



Received by Open Records

FEB 20 2020

GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

February 20, 2020

Justin Gordon
Office of the Attorney General
Open Records Division
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

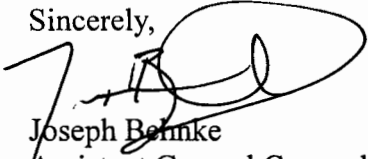
Re: Open Records Letter Ruling Request
OOG ID#: 041-20

Dear Mr. Gordon:

On January 29, 2020, the Office of the Governor (the "OOG") received a request under the Public Information Act (the "PIA") from Mr. Clay Goode.¹ A copy of the request is attached as Exhibit A. Pursuant to section 552.301(a), the OOG timely requested a decision from your office on whether the responsive information is excepted from disclosure under the PIA. That request is attached as Exhibit C. Our office now submits this brief in accordance with section 552.301(e).

The OOG is releasing some information to the requestor. Pursuant to section 552.305(c) of the Government Code, the OOG asserts no exceptions to disclosure of the submitted information. However, the information may implicate the privacy or proprietary interests of a third party. The OOG is requesting a ruling pursuant to section 552.301 and has notified the third part of the request and its right to submit arguments against disclosure of the requested information pursuant to section 552.305(b). The OOG has copied the requestor as a recipient of this brief pursuant to sections 552.301(d) and 552.301(e-1) of the Government Code.

Sincerely,


Joseph Behnke
Assistant General Counsel
Office of Governor Greg Abbott

¹ The OOG was closed on February 17, 2020.

cc: Clay Goode
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005
VIA EMAIL ONLY

White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
VIA EMAIL ONLY

EXHIBIT A

Joseph Behnke

From: FOIA <foia@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 4:09 PM
To: Public Records
Subject: 041-20 Goode - Request for Information
Attachments: TX-GOV-20-0106.pdf

[WARNING] - The sender of this email could not be validated, and may not match the display name.
[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

Dear Public Information Officer:

Please find attached a request for records under Texas's Public Information Act.

Sincerely,

Clay M. Goode
Paralegal
American Oversight
foia@americanoversight.org
www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

PRR: TX-GOV-20-0106



January 29, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Office of the Governor
State Insurance Building
Public Information Request
General Counsel Division
1100 San Jacinto
Austin, TX 78701
publicrecords@gov.texas.gov

Re: Public Information Request

Dear Public Information Officer:

Pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act, as codified at Tex. Code ch. 552, American Oversight makes the following request for public records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that the Office of the Governor promptly produce the following:

1. All email communications (including complete email chains, email attachments, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) sent or received by the following individuals to or from anyone in the White House Office (including anyone with an email address ending in @who.eop.gov).
 - a. Governor Greg Abbott (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from greg.abbott@gov.texas.gov), or anyone communicating on his behalf
 - b. Chief of Staff Luis Saenz (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from luis.saenz@gov.texas.gov)
 - c. Deputy Chief of Staff and Communications Director Matt Hirsch (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from matt.hirsch@gov.texas.gov)
 - d. Deputy Chief of Staff Jordan Hale (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from jordan.hale@gov.texas.gov)
 - e. Executive Aide Sam Schornack (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from sam.schornack@gov.texas.gov)
 - f. Executive Assistant Morgan Stewart (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from morgan.stewart@gov.texas.gov)
 - g. Scheduling Director Jackie Merrick (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from jackie.merrick@gov.texas.gov)



1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005 | AmericanOversight.org

- h. Administration Director Suzanne Johnson (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from suzanne.johnson@gov.texas.gov)
- i. General Counsel Jeff Oldham (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from jeff.oldham@gov.texas.gov)
- j. Public Safety Officer Aimee Snoddy (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from aimee.snoddy@gov.texas.gov)
- k. Homeland Security Grants Division Director Nancy Carrales (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from nancy.carrales@gov.texas.gov)
- l. Criminal Justice Division Director Reilly Webb (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from reilly.webb@gov.texas.gov)
- m. Office of State-Federal Relations Director Wes Hambrick (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from wes.hambrick@gov.texas.gov)

Please provide all responsive records from September 26, 2019, through the date the search is conducted.

