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DNC ETHNIC COORDINATING COUNCIL PROMOTES IMMIGRANT VOTE

BY MARY ELLEN EARLY, DNC MEMBER

The Democratic National Committee will include a DNC Ethnic Council meeting as a regular part of the upcoming Winter Meeting Thursday, March 8 to Saturday, March 10 in Washington, D.C.

The Ethnic Council meeting will provide an opportunity to engage and discuss strategy for 2018 elections, including key congressional districts which are composed of large ethnic populations.

As a member of the Ethnic Council, I want to tell you about a 20 year old woman who came to the U.S. in 2014. Her name was Frances Duggan, one of eight children, from an impoverished fishing village in Newfoundland.

Her immigration record reveals that she came through customs with her cousin, Mary. They had \$15 between the two of them. She gave her ethnicity as Irish, and her occupation as domestic worker. She was on her way to Boston to enter nursing school.

A few years later, after a return visit to Newfoundland, Miss Duggan gave her occupation as nurse, and her ethnicity as English. She seems to have reinvented herself during her short time in the U.S. Living in South Boston, she probably saw too many "No Irish Need Apply" signs.

The current U.S. president, who is himself married to an immigrant, shows that he holds little value for those who come here as poor and oppressed people, working long and hard to earn a

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California DNC Members at May 2017 CDP Convention in Sacramento

DREAMERS HELD HOSTAGE BY REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

BY KEITH UMEMOTO AND ALEX ROOKER, DNC MEMBERS

"Hostage" - "a person or entity which is held by one of two belligerent parties or seized as security for the carrying out of an agreement."

Dreamers have been held hostage not once or twice, but too many times. Recent? No, the Dream Act was introduced 17 years ago.

Dreamers are being held hostage by Trump, McConnell, Ryan and the Freedom Caucus.

There's would be no crisis had Trump, on September 5, 2017, NOT declared an end to Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program of June 15, 2012.

The first semblance of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act was introduced in 2001. Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-Illinois) introduced the "Immigrant Children's Educational Advancement and Dropout Prevention Act of 2001" (HR1582) on April 24, 2001, protecting undocumented students from deportation and

Later in 2001, Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Illinois), knowing the need for a bipartisan bill to avoid a filibuster, worked with Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) to introduce the first Dream Act on August 1 (SB1291) similar to HR 1582.

Since 2001, the DREAM Act has been reintroduced countless times, almost succeeding after House passage on December 8, 2010, but was five votes short of being filibuster proof.

Since immigration reform hasn't been updated since the Immigration and Control and Reform Act of 1986 (law) and the DREAM Act (proposal) since 2001, President Obama initiated several immigration policies, including DACA (2012).

Even with bipartisan support, the Republican

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CDP Vice Chair Alex Rooker is Treasurer of the Association of State Democratic Chairs and Vice Chair of the DNC Women's Caucus



Keith Umemoto is Co-Chair of the Credentials Committee of the California Democratic Party

REP. LEE MOVES TO PROTECT PROP 64

BY REP. BARBARA LEE, DNC MEMBER



DNC Member Barbara Lee represents California's 13th District in Congress

With the legalization of marijuana use, possession and distribution in California, a new era has dawned on the Golden State. By ending wrongful cannabis prohibition, our state has taken a critical step in the long-overdue process of ending the War on Drugs.

But while California is moving forward, the Trump Administration wants to drag us backwards. Just days after Prop 64 took effect, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that he would be rescinding the Cole Memo - thereby ending the policy that allowed states to take the lead on cannabis policy, without interference from the federal government.

Now Attorney General Jeff Sessions has made it glaringly clear that he wants to reignite the failed War on Drugs. It's up to

Congress to fight back against this dangerous agenda - and ensure the will of California voters is respected.

That is why I have introduced H.R. 4779, the Restricting Excessive Federal Enforcement and Regulations of Cannabis (REFER) Act. This bipartisan legislation would prohibit federal spending on any marijuana enforcement action in states that have legalization policies on the books.

The REFER Act would also help cannabis businesses who are subject to unfair banking regulations. Right now, federal law prevents these legal businesses from using any federally-backed bank - making it nearly impossible for dispensaries to work with financial institutions or even process credit card transactions. These punitive restrictions disadvantage entrepreneurs with the fewest resources, many of them people of color, who often

can't get off the ground without access to banking.

But it's not enough to just end wrongful federal interference going forward - in order to create a truly equitable cannabis industry, we must correct the racial injustices of the War on Drugs. For decades, communities of color have been disproportionately impacted by discriminatory drug enforcement. As we end cannabis prohibition, we must also help these victims rebuild their lives.

Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 4815, the Marijuana Justice Act with Congressman Ro Khanna. This legislation not only legalizes cannabis nationwide, it also creates a path for restorative justice for the families torn apart by these failed laws. It is far past time for Congress to catch up to the will of the American people, the majority of whom support ending federal prohibition, and to also help the victims of the failed War on Drugs who have been disproportionately impacted.

HILLBILLY ELEGY, JUDGE MOORE & WHITE VOTERS

BY BOB MULHOLLAND, DNC MEMBER



Bob Mulholland resides in Chico and can be reached at chicobob@msn.com and @chico.bob

The Electoral College, a system designed by the founders at the 1787 Constitutional Convention, determines who is sworn in as President. The Republicans in 2000 (Bush Jr.) and in 2016 (Trump), came in second but they got themselves into the White House. The results - invading Iraq and the Great Recession under Bush Jr. leading to trillions of dollars of debt, and under Trump - daily chaos, constant attacks on minorities, a Special Prosecutor, Putin calling the shots, but hopefully not a new war.

Democrats have a long way back to political power, having lost almost 1,000 partisan seats during the eight years of President Obama. We just gained one Gover-

norship in New Jersey, so now we are at the embarrassing level of 16 Democratic Governors. It is critical that we pick up a lot of Governorships this November as they will be overseeing redistricting in 2021, and of course in order to survive politically, we have to defeat "Locker Room Trump" in 2020.

But first, some reminders: white voters are 70% of the national presidential electorate and even higher in non-presidential elections. The last time a plurality of the white electorate voted for our Democratic presidential nominee was in 1964 for LBJ. Only a shift of just 39,000 votes (just 0.0002% of the 136 million votes cast), in the three states of Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin would have put Secretary Clinton into the

White House. In those key 270 Industrial Belt states, whites are actually 80-88% of the electorate.

Hillbilly Elegy is a book I recommend to better understand the white non-college voter. Also, elections are "tribal." A candidate's political party is what drives most voters. Let's say there are two family reunions in the same building. Relatives from afar ask the security guard - what room is the family reunion in? The guard answers - "Well, the Smiths are the ones meeting upstairs." You get the point.

Since the era of Civil Rights, the white electorate has gone with the GOP family. White non-college women voted by 51 points (76% to 25%) for the known child sexual assaulter, Judge Roy Moore, in the Alabama US Senate election. Why? Well, the other family, Doug Jones, was a Democrat.

SWEET VOTE ALABAMA

BY ALICE A. HUFFMAN, DNC MEMBER

The Alabama victory was sweet!! Yes, we all gave time, contributions, hope and other things of importance to the campaign. That's what makes an exciting election: when each of us recognizes that the campaign has relevance for our personal lives, it's almost like magic.

There is one take away that I wish to highlight for us in California. The importance of getting out the African American (AA) vote. (This might also apply to Latinos). Infrequent voting AA were asked in a focus group why they did not vote. They said "our ancestors died for our right to vote and we don't have to vote if it does not help us." They also said that "there is much trickery on the ballot and we don't know when to vote yes or no," often referring to the Ward

Connerly initiative. And finally, they only vote if they get information from a trusted source.

In Alabama, the DNC was on the ground and so also was the National and Alabama NAACP. We wanted that red necked, homophobic candidate to lose. From November 27 through Election Day on December 12, the NAACP made: 43,003 total calls; spoke to 4,049 people; 3,225 pledged to vote on Election Day; 106 said that they would not vote; 263 were unsure about voting; 117 requested rides to the polls.

I suspect that since California is so blue we don't target ethnic groups as much. But if we want to take back Congress and the White House, we might want to consider new ap-

proaches like partnering with groups that might be non-partisan but have the same election values as the Democratic Party.

I applaud the AA women in Alabama and the educated white women who joined in turning the Trump stronghold into a no hold. We can do this everywhere if we take the time to educate and motivate our outliers. Truth be told, African Americans will vote the right way because we have shared values and 92% of us always vote the right way. We just need an explanation from trusted sources why we must vote in a given election. Let's invest in our minority communities.

And one last word: if they don't see an outreach effort in the community, they become oblivious to the election, they lose, and when they lose, we all lose collectively.



DNC Member Alice Huffman is California Chair of the NAACP

HARASSMENT VICTIMS FIGHT BACK

BY CHRISTINE PELOSI, DNC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

When San Francisco's [Adama Iwu](#) launched the [#WeSaidEnough](#) movement in October — America's first [#MeToo](#) political letter inspired by [Tarana Burke](#) — I co-signed Iwu's bipartisan letter complaining about a "pervasive culture of sexual harassment in California politics" because I knew we needed radical change.

Little did we know then that we would be at the forefront of a political earthquake. The fault lines cut across all genders and identities, races, creeds and political philosophies.

