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Dear Member of the 117th Congress,

On behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism, whose nearly 850 congregations encompass more than 1.5 million Reform Jews across North America, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, which represents over 2,000 Reform rabbis, I write to congratulate you on your swearing in as a member of the 117th Congress and to (re)introduce you to our Movement and our policy priorities.

For more six decades, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (the RAC) has been the hub of Jewish social justice work, representing the values of the largest and most diverse Jewish Movement in North America. The RAC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and as such, our work is completely nonpartisan. We are proud of our work with administrations, congresses, and elected officials of both parties, knowing that our success as a nation is inextricably linked to our ability to work together for the common good. Among the landmark laws that we have played a key role in shaping are the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Violence Against Women Act, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Affordable Care Act, and more.

Our vision is of a world overflowing with wholeness, justice, and compassion. To realize this vision, we are dedicated to working across lines of difference to organize and advocate for social change that alienates systemic injustices, especially those that primarily impact marginalized communities. The words of the prophet Micah inspire us to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God” (6:8).

Our community is organized and engaged on issues at the local, state, and federal levels. There are Reform Jewish congregations in all 50 states, yours among them, as well as the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. In a typical year, we bring thousands of Reform Jews, including more than 2,000 young people, to Washington to advocate for social justice on a range of key issues.

In 2020, we launched *Every Voice, Every Vote: The Reform Movement's Civic Engagement Campaign*, a non-partisan GOTV effort grounded in our belief that democracy is strongest when everyone participates. The campaign reached more than 660,000 voters with a focus on achieving



The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism is the Washington office of the Union for Reform Judaism, whose more than 800 congregations across North America encompass 1.5 million Reform Jews, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, whose membership includes more than 2,000 Reform rabbis.



100 percent voter participation within Reform communities, combatting voter suppression, and outreach to low-propensity voters in Communities of Color.

Attached you will find an outline of our legislative and policy priorities for the 117th Congress. We know there is a tremendous amount of work that must be done and hope to serve as a resource for you and your staff. We look forward to moving these critical social justice issues forward, ensuring that “justice rolls down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream” (Amos 5:24).

Sincerely,

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner
Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
Senior Vice President, Union for Reform Judaism

Reform Jewish Movement Legislative and Policy Priorities for the 117th Congress

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An equitable response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Jewish texts and tradition teach that human life is of infinite value and that the preservation of life supersedes almost all other considerations. The Torah connects our experience of slavery in Egypt and the Exodus with a command to act with compassion for society’s most vulnerable. We believe that these fundamental moral teachings should guide our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we will continue to advocate for a response that protects all people and puts those most vulnerable at the center of our response to the pandemic and economic crisis.

COVID-19 has highlighted the longstanding racial inequities within our health care system and exacerbated the existing crisis of coverage and care that disproportionately impacts essential workers and vulnerable communities. We welcomed the passage of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201), the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (H.R. 748), and the \$900 billion in COVID-19 relief included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. However, additional action is required to support struggling workers and families, strengthen our public health response, and enable a strong economic recovery.

We urge you to swiftly pass another emergency aid package that includes:

- Free and accessible COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccinations for all. Treatment remains inaccessible and expensive for many Americans. Especially at a time when so many people are unable to work, we urge you to protect low- and moderate-income people from costly hospital bills. This includes free testing for undocumented individuals because disease does not distinguish by immigration status.