2. All email communications (including complete email chains, email attachments, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) sent or received by the following individuals to or from (1) anyone in the Department of Homeland Security (including anyone with an email address ending in dhs.gov), (2) anyone in the Department of Justice (including anyone with an email address ending in usdoj.gov), (3) anyone in the Department of State (including anyone with an email address ending in state.gov), or (4) anyone in the Department of Health and Human Services (including anyone with an email address ending in hhs.gov) regarding President Trump's September 26, 2019 executive order regarding refugee resettlement¹ or Texas' acceptance or rejection of the resettlement of refugees.
 - a. Governor Greg Abbott (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from greg.abbott@gov.texas.gov), or anyone communicating on his behalf
 - b. Chief of Staff Luis Saenz (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from luis.saenz@gov.texas.gov)
 - c. Deputy Chief of Staff and Communications Director Matt Hirsch (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from matt.hirsch@gov.texas.gov)
 - d. Deputy Chief of Staff Jordan Hale (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from jordan.hale@gov.texas.gov)
 - e. Executive Aide Sam Schornack (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from sam.schornack@gov.texas.gov)
 - f. Executive Assistant Morgan Stewart (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from morgan.stewart@gov.texas.gov)
 - g. Scheduling Director Jackie Merrick (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from jackie.merrick@gov.texas.gov)
 - h. Administration Director Suzanne Johnson (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from suzanne.johnson@gov.texas.gov)

¹ Exec. Order No. 13888, 84 Fed. Reg. 52355 (Oct. 1, 2019).

- i. General Counsel Jeff Oldham (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from jeff.oldham@gov.texas.gov)
- j. Public Safety Officer Aimee Snoddy (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from aimee.snoddy@gov.texas.gov)
- k. Homeland Security Grants Division Director Nancy Carrales (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from nancy.carrales@gov.texas.gov)
- l. Criminal Justice Division Director Reilly Webb (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from reilly.webb@gov.texas.gov)
- m. Office of State-Federal Relations Director Wes Hambrick (including, but not limited to, emails sent by or received from wes.hambrick@gov.texas.gov)

At a minimum, a search for responsive records should include the use of the following search terms:

- a. EO
- b. 13888
- c. Refugee
- d. Refugees
- e. Resettle
- f. Resettlement
- g. Migrant
- h. Immigrant
- i. Immigration

Please provide all responsive records from June 1, 2019, through January 14, 2020.

American Oversight insists that the Office of the Governor use the most up-to-date technologies to search for responsive information and take steps to ensure that the most complete repositories of information are searched. American Oversight is available to work with you to craft appropriate search terms. However, custodian searches are still required; governmental authorities may not have direct access to files stored in .PST files, outside of network drives, in paper format, or in personal email accounts.

Please search all records regarding official business. You may not exclude searches of files or emails in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts. Emails conducting government business sent or received on the personal account of a governmental authority's officer or employee constitutes a record for purposes of the Texas Public Information Act.²

In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If it is your position that a document contains non-exempt segments, but that those non-exempt segments are so dispersed throughout the document as to make segregation impossible, please state what

² Tex. Code § 552.002(a-2); *see also* *Adkisson v. Paxton*, 459 S.W.3d 761, 773 (Tex. App. 2015).

portion of the document is non-exempt, and how the material is dispersed throughout the document. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically that it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.

Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by your office before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

To ensure that this request is properly construed, that searches are conducted in an adequate but efficient manner, and that extraneous costs are not incurred, American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and the Office of the Governor can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in electronic format by email or in PDF or TIF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with Tex. Code § 552.267(a), American Oversight requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records because such a waiver “is in the public interest because providing the copy of the information primarily benefits the general public.” Governor Abbott recently announced that Texas will no longer accept the resettlement of new refugees, pursuant to an executive order issued by President Trump in September 2019.³ The public has a significant interest in understanding whether and to what extent Texas state officials communicated with federal immigration officials regarding the resettlement of refugees. Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of the factors considered by the Governor’s office in reaching a decision regarding refugee resettlement.

