

NETWORK's 2019 Legislative Update: Our Plan to Mend the Gaps

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#NETWORKWebinar @NETWORKLobby



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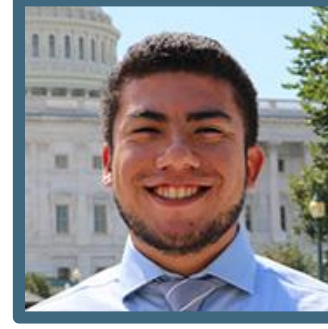
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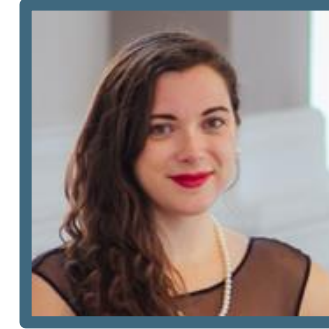
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*Live tweet throughout the webinar using the hashtag
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Have a question?

- ☀️ Expand the “chat” window of the GoToWebinar control panel
- ☀️ Select “send question to staff” from the drop-down menu
- ☀️ Type your question or comment into the chat box
- ☀️ *We will respond to questions at the end of the webinar*



Overview

Today we will be discussing:

- ☀️ A Look Back at 2018: How did we do?
- ☀️ Overview of 116th Congress and politics
- ☀️ Access to Democracy
- ☀️ Access to Citizenship
- ☀️ Access to Healthcare
- ☀️ Access to a Livable Income
- ☀️ Advocacy Tools
- ☀️ February Recess

There will be time for questions at the end. Remember type your questions in the chat box throughout the presentation!



A Look Back at 2018: Hot Topics

- ☀ Budget Showdown
- ☀ Trump Administration “Zero Tolerance” Policy
- ☀ GOP Attacks on Poverty
- ☀ Russia Collusion Investigation & Indictments



A Look Back at 2018: How Did We Do?

Victories:

- ☀️ **Elections:** Democrats took back the House!
- ☀️ **Healthcare:** Fended off attempts to weaken the Affordable Care Act!
- ☀️ **Food Security:** Farm Bill passed with no new work requirements for SNAP recipients!
- ☀️ **Criminal Justice:** Congress took historic action towards eradicating mass incarceration!



A Look Back at 2018: How Did We Do?

By the Numbers:

- ☀️ + **\$130 billion**: increase in funding for non-defense discretionary budget (FY2018/FY2019)
- ☀️ + **20 Members of Congress**: scored 100% on NETWORK's Voting Record that didn't last year
- ☀️ + **40 Democrats**: Net seat gain in the House of Representatives



Overarching Issues

- ☀️ Historic number of women & people of color in Congress
- ☀️ Divided Government: Tension between the House and the Senate and the President
- ☀️ Visionary bills v. incremental change
- ☀️ Tight Calendar: Action needed before August recess due to 2020 election politics
- ☀️ Cooperation: How will the Senate approach work? “adults in the room” v. conflict



Learning from the Shutdown

- ☀️ Senate Republican leadership deferred to the President. Leadership refused to put bill on the floor until White House intervened.
- ☀️ Both parties played to their base, which means compromise is difficult.
- ☀️ Partisan politics has consequences – the Shutdown caused pain.



Access to Democracy

NETWORK believes it is every citizen's right and responsibility to participate in the political process.

No individual or community should be disenfranchised by federal policy.



H.R.1: For the People Act (FTP)

- ☀️ Speaker Pelosi announced H.R. 1 as the 116th Congress' first order of business.
- ☀️ Introduced on January 4 as bold and comprehensive democracy reform.
- ☀️ Massive bill with three “buckets” of reform:
 - Ethics in government
 - Get corporate interests out of politics
 - Strengthen Voting Rights (NETWORK's focus)



H.R.1: For the People Act (FTP)

H.R. 1 Strengthens Voting Rights because:

- ☀️ Opens up access to voting
- ☀️ Ensures that votes count
- ☀️ Makes votes representative
- ☀️ Secures election infrastructure/process

Variety of provisions – some are straightforward, some advance more complex reforms

- ☀️ Rep. Terry Sewell's Voting Rights Amendment Act
- ☀️ Asserting congressional authority against *Citizens United*

Spin-off bills will continue to emerge.



H.R.1: For the People Act (FTP)

- ☀️ Popularity is undeniable – “Drain the Swamp!”
- ☀️ States are building momentum / paving the way
- ☀️ Record number of congressional cosponsors
- ☀️ GOP is already rolling out the attacks
- ☀️ Goals:
 - Pass House intact and soon
 - Build pressure in Senate
 - Build platform for 2020 elections



Access to Citizenship

NETWORK believes that as people of faith and a nation of many immigrants we are called to welcome the stranger.

Immigrants and refugees should be welcomed into this country.



Lay of the Land in 2019

Shutdown

- ☀️ Short-term spending bill will keep the government open until February 15.
- ☀️ Both parties are talking about increased spending at the border, some have hinted to bring in TPS & DACA solutions in talks.
- ☀️ Asylum system in danger and possibly brought up during negotiation talks.