- Extending and increasing the Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC).
- Guaranteed paid sick leave and paid family and medical leave for all workers. Paid leave is a powerful way to flatten the curve and reduce COVID-19 infections. Expanding paid sick days and paid leave to all workers will help stabilize the economy and save lives.
- Increasing benefits for the food assistance programs and eliminating barriers to access. We are grateful for the 15 percent boost in the maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit included in the most recent bipartisan relief package and urge you to maintain that boost along with increasing the SNAP minimum benefit to \$30 to provide enough nutritional support for families. Additionally, restrictions to accessing SNAP or other food assistance should be waived, including restrictions on formerly incarcerated individuals.
- An increase in health care funding for states, including by increasing the federal Medicaid match to states (known as the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage, or FMAP). We urge you to build on the 6.2 percent increase in H.R 6201 and increase FMAP to 14 percent for the duration of the national emergency or until unemployment returns to pre-pandemic levels.
- Providing additional direct payments to all low- and moderate-income individuals and households. Payments should include immigrants, people receiving Supplemental Security Income, low-income veterans, adult dependents, and people with disabilities.
- Drastically reducing the populations of prisons and immigration detention centers, which are particularly vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19 and have seen a dramatic rise in infections in recent months. The recent rise emphasizes the need for mandatory COVID-19 data reporting in all state and federal jails, prisons, and juvenile detention centers.
- Extending the eviction moratorium and providing additional rental assistance. We are grateful that the recent relief package extended the moratorium, however this now expires on January 31, which will leave millions of renters on the brink of eviction in less than a month.

Racial justice, including criminal justice reform and voting rights

Throughout the past 400 years, Black people in America have been enslaved, subjugated, disenfranchised, murdered, and discriminated against. The national rage expressed in response to the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Daniel Prude, Ahmaud Arbery, and too many others reflects the depth of pain over the injustice that People of Color have been subjected to throughout the generations. Our country simply cannot achieve the values of “justice for all” to which it aspires until we address ongoing racism in all sectors and at all levels of society.

Our Jewish tradition is replete with instances of moral reckoning when we are asked to be present and accounted for. “Ayecha?,” we are asked. “Where are you?” The Reform Jewish Movement responds with a full throated, “Hineinu.” “We are here.” We are committed to advancing racial justice and healing wounds caused by centuries of prejudice, discrimination, and mistrust by working across lines of race, faith, and class to free our country from systemic racism. We advocate for policies that meaningfully address centuries of entrenched racial oppression, reform policing, our broken criminal justice system, and protect the equal rights of all American citizens to vote.

Our Jewish texts are clear on the importance of restitution for wrongs committed. Systemic disparities and injustices will endure unless proactive steps are taken to acknowledge and eliminate them. In 2019, the Reform Jewish Movement became the first Jewish denomination to call for the development of proposals to redress the historic and continuing effects of slavery and subsequent systemic discrimination against Black Americans and we urge you to pass legislation establishing a federal Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act (H.R. 40/S.1083 in the 116th Congress).

Across the nation, police officers do vital and heroic work to keep communities safe. Yet systemic racism has created a justice system that has resulted in targeted policing and the disproportionate use of force against People of Color. Today, Black men and boys are 2.5 times more likely to die during a police encounter than their white counterparts.ⁱ Individuals from minority communities are also more likely to be stopped by police and those stops are more likely to result in frisks, searches, and arrests than those involving white individuals.ⁱⁱ

We call on Congress to pass legislation that enacts meaningful policing reform. We support legislation, such as the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act (H.R. 7120/S.3912 in the 116th Congress), that enact reforms to policing by prohibiting racial, religious, and discriminatory profiling by federal, state, and local law enforcement; establishing a national use of force standard and requires law enforcement officers to employ de-escalation techniques and only use deadly force as a last resort; and requiring state and local law enforcement agencies to report use of force data, disaggregated by race, sex, disability, religion, age. Enacting these reforms will not only make our communities safer, but also begin the process of confronting racism in policing.

Longstanding criminal justice policies with notably disparate racial impacts, such as mandatory minimum sentences, have exploded incarceration rates to over two million people.ⁱⁱⁱ These policies have been particularly devastating for Communities of Color who make up 37 percent of the U.S. population but 67 percent of the prison population.^{iv}

We were grateful to Congress for passing the First Step Act in 2018 and for restoring Federal Pell Grants for students in prison, incremental steps towards a more fair, compassionate justice system. There is far more work to be done. We will continue to advocate for legislation that further ends draconian mandatory minimum sentences, expands judicial discretion in sentencing, and increases opportunities for returning citizens to access anti-recidivism and reentry programs. Additionally, we urge you to support equitable pre-trial procedures, re-enfranchisement for individuals who were formerly incarcerated, and humane prison conditions.

