.house.gov.

Rep. Duncan Hunter at hunter.house.gov.

Rep. Susan Davis at susandavis.house.gov.

Update: Women in the Draft

Recently, Rep. Duncan Hunter introduced [H.R.4478 Draft America's Daughters Act](#) to amend the Military Selective Service Act by **including women**, and now the Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals has re-opened a 2013 lawsuit which argues that the Selective Service System discriminates between men and women. The solution, the suit argues, is "to either get rid of the draft altogether or to include women," who have just been admitted to combat roles. *San Diego Union-Tribune*

International Megan's Law In Effect

[H.R. 515: International Megan's Law to Prevent Child Exploitation . . .Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders](#) has been passed by Congress and signed into law.

At the SUPREME COURT

EPA Clean Power Plan Halted Temporarily

Reacting to a lawsuit from 29 states, as well as the energy industry, justices blocked the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan (rules limiting greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. from going forward while the rule is challenged in court.

That a divided Supreme Court stepped in at this time to block the program after a lower court declined to do so sends a signal **that at least five justices are concerned with some aspect [legality] of the plan.**