Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Ministry of Public Advocacy

Empowering people of faith to make a difference for the common good!

News and Action Summary for December 8, 2017

While Giving Tuesday has passed, it's not too late to support the Pennsylvania Council of Churches and this ministry! Please consider a contribution—one time is terrific, but a recurring contribution of $10/month or more is especially appreciated! You can make your contribution at https://www.pachurches.org/shop/.

The Senate version of the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act" passed in the wee hours of Saturday morning, November 2. This version is as dangerous, if not more so, than the House version that passed a couple of weeks ago. These bills are now going to conference to resolve differences. One group monitoring this process believes the work will be done within leadership, then rubber-stamped by the conference committee. This legislation is OPPOSED by a majority of Americans, and we can still defeat it—see actions below to learn of the many ways that you can act to urge your legislators to vote against it.

Many events scheduled for this weekend and early next week—check below!

If you are in the Lancaster area, please check this out: Faithful Advocacy for Criminal Justice Reform: Principles and Practice—January 13/January 19, Lancaster.

Speaking Out in Pennsylvania—We Need Your Support! Consider contributing to our advocacy ministry and supporting this work! Recurring support is especially important!

Check out the Actions, Events, Opportunities and Resources, and News Posts below-just click on the links under each category to get to the information. We've placed the most critical issues under Important Actions and Issues. To learn about how to keep informed between these updates, go to http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org.

As usual, we understand that there is a lot of information here and in the links provided for further information. **Please know that you aren't expected to act on everything! Just choose the issues that are most important to you and do something!** Sometimes you will be directed to action pages of other organizations—**don't worry!** These are organizations that we work with regularly and who share a common interest.

Please consider contacting your legislators to thank them when they support your position as well, or to express your disappointment when they don't. We don't follow up with them often enough. They need our feedback to understand how we feel. Go to https://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5415/getLocal.jsp to find a summary of your federal and state legislators with basic contact information.

Our website is updated regularly—please visit to find updated links, resources, etc. at http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org. It is a work in progress, and issue pages continue to be created as time permits. If there is something you would really like to see that isn't there, please contact us at s.strauss@pachurches.org.

And finally—If you appreciate this ministry, we would very much appreciate your support; you can learn how by clicking here.

URGENT ACTIONS

If you don't have time for any other actions, please consider taking action on these issues!

Stop Tax Crisis in Congress: Protect the Poor

Say NO to the Senate Tax Bill

Tell Congress: Protect Low Income Housing Tax Credit and Private Activity Bonds in Tax Bills

Act to Protect the Johnson Amendment in Conference Committee

Tell Your Representative to Oppose Arctic Drilling in Tax Bill

Send Your Comment: Tell EPA Not to Delay Implementation of the Clean Water Rule—by December 13

National Day of Action—Protecting Children from Central America

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NEW & ONGOING ACTIONS

Take Action to Extend Funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program

Support a Clean DREAM Act and Protect TPS Holders

URGENT! Act NOW to Stop Mini-Casino Gambling Expansion

Thank Senator Casey for Rejecting Suspension of Methane Waste Prevention Rule

Help Build the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

Sign the People's Peace Treaty with North Korea

Sign the Petition to End Gerrymandering in PA

Contact PA Senators to Co-Sponsor Medicare for All Bill

Sign Petition to Stop Shell Ethane Cracker Plant and Toxic Pollution

Tell Governor Wolf to #ShutDownBerks

Sign Petition: PA Legislators, Pass the Fair Share Tax

IMPORTANT AND TIME SENSITIVE NEWS!

So Much Happening: Here's How You Can Keep Informed Between Updates

Summary of All News Posts Since Previous Update

Open Enrollment is Happening NOW! Find Out How Much You Can Save!

ITEP Reports on What the Senate Tax Bill Would Do

Learn More About How the Federal Tax Bills Will Affect Pennsylvania

New Study Shows How Taxing Rich Saves Lives, While Trump's Tax Plan... Kills

'We Will Pay, and Our Children and Grandchildren'

Another Poll Shows Broad Public Support for the Johnson Amendment

Learn About the Federal Judicial Crisis—How Judges are Chosen, Confirmed, and Why It Matters

Congressional Inaction Threatens PA Children's Health Insurance

Allowing Muslim Ban to Go into Effect, US Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Trump

Faith Leaders Strongly Disapprove of Trump Administration Decision to Diminish Utah National Monuments

Two Months After Nation's Deadliest Mass Shooting, GOP House Passes 'Dangerous' Bill to Undermine Local Gun Control Laws

Updated Refugee Local Congressional Visit Toolkit

Join the Cool Congregations Challenge—Deadline December 15

Interfaith Immigration Coalition Seeks Communications Coordinator—Deadline January 5

EVENTS

For a full monthly calendar of events, see the Events page at http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/events/.
For a listing with descriptions of events, go to http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/events/list/.
For general information about our calendar, links to ongoing events, and how to submit events, go to http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/events/about-our-calendar/.

Ongoing events:

Together to End Solitary—Monthly on the 23rd

Events in the coming weeks:

Lancaster Against Pipelines: Mass Action on Pipeline Path—December 9, Columbia

2017 International Kwanzaa Festival—December 9, Harrisburg

Age is Just a Number: Confronting Ageism and Adultism—December 14, Harrisburg

Caroling Along the Pipeline Route & Holiday Party—December 16, Pequea

Trauma Informed "School to Prison Pipeline"—December 16, Erie

Join National Week of Action to Close Guantanamo—January 6-14

Faithful Advocacy for Criminal Justice Reform: Principles and Practice—January 13/January 19, Lancaster

Healing Communities Training—March 17, Lebanon

OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES TO LEARN AND ACT

For postings since the previous Summary…
Resources
Opportunities
Jobs, internships and fellowships

NEWS POSTS

Visit our **weblog** for the latest news and information. For previous News Summaries, go to http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/news-summary/news-summary-archive/. Also, check out specific issue-related posts by clicking on links on the right side of the page.

Subscribe to our weblog via e-mail (see link at bottom of home page).

Summary of most recent News Posts.

SUPPORT THE COUNCIL'S ADVOCACY WORK

Find us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/Pennsylvania-Council-of-Churches-Advocacy-133182573363816/?ref=hl.

Follow us on Twitter at http://twitter.com/pachrchadvocacy.

If you received this message from a friend, **sign up for Pennsylvania Council of Churches Advocacy e-mails** at http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5415/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=531.

Financial support for the Council's Advocacy Ministry is always welcome! Go to our online support page at https://www.pachurches.org/shop/ and look for "Public Advocacy Donation."

And finally…**PLEASE FORWARD THIS E-MAIL!**

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