Furthermore, the right to vote, the cornerstone of American democracy, is under attack. In 2013, the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* struck down Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965, thereby dismantling the preclearance system and opening the door for states and localities with a long history of voter disenfranchisement to more easily make changes to their election procedures. We are taught by the sage Hillel, "Do not separate yourself from the community (*Pirkei Avot* 2:4)." These words are as relevant to us today as they were in ancient times and inspire our commitment to restoring voting rights.

We urge you to act swiftly to update section 4(b) of the VRA and restore this landmark law to its full capacity. The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R.4/S.4263 in the 116th Congress) offers an important framework for ameliorating the challenges to achieving full voting rights for all Americans.

A humane and just immigration system and responding to the global refugee crisis

No less than 36 times, the Torah instructs us on how to treat the *ger*, the foreigner among us. God commands, “The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19:34). Guided by this repeated injunction to love the stranger, the Reform Movement has long been committed to fixing our broken immigration system and ensuring just and compassionate immigration policies.

A comprehensive, legislative solution to our broken immigration system has taken on new urgency. Over the past four years, the administration attempted to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program; implemented a zero-tolerance policy that criminalizes all border crossings, resulting in the separation of children from their families with the parents of 628 migrant children still to be located; attempted to expand detention of migrant children; proposed policy forcing immigrants to choose between advancing their immigration status and accessing essential public benefits like health care, nutrition, and housing; terminated temporary protected status (TPS) for numerous countries; and announced new policy making it harder for migrants to seek asylum in the U.S.

We continue to call on Congress to pass bipartisan legislation that keeps our borders secure, expands the legal channels of immigration, and provides a pathway to citizenship for those already living here. While U.S. law must be respected, we must also strive for an immigration system that treats all people with dignity and respect. As you work toward comprehensive immigration reform, we urge you to take immediate action to pass legislation that works to reunite separated children with their parents or legal guardian, provides permanent protections for DREAMers and for TPS holders, including a pathway to citizenship, and institute increased oversight of and alternatives to child detention.

At the same time, the world is facing a historic refugee crisis that did not end with the pandemic. More than 79 million people worldwide have been forced to flee their homes to escape conflict and persecution, surpassing the record of global refugees set by World War II.^v The scale of the global refugee crisis has shed new light on the importance of the United States maintaining its role as a beacon of hope and a haven for people fleeing persecution and seeking a better life for themselves and their families. Unfortunately, and despite the unprecedented global need, refugee resettlement in the United States has reached an historic low.

We ask Congress to work with the new administration to restore the refugee admissions ceiling to at least 100,000 and to support robust funding for the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Further, we also ask you to pass the NO BAN Act (H.R.2214/S.1123 in the 116th Congress) and ensure that no one is barred from entering the United States based on religion as well as race, sex, nationality, place of birth, or place of residence.

Religious freedom and separation of church and state

The Reform Jewish Movement has long advocated for robust religious freedom rights and the separation of church and state, knowing one cannot exist without the other. This nation's constitutional commitment to religious freedom has allowed the Jewish people – and other religious minorities – to flourish in this country nearly unmatched anywhere else in the world. We unequivocally oppose any measures that target people because of their religious beliefs, or lack of religious beliefs.

We also oppose measures that would entangle the government in religious matters, such as through school voucher programs. A central principle of the First Amendment's Establishment Clause is that adherents to particular faiths, and not the government, should fund religious institutions. When vouchers are used towards expenses related to religious school education, they become an indirect government funding of sectarian institutions. For similar reasons, we also oppose any efforts to repeal or weaken the Johnson Amendment, a federal prohibition on partisan politicking from the pulpit in place since 1954, located in section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code. Houses of worship must be able to fulfill their prophetic mandate of speaking truth to power, a role that would be undermined by allowing them to endorse or oppose candidates or parties for office via repeal of the Johnson Amendment.

