January 28, 2021
Sr. Simone Campbell, Executive Director
Laura Peralta-Schulte, Chief Lobbyist
Sr. Quincy Howard, Government Relations Specialist
Ronnate Asirwatham, Director of Government Relations
Joan Neal, Senior Government Relations Fellow and Strategic Advisor
Gina Kelley, Government Relations Associate
Meg Olson, Grassroots Mobilization Director
Presenters

Meg Olson
Sr. Simone Campbell, SSS
Laura Peralta-Schulte
Ronnate Asirwatham
Joan Neal
Gina Kelley
Quincy Howard, OP
To turn on captions
Zoom

Type your questions in the Q&A
Overview

We will be discussing:

- House and Senate State of Play
- Biden-Harris Administration
- Introducing Build Anew
- First 100 Days Priorities:
  - COVID Relief
  - Democracy
  - Immigration
- All of Our Policy Areas
- What We Do Going Forward

There will be time for questions at the end. Remember to type your questions in the Q&A Box throughout the presentation!
Democrats have the Majority with 221 members
Republicans have 211 members
3 seats are still vacant/undecided
The Senate

A 50/50 Senate

With incredible wins in the Georgia Run Off Election, Vice President Harris is now the tie-breaking vote giving Dems the slimmest of majorities
A New Administration

🌟 The Biden-Harris team have already taken steps to repeal Trump era policies and are boldly ushering a new era of American history.
In a world of growing economic disparity and increasing individualism, we call for federal policies that dismantle systemic racism, eliminate the wealth and income gap, improve the well-being of our communities, and allow all people to thrive — especially those most often left out: women, people of color, and people on the economic margins.

Emerging from encounter with families and communities across the United States, the **Build Anew Agenda** is a pathway to realizing our vision of a just and inclusive society.
Cornerstones to Build Our Country Anew

- Dismantle Systemic Racism
- Cultivate Inclusive Community
- Root Our Economy in Solidarity
- Transform Our Politics

Despite our divisions, we proclaim that all people in the United States, together, make up one single community. Pope Francis says, “Hope would have us recognize that there is always a way out, that we can always redirect our steps, that we can always do something to solve our problems.”

*In this hope, we can, and we must, build anew!*
Build Anew Agenda

Policy Areas to Build Anew

We build our country anew by prioritizing racial equity, caring for the Earth, and improving the well-being of all people and communities through legislative advocacy for:

- Our Economic Security
- Our Immigration and Justice Systems
- Our Healthcare, Housing, and Food Policies
- Our Taxes
- Our Democracy
The American Rescue Plan provides $1.9 Trillion in robust relief

- 400 billion to combat the pandemic directly, including money to accelerate vaccine deployment and to safely reopen most schools within 100 days.
- Dramatic increase in tax credits to help lift children, families, and workers out of poverty.
- $1,400 direct payments to individuals, more generous unemployment benefits, federally mandated paid leave for workers, food and housing aid, and large subsidies for child care costs.
- An additional $350 billion would help state and local governments bridge budget shortfalls.
COVID Relief

Racial Equity and Justice is Centered

- Inclusive policies benefiting Black, Brown and Indigenous Communities.
- Modeled on an FDR-style strategy to put the country in a better position than it was before the pandemic hit.
- NETWORK seeking permanent adoption of supports in “Build Back Better” Bill.
COVID Relief

- Timing for Bill: Unofficial Deadline for Passage is March 14
- Likely a DEMOCRAT-Only Bill
  - Republicans Pushing Back on Big Bill
  - Dems likely to use process that requires simple majority (50 plus 1)
- Process Limits What Can Be Included
  - Proposals must change revenue or spending
  - Proposals Can be Challenged by Opponents
Democracy

For the People Act

- H.R.1 is now S.1!
- Key Components
  - Clean and Fair Elections
  - Ending Gerrymandering
  - Disclose & Limit Dark Money
  - Small Donor Campaign Finance Program
  - Strong Ethics Provisions

Timing and Process
Democracy

Other bills we’ll be working:

- John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act
- D.C. Statehood
Immigration

- Biden Administration Immigration Bill – U.S. Citizenship Act 2021
- Leads. Senate: Robert Menendez (NJ), House: Linda Sanchez (CA-38)

Key Components
- Pathway to Citizenship
- Smart Border Controls
- Root Causes

Timing and Strategy
- Break it up into smaller bills (reintroduce past bills)
- New bills – (legalization for essential workers)
Our Other Policy Priorities

- Economic Security
  - Work, Wages, Wealth
  - Good Jobs, Livable Income, Safe and Healthy Workplaces

- Healthcare, Housing, and Food Policies
  - Food Security: (SNAP, TANF, and expanding eligibility)
  - Healthcare: Expand ACA, Health Equity
  - A Just Tax System: EITC, CTC, Taxing the Wealthy
  - Safe, Affordable, and Accessible Housing for All
Our Other Policy Priorities

- Justice System
  - Eliminate Barriers to Safety Net Programs
  - Justice in Policing Act
  - Restore Voting Right to people who are incarcerated and returning citizens
  - Sentencing Reform
Upcoming Opportunities in February

🌟 Sign up for virtual in-district visits with your Senators!
http://networklobby.org/meeting signups

🌟 Sign up for Lent, “Build Anew: A Justice Agenda for All of Us.”
https://networklobby.org/lent
Stay Connected

- Sign up for NETWORK action alerts: www.networklobby.org/connect or text “Nuns” to 877 877
- Become a NETWORK member: https://networklobby.org/mendthegaps
- Invite NETWORK staff to give a presentation to your parish or organization: https://networklobby.org/inviteus
Thank you!

For questions email:

Meg Olson, Molson@networklobby.org