



IndivisibleEB.org

Senator Nancy Skinner  
1515 Clay Street  
Suite 2202  
Oakland, CA 94612

**To:** Senator Nancy Skinner  
**From:** Indivisible East Bay  
**Date:** March 1, 2018  
**Subject:** Resisting the Trump Agenda

**Thank you for being a consistent champion for progressive issues.** We were happy to see that you received an A for your Courage Score in 2018 and know that you'll continue to champion the progressive cause in the state senate.

**Legislative Priorities:** Indivisible East Bay is in the process of choosing a selection of bills before the CA legislature to focus our advocacy work on this session. We are also working with other groups across the state to select some statewide priority bills. We've provided a list of some of the bills we have been looking at.

**Questions:**

- What are your legislative priorities this session?
- What do you see as the biggest challenges to taking bold action?
- What can we do to convince the new governor to sign some of the good bills the old governor vetoed last year?
- Do you have any suggestions of where grassroots support in your district and/or elsewhere could have the most effect?
- Are there any bills on our list that you have concerns about supporting or want to see amended?

**Criminal Justice:**

- Thank you for supporting AB 931 last year in committee. We ask you to continue to support Weber and McCarty's AB 392 this year when it comes to the CA Senate. In line with recommendations from policing and legal experts, including the California Attorney General, AB 392 updates California law so that police can use deadly force only when necessary to prevent death or serious injury, and requires them to use tactics to de-escalate a situation or use alternatives to deadly force when reasonable. Changing this standard will mean that officers will be trained to use deadly force less often and will be held accountable when they shoot and kill unnecessarily. (Partner talking points about AB 392)
- And we ask you to use your leadership in the Senate Public Safety Committee to kill the police opposition bill SB 230 (Caballero). This bill is much weaker than AB 392, the equivalent of which you already passed through your committee last year in the form of AB 931. It would be disappointing to see the Senate Public Safety Committee advance this weak bill when it passed a much more progressive bill last year. SB 230 will pose a major barrier to the police reform we need to save lives in our state if it moves at the same time as AB 392. By using your leadership

to halt SB 230 in committee early, we can ensure that California passes the bold reform of police use of deadly force policy that it needs. SB 230 simply requires all agencies to maintain use of force policies. Every agency in California already meets this demand. This bill doesn't establish further requirements for the policies, other than providing "guidelines" on a list of topics, with no further specificity or clearer guidance. SB 230 would thus authorize agencies to issue policies that are in direct conflict with the recommendations of the California Attorney General,<sup>1</sup> which emphasized clarity and specificity on use of force policies – explicitly criticizing the type of vague guidance that would be permitted under SB 230. SB 230 similarly provides toothless training guidelines with no requirements, beyond a short list of subjects to be given "adequate consideration." Beyond the subject, there is no specificity on what standard officers should be trained to. Finally, SB 230 makes changes to Penal Code § 196 that allow officers to kill people who pose no threat to other people. It also allows officers to use deadly force even when it would have been safe, feasible, and reasonable to use alternatives.

- We ask you to support AB 277, Parole Re-integration Credits, authored by Asm. McCarty, when it comes to the Senate. It would reduce the length of parole for participation in certain activities, such as education, training, and substance abuse programs. Such programs reduce the chances of recidivism by supporting positive alternative activities.
- We ask you to support AB 32, which would abolish for-profit prisons.
- We don't think SB 10, as passed, was good bail reform. The reliance on a variety (there are nine different tools cited in the California Chief Justice's proposal for bail reform<sup>2</sup>) of non-standardized and proprietary risk assessment tools has the potential to further entrench bias in policing and detention.

#### **Questions:**

-How can we help pass AB 392, making sure it isn't blocked like Weber and McCarty's similar bill from last session?

-We were disappointed by last minute changes to bail reform SB 10 last year. What are your thoughts on that?

-What do you think of proposals such as the Electronic Frontier Foundation's restrictions<sup>3</sup> on the use of pretrial risk assessment tools?