Resisting white supremacy, antisemitism, and bigotry

As Jews, we know the dangers of antisemitism firsthand. We continue to mourn for the lives lost at the massacre at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, and other antisemitic attacks in Poway, California, Jersey City, and Monsey, New York. In 2019, total hate crimes rose to 7,314, the fourth increase in the past five years and the highest number in more than a decade. The number of hate crime murders reached a record high of 51, more than doubling the record of 24 set in 2018. Nearly 63 percent of religion-based crimes targeted Jews in the U.S., a 14 percent increase over 2018.^{vi}

Not only is antisemitism on the rise, but so is hateful rhetoric and violent action toward many marginalized communities including People of Color, the LGBTQ community, Sikhs, and Muslims. Crimes motivated by race, ethnicity, or ancestry constitute 56 percent of all single-bias incidents, with anti-Black hate crimes accounting for nearly 50 percent of racially motivated hate crimes and a plurality of hate crimes across all categories. Hate crimes against transgender and gender non-conforming individuals also rose by 18 percent, following a 41 percent increase in 2018. Yet we also know that hate crimes are dramatically underreported; 86 percent of participating agencies did not report a single hate crime, which includes 71 municipalities with more than 100,000 people either affirmatively reported zero hate crimes or did not submit any data to the FBI.^{vii}

We urge you to visibly and consistently denounce any and all forms of racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, white supremacy, and bigotry, and call on your colleagues in Congress to do the same. We also ask you to support efforts to incentivize state and local law enforcement agencies to more comprehensively collect and report hate crimes data to the FBI and to support legislation such as the Khalid Jabara and Heather Heyer National Opposition to Hate, Assault, and Threats to Equality (NO HATE) Act (H.R.3545/S.2043 in the 116th Congress).

Access to affordable, quality health care for all

The Reform Jewish Movement has consistently supported universal health care coverage and advocated for quality health care that is affordable and accessible for all. We believe that God endowed humanity with the understanding and ability to become partners in making a better world, including the use of our wisdom to cure illnesses. Particularly during a global health crisis, there is an imperative that all people are able to receive the physical and mental health care that they require.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid program have been a lifeline for the millions of people who lost their jobs and job-based insurance coverage. Once the pandemic ends, the ACA will continue to be a vital protection for the millions of Americans who contracted COVID-19 and will now have a preexisting condition and live with the long-term health effects of the disease. But, as we have acutely seen over the past year, social determinants of health will continue to result in health inequities unless policy actions are taken to address disparities in care.

Congress should build on the successes of the ACA to expand access to affordable health care and preserve the scope and breadth of the ACA, Medicaid, Medicare, and CHIP. This begins by safeguarding the ACA from the California v Texas case that will be decided by the Supreme Court later this year. It also includes reviving bipartisan efforts to stabilize the ACA marketplaces and reduce costs for consumers. There are many ways to achieve this outcome that should garner bipartisan support, including increasing funding for reinsurance programs in states, expanding eligibility for subsidies, eliminating cost-sharing, capping out of network costs, and reinstating support for enrollment assisters and navigators. Legislation to lower prescription drug costs will also help lower costs for consumers in the ACA marketplaces as well as those who receive health care from employers and through Medicare and Medicaid.

We support an increased focus on addressing health inequities in Communities of Color, immigrant communities, and rural communities resulting from inadequate and unequal access to essential medical services. Improved data and payment models that account for racial and geographic inequities will be necessary to assessing the scope of the problem. Additionally, a diverse health care workforce, that can provide multilingual and culturally competent care, along with diverse representation in clinical research, are vitally important steps we support that would improve the public health system. We ask Congress to devote resources to the health conditions that disproportionately impact Communities of Color such as sickle cell disease, hepatitis and liver cancer, and HIV/AIDS. Legislation such as the Health Equity and Accountability Act (H.R.6637/S.4819 in the 116th Congress), the Equality in Medicare and Medicaid Treatment Act (H.R.3910/S.4944 in the 116th Congress), and the Anti-Racism in Public Health Act (HR 8178/S.4533 in the 116th Congress) would take important steps to closing existing inequities in health care.