As victims have come forward to share their stories about harassment, discrimination, bullying and abuse perpetuated by those in power, the challenge we face is to rebuild our infrastructure on a more solid and equitable

foundation.

Unfortunately, despite my having raised this issue to leaders across the country, not all politicians see the possibility for reform, or grasp the enormity of the inequity.

So let us first acknowledge the deep fissures that [#WeSaidEnough](#) has exposed in politics:

Elected Officials have carved out exceptions to employment laws for themselves, and for years have operated in a culture of silence where sexual harassment, discrimination, bullying and verbal and physical abuse are swept under the rug. Or worse, such allegations are sent into a "black hole" of secret self-investigation where witnesses are encouraged to "take one for the team" rather than speak up, and are "disappeared" or elimi-

nated from promotion or advancement when they do.

Campaigns are ripe for exploitation, with young people working long hours in sometimes unfamiliar territory, wholly dependent on the candidate or PAC for pay, food, lodging, and support.

Voters rarely learn of these uncomfortable truths.

But now that [#WeSaidEnough](#) has called attention to these matters and people are speaking out, we no longer can ignore that:

1) Politicians, who try to take the "you aren't being harassed, ARE YOU?" approach, are intimidating staff.

2) Politicians, who take the "let's have the staff discuss harassment within the office" approach, misunderstand the need for independence that would invite candor, disrespect same-gender abuse victims, and run the risk of silencing junior staffers.



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DEMOCRATS STAND UP TO HARRASSMENT AND BULLYING

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3) Politicians, who say "trust us to police ourselves," operate with the same hubris as the Catholic Church and the U.S. military. The Church in some cases went bankrupt rather than face up to the harm caused by pedophile priests.

The military still has not placed sexual assault investigations outside the chain of command.

We need independent investigations — not

peer review — to make real change.

That is why #WeSaidEnough has consistently demanded due process for all, laying down a path to lasting justice, not Twitter justice. To forge that path:

We must encourage reporting through confidential systems, such as our [report-and-support app](#), which was created for all people — male, female and nonbinary —

and offers connections to victims' services.

We demand a system built on a foundation of due process, with confidential investigations — and harsh consequences for leakers — and restorative practices that hold everyone accountable and provide an opportunity for healing.

We urge our leaders to understand the gravity of the situation and act with respect for the people that they serve and the

institutions in which they serve.

Whether you are in politics or not, if you see or experience inappropriate behavior, don't remain silent. Speak up, speak out, and know there is a community of people who will support you. Together we can build a new foundation based on respect, equity and justice for all. As Democrats, that is our call to service; as leaders that is our solemn responsibility.

DREAMERS HELD HOSTAGE

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leadership has held Dreamers hostage. Yet other issues have passed, recently in the Continuing Resolution (CR) to limit the recent government shut-down.

Trump had agreed to support a clean DACA bill, but reneged on his promise and held Dreamers hostage, demanding an 1) expensive wall, 2) end to family reunification, and 3) end to the lottery/repurpose visas.

Historically, immigrants built the social economic fabric of the US. Past fears have turned into huge so-

cial economic benefits.

Africans were uprooted; Ben Franklin cried out on the number of German immigrants; Irish immigrants and Roman Catholics were scorned; Poles, Italians, and Russian Jews were thought to be too different to assimilate; Chinese were excluded; and Mexicans were 'guest workers' through the Bracero program.

Trump ordered a ban on Muslims, and asked, "Why do we want all these people from 'shithole countries' coming here?"

Ironically, Congress

'granted' Native Americans born in the US their citizenship on June 2, 1924.

Urgent? Yes, over a million Dreamers live in fear, DACA deferred actions will expire, and Dreamers will be deported from the only place that they know as home.

The Party stands for "LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL."

Changing the course means mobilizing, organizing, voting and taking back the House, Senate and Presidency.



DNC Member Mary Ellen Early is the founding editor of the DNC Press Democrat

living in their adopted homeland. He wants to throw dreamers under the bus by deporting them to countries many

U.S. NEEDS IMMIGRANTS

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don't remember, and limit the number of legal immigrants coming into the country.

The Republican Congress recently passed what they call a "tax cut." This so-called tax cut will drive up the deficit. Congressional Republicans are laying the groundwork to cut Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. They claim that with so many baby boomers retiring, they will soon run out of funds for these programs when there are not enough people in the workforce to support all the retirees.

The workforce can easily be augmented by immigrants. If they are uneducated, we can educate them in our schools.

So what happened to young Frances Duggan, the immigrant who came here in 2014? She graduated from nursing school in 2017. Her contribution to this country was to care for shell-shocked (better known today as PTSD) soldiers coming home from World War I. She also married an American, raised three children, and became the grandmother of 15, all of them productive taxpayers. I should know. I am one of them.

FROM THE EDITORS:

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Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Early
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