DACA and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) held up in the courts.

- ☀️ Supreme Court denied the WH request to take up the case, which means people can continue renewing their DACA.
- ☀️ Cases are pending to protect TPS recipients from Sudan, Nicaragua, Haiti, and El Salvador.
- ☀️ Seven countries are not currently protected by the court, and TPS holders are slated to lose status beginning in Spring of 2019.



Immediate: Shutdown

☀️ **No increase in boots, beds, or wall funding**

- Keep the originally appropriated funds for DHS.

☀️ **No TPS or DACA solution**

- Don't want to trade one community for another.

☀️ **No changes to asylum system**



Action This Year

TPS-DREAM Bill

- ☀️ Combination of the DREAM Act and American Promise Act (current TPS bill)
- ☀️ Bill likely introduced in early March
- ☀️ Gives a pathway to citizenship for 1 million undocumented immigrants

2020 Spending Bill

- ☀️ Reduce the money given to the Department of Homeland Security in 2020 appropriations

End Family Detention



Access to Healthcare

NETWORK believes that access to quality, affordable, and equitable healthcare for all is a fundamental social good and essential human right.

It is required to protect the life and dignity of every person.



Lay of the Land

ACA Marketplace: Expect oversight hearings on ACA sabotage in the House

- ☀️ In 2017, the uninsured rate went up for the first time since the implementation of the ACA.
- ☀️ Texas lawsuit: a number of GOP state attorneys general and other plaintiffs argue that the law's individual mandate is unconstitutional.

Medicaid: While three more states expanded Medicaid, the program is under threat from new state work requirements

- ☀️ Since September, the state of Arkansas dropped the Medicaid coverage of **18,164 people** after they did not fulfill new reporting requirements.
- ☀️ Utah, Nebraska, and Idaho expanded Medicaid in the 2018 midterm elections.



116th Congress Legislative Priority: Drug Pricing

Lowering prescription drug prices is a top priority across the political spectrum.

- ☀️ **94% of Democrats** said lowering drug prices is extremely important, and **89% of Republicans** said the same.
- ☀️ 43% of those in fair or poor health rationed medication or didn't fill prescriptions because of cost.
- ☀️ More than 9 in 10 Americans support allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices.

Many new Members of Congress made campaign promises to lower prescription drug prices.

- ☀️ It is **crucial** for members to hear their constituents' stories about high drug prices.



Upcoming Drug Pricing Legislation

- ☀️ Allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices.
- ☀️ Prevent companies from blocking affordable generic drugs attempting to enter the market.
- ☀️ Require drug manufacturers to disclose information that influences drug prices.

In a divided Congress, there is potential for incremental reforms that make drug prices lower and more transparent.



Access to a Livable Income

NETWORK believes in the dignity of work and the right to meaningful work for all.

National legislation should move from adjusting a minimum wage to creating a livable income.



How to Mend the Income Gap:

We need livable income policies designed to meet the needs of the current and future workforce, like:

- ☀️ Raise the federal wage floor.
- ☀️ End wage discrimination.
- ☀️ Guarantee workers' right to organize.
- ☀️ Establish/enforce employer contracting practices that are fair to workers.
- ☀️ Strengthen government's role in the labor market as oversight and employer.



Raise the Wage Act of 2019

- ☀️ Reintroduced in mid-January, close to 200 cosponsors in House.
- ☀️ Federal Minimum Wage hasn't increased since 2009.
(cost of food has grown 25% in 10 years)
- ☀️ Republican Tax Law of 2017 has not helped American working families.
- ☀️ Shutdown highlighted the significance of wages.
- ☀️ States are building momentum and paving the way.



Raise the Wage Act of 2019

- ☀️ Gradually increases wage floor to \$15/hr. by 2024.
- ☀️ Then, implements automatic adjustments to keep pace with growth in the typical worker's wages.
- ☀️ Phases out tipped workers' wage.
- ☀️ Phases out subminimum wage for workers with disabilities and those under the age of 20.

Goals:

- ☀️ Pass the House as-is, and soon!
- ☀️ Build pressure in Senate.



Paycheck Fairness Act (PFA) of 2019

- ☀ Offers a much needed update to the Equal Pay Act of 1963, because gender pay gaps and discrimination persist.
- ☀ Provides robust protection against sex-based pay discrimination.
- ☀ Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act – 10 years yesterday!
- ☀ Introduced...TODAY!!

Goals:

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- ☀ Build pressure in Senate.



NETWORK's Advocacy Tool Box

- ☀️ Our website (www.networklobby.org) has helpful tips for how you can **call, email, or visit** your Member of Congress.
- ☀️ **Read our Voting Record:** View our **2018 Voting Record** and see how your elected officials scored:
www.networklobby.org/votingrecord2018

Remember: NETWORK staff is here to support you with your advocacy efforts!



What You Can Do:

☀️ **Visit your Member of Congress:** Both House and Senate members are on recess Feb. 18-22.

☀️ **Save the date:** Our **In-District Lobby Prep Webinar** is 2/13 is 2:00-3:00 pm EST.

☀️ Get those around you involved!



Thank you!

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