The pandemic has also exacerbated the existing mental health crisis in the United States. New research reveals that approximately one-third of U.S. adults reported experiencing stress, anxiety, or great sadness that was difficult to cope with alone since the pandemic began – yet only 31 percent of those who wanted to access mental health care were able to see a mental health professional.^{viii} *We support increased funding and resources to address the growing mental health crisis. Legislation such as the Mental Health Services for Students Act (H.R. 1109/S.1122 in the 116th Congress) and the Strengthening*

Mental Health Supports for BIPOC Communities Act (HR.8141 in the 116th Congress) will help ensure that students and Communities of Color can access resources and services necessary to care for their mental health.

Preventing the scourge of gun violence

We are inspired by Leviticus 19:16 that instructs us, “Do not stand idly by while your neighbor’s blood is shed.” Further, our texts teach us that “He who takes one life, it is as though he has destroyed the universe, and he who saves one life, it is as though he has saved the universe” (Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5). Each victim of gun violence leaves behind loving parents, siblings, family, and friends.

In 2020, despite stay-at-home orders and other restrictions, we continued to endure a gun violence epidemic that took the lives of roughly 40,000 people, disproportionately impacting Communities of Color, and saw record gun sales.^{ix}

After years of inaction by Congress, we implore you to improve public safety, prevent gun violence, and save lives by passing comprehensive reform establishing universal background checks, closing the private sale loophole, and further strengthening the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; banning the purchase and sale of assault weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines; providing funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for research on gun violence; and enacting a gun violence restraining order law, which would temporarily prohibit an individual from purchasing or possessing firearms when deemed by a judge to pose a danger to oneself or others.

Support for Israel

A strong U.S.-Israel relationship serves the interests of both nations. For more than seven decades, the U.S. has helped ensure Israel’s security and, in so doing, advanced its own interests in the region and international stability overall. The American goal of realizing a safer, more secure world is strengthened through an ongoing and deep relationship with Israel, the United States’ premier ally in the Middle East. Israel’s well-being is also of paramount importance to Reform Jews worldwide. We continue to support a two-state solution, which is essential to ensuring the Jewish, democratic nature of Israel and to achieving an independent Palestinian state.

We urge continued bipartisan support for foreign aid funding to Israel in line with the current 10-year, \$38 billion Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. and Israel. We also ask you to support funding for the Palestinians, including through the establishment of the Palestinian Partnership Fund (H.R.3104/S.1727 in the 116th Congress) to facilitate and finance joint economic ventures and people-to-people exchanges between Israelis and Palestinians. In addition, we encourage Congress to support U.S. leadership and diplomatic initiatives toward achieving a just peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians, including strong support for a two-state solution.

Confronting climate change

Jewish tradition teaches us that human domain over nature does not include a license to abuse the environment. We are obligated to conserve and not destroy our limited environmental resources.

Climate change disproportionately impacts poor and vulnerable communities both in the U.S. and around the world, particularly Communities of Color. Over the next 85 years, it is predicted that increasing temperatures could significantly raise sea levels, causing floods that could displace tens of millions of people, including along U.S. coasts; droughts and changing seasonal rainfall patterns are already affecting farmlands, decreasing crop yields and exacerbating world hunger.^x By 2030, climate change is expected to result in as many as 250,000 deaths each year worldwide.^{xi}

We ask Congress to take a leading role in addressing the impacts of climate change by enacting policies favoring renewable energies, implementing a carbon tax that will help limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius or less, and ultimately reducing U.S. emissions to net-zero through a coordinated government plan as is outlined in the 100% Clean Economy Act (H.R.5221 in the 116th Congress). Any legislation should also include "just transition" provisions to support communities with job training and economic revitalization of areas economically dependent on fossil fuel extraction. We also urge you to protect key environmental protection legislation such as the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Realizing LGBTQ equality

Every person, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, is created *b'tzelem Elohim*, in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), and deserves the full range of rights and protections promised by our Constitution.

