



IndivisibleEB.org

**INDIVISIBLE SF**

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
One Post Street, Suite 2450  
San Francisco, CA, 94104

**To:** Senator Dianne Feinstein  
**From:** Indivisible SF and Indivisible East Bay  
**Date:** September 27, 2018  
**Subject:** Resisting the Trump Agenda

**Housing/ Homelessness:** Indivisible SF has endorsed and is supporting San Francisco Proposition C and asks Senator Feinstein to join Congresswomen Pelosi and Speier and publicly endorse this Proposition. See the attached information.

**Questions:**

- Any updates on her homelessness legislation?
- Has she looked at Sen. Warren's American Housing and Economic Mobility Act[1]?

[PROPOSITION C - Spencer Hudson and Jennifer Friedenbach, Coalition on Homelessness](#)

[Indivisible SF has endorsed and is supporting San Francisco Proposition C and asks Senator Feinstein to join Congresswomen Pelosi and Speier and publicly endorse this Proposition](#)

[Prop C is a bold plan to tackle San Francisco's homeless crisis](#)

- ✓ [Create permanent housing](#)
- ✓ [Target the mental health crisis head-on](#)
- ✓ [Increase the number of sanitary public bathrooms](#)
- ✓ [Create housing security for San Franciscans at risk due to health problems, domestic violence, fire, temporary income loss, and other emergencies](#)
- ✓ [Eliminate the shelter waitlist](#)
- ✓ [Keep our streets clean and healthy](#)
- ✓ [Ensure visible outcomes with strong built-in accountability measures](#)

[Prop C is comprehensive — integrating both upstream and downstream interventions into a bold, holistic plan.](#)

[Prop C will be funded by the city's very largest corporations – many of whom just received a huge tax break from Donald Trump. This top 1% will pay a small additional tax averaging one-half of one percent on revenue greater than \\$50 million per year.](#)

[Endorsed by: Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Rep. Jackie Speier, San Francisco School Board, Sierra Club, The San Francisco Democratic Party \(DCCC\), GLIDE, San Francisco Tenants Union](#)

**Supreme Court:** We thank the Senator for her leadership against the Supreme Court nomination of Brett Kavanaugh. We thank her for calling for his withdrawal and agree that this nomination must not go forward unless the FBI investigates the sexual misconduct allegations against Kavanaugh. The Republicans have basically done obstruction and coverup for Kavanaugh's record. This must stop. We need a thorough and nonpartisan investigation of the allegations.

**Questions:**

- Does she support Sen. Merkley's lawsuit to force the Senate to delay a floor vote?
- What will she do if Sen. Grassley follows through on holding a committee vote on Friday?

**Violence Against Women/ Sexual Harassment:** Nearly everything Sen. Feinstein has done since the first sexual assault allegations against Kavanaugh came out to suggest that she takes this as seriously as it deserves and does believe it is relevant to his (lack of) fitness for the Supreme Court. And we do thank her for appropriately guarding Christine Blakey Ford's privacy. But we do ask her to take this as an opportunity to reflect on what part ideas that the New Yorker reported about her thinking (that this was a personal matter not relevant to his fitness for the court, or too far in the past) may have played in her initial handling of the situation. We certainly aren't suggesting that she should have told the world without Ford's consent, but we do wonder, for instance, whether she could have been more active in supporting Ford in making a decision to go public or could have raised questions about Kavanaugh's character in a way that wouldn't have put Ford in danger. So we just ask her to think about those things since she may find herself in a similar situation again, as we are only beginning to acknowledge how common this problem is.

**Questions:**

- What can she do to make it easier for people to come forward with their stories, especially when those stories involve powerful men?
- What is she doing to push for the Violence Against Women Act to be improved rather than just temporarily re-upped for a few weeks?

**Family separation and detention:**

- What can the Senator do about the over 12,000 minors in detention and more funds being repurposed from HHS to DHS to build additional detention facilities?
- What else can the Senate do to help reunite these families?
- A recent FOIA request yielding a DHS policy memo[2] on family separation that flatly contradicts earlier statements by Sec. Nielsen. How does the senator plan to hold the administration accountable for such blatant falsehoods about this cruel and costly policy?
- Will she call for another Judiciary Committee oversight hearing?
- Will she join with Sen. Harris and others to call for the DHS Inspector General to investigate allegations of coercion and abuse against separated immigrant parents?
- Will she speak up about the need to allow journalists access to detention centers so that the American people and the world can see the permanent harm the Trump administration's policies are having on children and families in the name of our government?

**Immigration:** If a Senate version of HR 6691 Community Safety and Security Act of 2018 comes up for a vote on the Judiciary Committee, we want the Senator to vote NO. The proposed law is overly expansive, one-size-fits-all policy that dismisses individual circumstance target the most vulnerable immigrant and refugee families.

We are very concerned about the administration's plans to make it harder for immigrants who receive government benefits like food stamps and health care to get green cards. We are worried that it will result in many immigrants not getting the support they need to improve their lives and contribute to the economy.

**Questions:**

- What can she do to reverse this?

-What can she do to support immigrants who may be unsure about what benefits they and their families can access without affecting their green card eligibility?

-Any updates or indications that the situation has improved since the media attention to passport denials for citizens born near the border? Will the senator call for an oversight hearing?

**Rule of Law:** We are very concerned about reports that Deputy A.G. Rod Rosenstein is close to resigning or being fired either now or after the election. We thank Sen. Feinstein for voting in committee in favor of legislation to protect the Mueller investigation and want her to move to proceed to a vote on the Senate floor, especially to act quickly to do so if Rosenstein is pushed out.

