

YWCA USA Bi-Weekly Policy Update

February 22, 2017

Dear Advocacy Points of Contact,

It's been another busy few weeks in Washington, DC and, now, Congress is heading into their first recess (2/17 - 2/27) of this session. Below, you will find a summary of President Trump's executive orders relevant to YWCA's mission since the last update on 2/6, an update on Cabinet and Supreme Court nominations, information on key legislation that has been recently introduced, and Congressional recess guidance for use in your communities. We have also provided links to resources for additional information.

We encourage you to keep updated on our advocacy regarding Cabinet nominations through the [Transition 2017](#) intranet page - which includes links to action alerts, letters, and resource materials - and to learn more about the [2017 – 2018 Public Policy Priorities](#) and explore [new fact sheets](#) to support your advocacy. Last week, we also introduced our [Federal Budget Advocacy Toolkit](#) to help guide your work around the FY17 and FY18 budget processes.

Finally, please do not hesitate to reach out to us with questions and concerns.

Sincerely,
YWCA USA Public Policy & Advocacy

President Trump Announces Executive Orders Related to Crime and Policing

Since the last policy update, President Trump has announced additional executive orders related to YWCA USA's policy work and mission. Please see below for brief summaries of these executive orders as well as additional reading and resources. Drafts of several potential executive orders have been circulated in the media but not yet formally issued by the administration. We are monitoring these actions and will keep you apprised of those that are finalized.

1) Presidential Executive Order on a Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety –

- Directs the Attorney General to establish a Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety to develop "strategies to reduce crime, including, in particular, illegal immigration, drug trafficking and violent crime."
- Directs the Attorney General to identify deficiencies in current law and propose legislation that could improve public safety and reduce crime.
- President Trump commented throughout his campaign that the national murder rate was at an all-time high, when in fact, it has dropped to one of the lowest rates in decades. However, this is believed to be the reasoning behind issuance of this order, as he has continuously reiterated that he wants to be "tough on crime." This and the following orders are likely the first of multiple vehicles for which he will pursue "tough on crime" policies,

which he has previously said would include longer prison sentences and increased use of the death penalty, and is already evidenced through his multiple orders related to undocumented immigrants.

2) Presidential Executive Order on Preventing Violence Against Federal, State, Tribal, and Local Law Enforcement Officers–

- Directs the Attorney General to develop a strategy, in coordination with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to use current federal law to prosecute individuals who commit violent crimes against law-enforcement officers.
- Orders the pursuit of legislation that will define new federal crimes and increase penalties for existing federal crimes in order to prevent violence against local, state, federal and tribal law enforcement officers.
- This order is understood to be in response to high-profile shootings that have occurred over the past couple of years, however, its writing indicates that the predominant victims of shootings are law enforcement officials and posits that violence against police officers is not taken seriously already. No reference is made, however, to police violence against people of color or the need for accountability for those incidents.

3) Presidential Executive Order on Enforcing Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking–

- Directs the Secretary of State, Attorney General, Secretary of Homeland Security, and Director of National Intelligence to co-chair and direct the Threat Mitigation Working Group, established under President Obama, and to review policies related to thwarting transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations that present a threat to public and national security, especially those related to human trafficking, corruption, cybercrime, financial crime, intellectual property theft or the illegal concealment or transfer of earnings from such illicit activities.
- Directs law enforcement officials to apprehend and prosecute citizens, and deport non-citizens involved in the above mentioned critical activities.
- Directs the working group to submit a report to the President within 120 days with recommendations for how to eradicate existing, criminal organizations that are present within the U.S.
- Communities of color and other marginalized communities are likely to be greatly affected by this order, as there will be increased prosecution of non-violent “crimes of survival,” such as selling drugs, immigration fraud, or visa fraud.

[Trump has Already Signed 25 Executive Actions- Here’s What Each One Does](#) [Business Insider]

[Trump Signs Three New Executive Orders on Crime Reduction](#) [CNN Politics]

[Trump Signs Orders to Combat Crime, With Little New in Them](#) [The New York Times]

Administration Issues Memoranda Outlining Implementation of Executive Orders Regarding Immigration.

On February 20, the administration issued two memoranda which provide guidance to federal agencies for implementing the Executive Order on Border Security and Immigration Enforcement. These memoranda set out an aggressive immigration enforcement strategy that includes:

- Expanded ability to empower state and local law enforcement agencies to undertake immigration enforcement activities
- Broad discretion for immigration officers to detain and deport immigrants under a wide variety of circumstances, including mere suspicion of committing a crime
- Expanding the number of immigrants who can be deported using expedited removal procedures, including any immigrant anywhere in the U.S. who cannot prove that she was in the country continuously for two years (instead of focusing on immigrants apprehended within 100 miles of the Southern border)
- Returning immigrants apprehended in the Southern border region to Mexico as they await immigration proceedings, instead of housing them in U.S. detention facilities
- Making it more difficult for unaccompanied minors and immigrants seeking asylum to gain entry to the U.S., and opening the possibility of deportation or criminal prosecution for adults who help children enter the U.S. illegally
- Authorization to hire an additional 15,000 ICE and CBP employees
- Leaves intact, at least for now, the DACA and DAPA programs for Dreamers and their parents.

By some estimates, these new guidelines could affect up to 8 million people. YWCA is particularly concerned about the impact these changes will have on survivors of gender-based violence.