The US government has previously failed to adequately protect vulnerable members of the LGBTQ community. Today, we see this manifest in the rise in hate crimes towards LGBTQ individuals and underreporting of crimes. When law enforcement or family members refuse to acknowledge the victim's gender identity, acts of violence are not reported as anti-transgender hate crimes, creating significant gaps in data collection. The FBI data also do not capture the scale of the threat to those who hold multiple marginalized identities, especially Black transgender women.

We urge you to prioritize the passage of comprehensive LGBTQ non-discrimination legislation, such as the Equality Act (H.R.5/S.788 in the 116th Congress). While hate and prejudice may continue to endure, strengthening and enforcing anti-discrimination laws protect LGBTQ people from those who wish to do them harm.

Pursuing economic justice

Jewish tradition teaches that helping fellow human beings in need, *tzedakah*, is not simply a matter of charity, but of responsibility, righteousness, and justice. We are told in Proverbs 31:9, to "speak up, judge righteously, champion the poor and the needy."

The pandemic and subsequent recession have caused a widespread economic disaster for millions of Americans, particularly for Communities of Color. Since March, half of all households have lost income from work. It is estimated that 20 million Americans are receiving unemployment assistance, 12 million renters owe an average of \$5,850 in back rent and utilities, and Americans are facing staggering levels of hunger with an estimated 17 million children without enough to eat.^{xii}

Women continue to earn, on average, just \$0.82 for every \$1 a man makes, with women of Color facing even bigger gaps.^{xiii} The racial wealth gap, a result of generations of entrenched policy decisions, persists, meaning that Black Americans are less likely to have emergency savings, are less likely to be homeowners, and have more debt than white Americans.^{xiv} And policy failures such as the lack of a national paid family and medical leave law means that hardworking Americans must choose between their economic wellbeing and caring for a baby, recovering from an illness, or tending to a sick family member. All of these systemic problems have only been exacerbated by the pandemic and economic recession and will take years to recover unless there is swift legislative action.

Congress should enact policies that will support poor and working-class people in this country and improve economic stability and equity, including by passing a living wage through legislation such as the Raise the Wage Act (H.R.582/S.150 in the 116th Congress) and enacting paid family and medical leave through legislation such as the Providing Americans Insured Days of (PAID) Leave Act (H.R.6442/S.3513 in the 116th Congress).

Women's equality and reproductive rights

The Reform Jewish Movement was the first Jewish denomination to prioritize and make real the full equality of women in Jewish life. We are proud to be the first movement to ordain female rabbis and to have women serve as synagogue presidents. We similarly advocate for the full equality of women in society. The landmark *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision codifies what we have long known to be true: women are their own moral decision makers, and when decisions about health and sexuality are abridged or denied, women's self-determination and equality are abridged and denied.

We urge you to champion legislation to protect and promote women's rights: ensuring true pay equity such as the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R.7/S.270 in the 116th Congress); addressing the scourge of gender-based violence by reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act (H.R.1585); ensuring access to safe and legal abortion, including by repealing the Hyde Amendment through the Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance Act, or EACH Woman Act (H.R.1692/S.758) and Women's Health Protection Act to the list (H.R.2975/S.1645); combatting sexual assault and harassment; and providing full access to contraception and other preventive health care measures. Our nation cannot be truly free and equal when half of our population faces barriers that impede their ability to make their own reproductive health decisions or provide for themselves and their families.

As you confront the many challenges facing our nation and world, we look forward to working with you on issues of mutual concern. We offer you our blessings as you begin this new congress and new year.

ⁱ <https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2019-08-15/police-shootings-are-a-leading-cause-of-death-for-black-men>

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