- Risk assessment scores must be accompanied by detailed descriptions of how they were calculated—or "audit trails"—and all of the information necessary to enable a reproducible calculation of a particular individual's risk score.
- Courts should not be allowed to rely on proprietary risk assessment tools if a vendor refuses to disclose information about how the risk assessment tool was developed.

**Poverty:** Thank you for introducing SB 18 Keep Californians Housed Act. We want you to fund the CalFood Program at \$24.5 million on-going to enable food banks to meet emergency needs and support the following bills:

- AB 1022, (Wicks), a top priority of our community partner the Alameda County Community Food Bank. It addresses the need to end hunger for adults (Able-Bodied Adults without Children) who

---

<sup>1</sup> California Department of Justice, Sacramento Police Department: Report and Recommendations, 2019 (2019).

<sup>2</sup> [Pretrial Detention Reform - Recommendations To The Chief Justice](#), October 2017

<sup>3</sup> [EFF Urges California to Place Meaningful Restrictions on the Use of Pretrial Risk Assessment Tools](#) (2018)

are harmed by the federal 3-month time limit to SNAP. A hungry person can't do an effective job search.

- SB SB 285 (Weiner) to ensure all eligible Californians have efficient, equitable access to CalFresh by phone, online, and in person through dignified means and within an integrated safety net that supports health and well-being — SB SB 285 (Weiner) Co-sponsored by ACCFB with California Food Policy Advocates and other partners.
- AB 1434 (Karla) to end Poverty for Seniors and People with Disabilities State cuts to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) during the Great Recession forced hardship and poverty on 1.2 million Californians – 49,000 people in Alameda County – most of whom are women and women of color. Restore state SSI funding so that the grant for an individual reaches 100% of federal poverty and permanently reinstate the cost of living adjustment.  
([http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200AB1434](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1434))
- AB 1593 (Reyes) Expand the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) Expand CalEITC so that it is inclusive of all working and taxpaying Californians, including immigrant workers with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) and those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protected (TPS) status. Provide on-going funding for outreach and free tax preparation programs.  
([https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200AB1593&search\\_keywords=Earned+Income+Tax+Credit](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1593&search_keywords=Earned+Income+Tax+Credit))
- SB 499 (McGuire) Hunger-Free Schools and AB 842 (Limon) Hunger-Free Preschool and Child Care to increase K-12 school's capacity to provide healthy school meals – made with California grown fruits and vegetables – free to all students and ensure that low-income children in public pre-K have access to nutritious, free meals, and provide state funding for child care centers to serve nutritious meals to low-income children.

#### **Questions:**

-How can we help pass these bills?

-Are there any plans to try to put a child allowance in place in California? Something like the American Families Act?

(<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/10/26/16552200/child-allowance-tax-credit-bill-michael-bennet-sherrod-brown>)

#### **Elections and Voting Rights:** We want you to support the following bills:

- ACA 6 (McCarty ) Voting is a fundamental right of citizenship. ACA 6 will amend the California Constitution to ensure that Californians on parole can fully participate in our democracy. Giving people returning home from prison access to civic participation is one of the most effective ways to assure their successful reintegration home. Blocking people on parole from voting means our neighbors who are working, paying taxes, and raising families in this state are deprived of the ability to have a say in the policies and representatives who shape their daily lives. This is out of step with our values as Californians. The right to vote gives people still on parole a connection to their community's civic life. IEB will be working with the community co-sponsors of ACA 6, including Initiate Justice and All of Us or None, and our community partner Open Gate, which supports people exiting prison, including many on parole, to enroll in college with a support program at Chabot College in Hayward. (Partner talking points on ACA 6)
- AB 49, Voter Protection Act (Cervantes) : AB 49 increases the window of time before the election that vote-by-mail ballot packets must be mailed out to voters from 30 days to 60 days,

and requires that all the ballots be mailed within a 5-day period. Voting by mail's clearest virtue is that it makes it possible for a much larger portion of the population to vote. We believe that removing remaining arbitrary constraints which limit the time available to voters to make use of their ballots improves the effectiveness of vote-by-mail and will benefit a large number of voters who do not end up voting for lack of time. We are particularly concerned with the ability of low-income voters with little time to spare to have as much time as possible to do so, and to remove the uncertainties, intentional or not, of ballots being sent out over a staggered period of time.