**Questions:**

-What can she do to protect the Mueller investigation and ensure that, as appropriate, its results are available to Congress and the American people even if Trump succeeds in stopping it before it concludes?

-What will she do to reinvigorate Senate investigations into Russian interference in the 2016 Election, especially if Democrats take back control?

**Election Security:** We thank the Senator for bringing attention[3] (via tweet) to the National Academy of Science's findings[4] on systems vulnerabilities that impact election security in both 2018 and 2020. Their call for paper ballots and audits mirrors the requirements in Senator Wyden's PAVE Act[5].

**Questions:**

-Will she co-sponsor S.3049 Protecting American Votes and Elections Act of 2018?

-Will she work to get the paper ballot and auditing requirements in the PAVE Act into the remaining must-pass appropriations bills such as the 2019 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill?

**Digital Privacy and possible politicization of IC:** There is a case proceeding under seal[6] in Eastern District Court in California in which the Dept of Justice is trying to compel Facebook to break its end-to-end encryption to allow law enforcement to eavesdrop on communications via the popular Messenger app. This aggressive encroachment on privacy would permit intelligence gathering/eavesdropping on billions of users around the world, including senators, their staff, and their families.

**Questions:**

-Has the Senate been briefed on this case?

-Does the Senator agree with the conclusion in the 2016 House DHS Committee's Report on Encryption, Security, and the Modern Economy[7] that mandating encryption backdoors is the wrong approach to the prevalence of encrypted applications and hardware?

**Environment/Public Health:**

-We have heard rumors that the U.S. Geological Survey team that collects water quality measurements in San Francisco Bay may have its funding cut after its current director retires. Will Sen Feinstein look into this and work to protect the funding as necessary?

-With the discovery of radioactive material within 50 feet of people's homes and a proposed child care center, will the senator support calls for the SF Shipyard project to be put on hold until thorough scientific soil testing has been done and all radioactive waste safely removed?

-What is she doing to address problems like this more generally, lead abatement for example?

**Yemen:** Less than two weeks ago, Secretary of State Pompeo **certified**[8] (per 2019 NDAA requirement for certification) that the Saudi led coalition is "undertaking demonstrable actions to reduce the risk of harm to civilians" and yet just 2 days ago on September 25, we see a report that by the International Rescue Committee[9] that civilian fatalities have increased **164% in the last 3 months**, including a bombing of a school bus earlier this month that resulted in deaths of 40 children. This unchecked bombing of civilians (with US supplied munitions, supported and refueled by US planes, using intelligence gathered by the US) will implicate America in one of the worst man-made tragedies/war crimes of the decade. Rep. Ro Khanna and a bipartisan group in the House just

introduced/re-introduced a resolution, H.Con.Res.81, to end the unauthorized US involvement[10] in the military campaigns in Yemen.

**Questions:**

-Will the senator support the resolution?

-Does the senator support Senator Menendez's refusal[11] to authorize additional munitions sales to the Saudi government?

-The last time a similar resolution[12] was tried, it failed 55-44, with Sens Coons, Cortez Masto, Donnelly, Heitkamp, Jones, Manchin, Menendez, Nelson, Reed, Whitehouse voting to table the motion to discharge the resolution. Will the Senator work with leadership to ensure that her Democratic colleagues support the resolution to withdraw the US from this unauthorized military campaign?

-If administration officials such as Sec. Nielsen and Pompeo continue to just straight-up lie to the American people and their representatives in Congress, what corrective/punitive measures via Congress's appropriations authority, would the senator consider?

**Farm Bill:** We want Sen. Feinstein to encourage her colleagues working on the Farm Bill to stand strong for SNAP and against work requirements. And, of course, we would want her to vote against a final bill that: cuts the number of Americans participating in the SNAP program; prevents counties and cities from regulating the use of pesticides and factory farms; rolls back protections in the Clean Water Act; reduces or weakens the Conservation Stewardship Program; guts environmental protection for national forests to expedite logging and mining; continues to subsidize millionaire farmers and billion dollar agriculture corporations; or fails to ensure that subsidies go to actual farmers by narrowing the "Active Management" loophole

**Workers Rights:** We thank the senator for co-sponsoring S.3064 the Workers' Freedom to Negotiate Act which will deter egregious violations of labor rights and restore some fairness to an economy that is rigged against employees and ask her to co-sponsor and publicly support S.2810 the Workplace Democracy Act which will restore real bargaining rights for American workers and repeal some of the laws that unfairly cripple labor.

**Federal Judiciary:** We repeat our opposition to the nomination of **Jonathan Kobes** for a judgeship on the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. The ABA has recently rated Kobes "Not Qualified" for a federal judgeship[13] due to lack of courtroom experience. We are asking the Senator to vigorously oppose this nomination.

**Tax Policy:** We want Sen. Feinstein to work to prevent Republicans from attaching a rider to any of the spending bills to weaken the Johnson Amendment and make some political contributions tax deductible. We also want her to vote NO if the Senate tries to pass legislation making the individual tax cuts from the tax scam permanent as the House is doing.

**Trade:** We want Sen. Feinstein insist that any renegotiated NAFTA agreement, or similar include strong labor and environmental standards with swift and certain enforcement to raise wages and strengthen lax environmental rules in low-wage countries to prevent corporations from moving jobs to pay workers a pittance and dump toxic poison into the environment. And we want her to oppose Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) systems that empower corporations to attack health and environmental laws passed by democratically elected governments by using secret, appointed tribunals of three corporate lawyers.

**Criminal Justice:** Any update regarding our request in May, that, as Sen. Harris did, Sen. Feinstein come out publicly in support of new DNA testing for the Kevin Cooper case[14]?

**Town Hall:** We are still asking for one.

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