[Executive Orders on Protecting the Homeland](#) [Department of Homeland Security]

[Trump Steps up Deportation Push](#) [The Hill]

[Trump Admin Sets Stage for Mass Deportations](#) [CNN]

Secretaries of Education and Health and Human Services and Attorney General Confirmed by the United States Senate

In back-to-back Senate votes beginning on February 7, Betsy DeVos (Secretary of Education), Tom Price (Secretary of Health and Human Services), and Jeff Sessions (Attorney General) were confirmed to their seats in President Trump's cabinet. After weeks of contention, Secretary DeVos' vote was the closest, as Senators Collins (R-ME) and Murkowski (R-AK) announced in advance of the vote that they would not be voting for her confirmation. This caused a tie vote which Vice President Pence had to break, making history as the first Vice President to break a cabinet confirmation tie. Secretary Price's and Attorney General Sessions' votes then followed quickly along party lines.

For more information and YWCA USA's statements on the confirmations, please review the [Transition 2017](#) Intranet page.

[Betsy DeVos Confirmed as Education Secretary; Pence Breaks Tie](#) [The New York Times]

[Tom Price Confirmed as Secretary of Health and Human Services](#) [NPR]

[Jeff Sessions Confirmed to be the Next Attorney General](#) [CNN Politics]

Andy Puzder Drops out as Labor Secretary Nominee; Trump Selects New Pick

After continuous stalling from and troubling findings about President Trump's Labor secretary nominee, Andy Puzder, he abruptly withdrew his nomination on February 15th, the day before he was supposed to sit before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee for his confirmation hearing. On February 16, President Trump announced Alexander Acosta as his new selection for Labor Secretary. Mr. Acosta is currently the dean of the Florida International University law school and served as the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division under President George W. Bush. He has also previously served as a member of the National Labor Relations Board, and as a U.S. Attorney in the ___ District of Florida. If confirmed, Mr. Acosta would be the only Hispanic member of President Trump's Cabinet. YWCA USA issued a [statement](#) calling for a thorough vetting of Mr. Acosta.

[Andy Puzder Withdraws as Labor Secretary Nominee Amid Republican Opposition](#) [Los Angeles Times]

[Trump Names Alexander Acosta as New Pick for Labor Secretary](#) [Washington Post]

The Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act is Reintroduced in Congress

On February 7, Senator Gillibrand (D-NY) and Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) reintroduced the FAMILY Act ([S.337](#) and H.R. [947](#)), which would establish a national insurance program for up to 12 weeks of paid leave per year for a serious health condition, including pregnancy and childbirth recovery, the serious health condition of a child or family member, the birth or adoption of a child, or caregiving for military family members injured during service. The Senate bill was reintroduced this Congress with a record number of 26 cosponsors, which as of today had increased to 27 cosponsors. The House bill was reintroduced with 123 cosponsors. [YWCA USA supports](#) this legislation and has been working closely with the Work and Family Coalition, run by the National Partnership for Women and Families, to increase co-sponsorship of this bill.

[ACT NOW:](#) Encourage Your Member to Cosponsor the FAMILY Act!

[Lawmakers Propose Paid Family Leave for Workers in U.S.](#) [Reuters]

[Senator Gillibrand Leads Group of 27 Senators to Reintroduce FAMILY Act](#) [Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand]

[DeLauro Leads More than 100 House Democrats in Reintroducing FAMILY Act](#) [Rep. Rosa DeLauro]

Senator Cardin Reintroduces the End Racial and Religious Profiling Act

On February 16, Senator Bill Cardin (D-MD) introduced the End Racial and Religious Profiling Act (ERRPA), formerly known as the End Racial Profiling Act. The bill, [S.411](#), was introduced with 26 Senate cosponsors. YWCA USA has been working with coalition partners, including the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and the American Civil Liberties Union to get the bill reintroduced and to garner Senate support. YWCA USA's also released a [press statement](#) following introduction of the bill, and were joined by 48 local YWCAs in signing a [letter of support](#) for the bill.

ACT NOW: Encourage Your Senator to Cosponsor ERRPA!

[Cardin Introduces Bill to Ban Religious, Racial and Discriminatory Profiling by Law Enforcement](#)
[Senator Ben Cardin]

Congressional Recess February 17- February 27- Take Action in your Community!

On Wednesday, February 15, YWCA USA Public Policy and Advocacy Team [released February 2017 Recess Plans](#) as well as a newly developed [Budget Advocacy Toolkit](#). We encourage you to use both of these tools during the Congressional recess and beyond.

Women's March on Washington Actions

As part of the March 8 "[A Day Without a Woman](#)" strike, being coordinated by the Women's March on Washington organizers, they are coordinating actions to take leading up to the strike. The actions are to encourage a variety of people to participate in the conversation around economic justice and the important contributions of women to society in a variety of different ways. Please participate, and encourage your clients and constituents to participate in the actions that feel connected to your mission and programmatic work. We understand that many workers are unable to participate in a strike. [Read more](#) in the memo released last Friday.

YWCA USA to Host a Tweet Chat

YWCA is hosting a Tweet Chat on Thursday, February 23, 2017, from 3 – 4:00 pm EST to discuss the critical federal funding sources that women, girls, and families rely on for safety, housing, child care, jobs, and other services. Together, let's share and raise awareness about the positive impact these vital funding streams (such as VAWA, VOCA, FVPSA, CDBG, and CCDBG) have on our programs and the critical support we provide to the people and communities we serve – and the damage that blocking these funds would have on survivors, women, children, and families. For additional information about the tweet chat, please contact Tiffany Wang, YWCA USA Digital Communications Coordinator, at twang@ywca.org.

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

Tweet Chat: February 23 @ 3:00 pm EST

Protect Funding for Women & Families



Join us to discuss critical federal funding sources that women, girls, and families rely on for safety, housing, childcare, jobs, and other services

#DontCutHerOut

YWCA

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