- SB-72, Conditional Voter Registration: Satellite Offices (Umberg). SB 72 would require county officials to offer conditional voter registration at satellite offices. This will make voting easier for people with limited time and those who have difficulty traveling to a central office to register. It could potentially enfranchise many people. The League of Women Voters is a co-sponsor of this legislation.
- SB 47 and AB 1217 to improve campaign finance disclosure. SB 47 would require ballot petition signature gatherers to disclose the top three funders of the initiative. AB 1217 would require issue ads to disclose their funders.

**Questions:**

-Especially with California settling the Judicial Watch, Inc., et al. v. Logan, et al. lawsuit and agreeing to purge voter rolls we want our elected officials to perform oversight to ensure that residents are able to access their right to same-day voter registration and provisional voting. What can you do to make sure same-day registration is operating as intended? Could you hold a hearing or ask for a report? How can we help?

**Public Banking:**

Please co-sponsor and support the public banking charter bill sponsored by the California Public Banking Alliance (CPBA). This will create a new type of charter/license specifically tailored to public banks, which are defined as banks wholly owned by public entities (cities, counties, school or water districts, combinations thereof). Public banking is an issue that has been supported by the City Councils of Oakland, Berkeley, and Richmond, as well as by Alameda County's Treasurer and Board of Supervisors. Together, these jurisdictions completed a favorable feasibility study for a regional public bank in 2018. The next step is developing a business plan, which also functions as an application to the state Department of Business Oversight, but there is currently no appropriate license to apply for. San Francisco is currently wrapping up its year-long Municipal Bank Feasibility Task Force, and in November, over 400,000 voters in Los Angeles voted in favor of amending the city's charter to allow L.A. to establish a public bank. The bill will be in print early next week, co-authored by Asm. David Chiu and Asm. Miguel Santiago. Sen. Steven Bradford has also introduced a stub bill, SB 203, on the subject of public banking, but he has not yet indicated what his intentions are for it.

**Questions:**

-What is your relationship like with Sen. Bradford? Could you reach out to him or his office to encourage him to work with CPBA and Assemblymembers Chiu and Santiago?

[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200SB203](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB203)

**Education:** We know you are working long-term to get more money for our schools, but is there anything you can do in the near-term to help get our striking Oakland teachers the raises they need and deserve?

**Health Care:** We want you to support SB-29 to expand Medi-Cal to undocumented immigrants.

**Environment:** We want you to Consider becoming a co-author on SB 168, Chief Officer of Climate Adaptation and Resilience, Sen. Wieckowski. It establishes the Chief Officer of Climate Adaptation and Resilience, who shall be appointed by the Governor and serve as the statewide lead for the planning and coordination of climate adaptation policy implementation.

**Questions:**

-We need bold policies to address our climate crisis. Have you been working with Assemblyman Bonta on his Green New Deal legislation at all (AB 1276)?

-Have you considered becoming a co-author on SB 210, Heavy-Duty Vehicle Inspections and Maintenance Program (Levy)? It requires that the DMV adopt and implement a regulation for non gasoline heavy-duty onroad motor vehicles. These vehicles idle in poor communities and harm the air quality in those neighborhoods. SB 210 is supported by the California Sierra Club.

**Immigration:**

-We heard there was something happening in the budget about providing state-funded lawyers to immigrants facing deportation like we have here in Oakland funded by the city and county, but no one seems sure what happened to that idea. Will you bring it back?

-We are not very happy with our sheriffs in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, especially on immigration matters. What is your relationship like with their offices?

**Housing and Infrastructure:** We appreciate that addressing California's housing crisis is a priority for you. We have members who both support and oppose the bill you've sponsored (SB 50), but we are in agreement that something needs to be done and that affordability and displacement should be our biggest concerns.

**Questions:**

-Can you tell us a little bit about why you've proposed this particular solution and any changes you hope to make to the bill during the process?

-Do you have any thoughts about the high-speed rail situation?