Release of the requested records will primarily benefit the public.⁴ As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, American Oversight does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the requested records is not in American Oversight’s financial interest, but is rather in the public interest. American Oversight is committed to transparency and makes the responses governmental authorities provide to public records requests publicly available. As noted, the subject of this request is a matter of

³ Nomaan Merchant, *Texas Governor to Reject New Refugees, First Under Trump*, ASSOC. PRESS, Jan. 14, 2020, https://apnews.com/7329dbc3dcbf32534689831455fa4246?utm_campaign=SocialFlow&utm_medium=AP&utm_source=Twitter.

⁴ Tex. Code § 552.267(a).

public interest, and the public would benefit from an enhanced understanding of the government's activities through American Oversight's analysis and publication of these records. American Oversight's mission is to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.⁵ American Oversight has demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content. For example, after receiving records regarding an ethics waiver received by a senior United States Department of Justice (DOJ) attorney,⁶ American Oversight promptly posted the records to its website and published an analysis of what the records reflected about DOJ's process for ethics waivers.⁷ As another example, American Oversight has a project called "Audit the Wall," where the organization is gathering and analyzing information and commenting on public releases of information related to the administration's proposed construction of a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border.⁸ American Oversight similarly intends to engage with media outlets in Texas to ensure that the general public within the state has access to the information American Oversight obtains.

Accordingly, American Oversight qualifies for a fee waiver. If the Office of the Governor denies a fee waiver, please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$40 prior to incurring such costs or fees.

Conclusion

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with the Office of the Governor on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, have any questions, or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please contact Emma Lewis at foia@americanoversight.org or 202.919.6303. Also, if

⁵ American Oversight currently has approximately 15,600 followers on Facebook and 101,000 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, FACEBOOK, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Jan. 24, 2020); American Oversight (@weareoversight), TWITTER, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Jan. 24, 2020).

⁶ *DOJ Records Relating to Solicitor General Noel Francisco's Recusal*, AMERICAN OVERSIGHT, <https://www.americanoversight.org/document/doj-civil-division-response-noel-francisco-compliance>.

⁷ *Francisco & the Travel Ban: What We Learned from the DOJ Documents*, AMERICAN OVERSIGHT, <https://www.americanoversight.org/francisco-the-travel-ban-what-we-learned-from-the-doj-documents>.

⁸ *Audit the Wall*, AMERICAN OVERSIGHT, <https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/audit-the-wall>.

American Oversight's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making such a determination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Austin R. Evers", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Austin R. Evers
Executive Director
American Oversight

EXHIBIT C

FEB 12 2020



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

February 12, 2020

Justin Gordon
Office of the Attorney General
Open Records Division
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

Re: Open Records Letter Ruling Request
OOG ID#: 041-20

Dear Mr. Gordon:

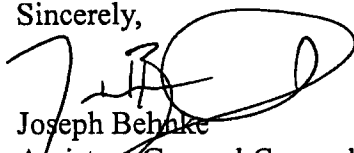
On January 29, 2020, the Office of the Governor (the "OOG") received a request under the Public Information Act (the "PIA") from Mr. Clay Goode. A copy of the request is attached as Exhibit A.

The OOG asserts information responsive to this request is excepted from disclosure under the PIA. Specifically, the OOG invokes all of the exceptions provided by, and the exceptions incorporated into, sections 552.101 through 552.158 of the Government Code.

Pursuant to section 552.301(a) of the Government Code, this letter is submitted in order to seek a decision as to whether the exceptions apply. To assist in your review, the OOG will provide written comments and the responsive documents, or a representative sample of the responsive documents, not later than the 15th business day from the date the request was received.

Should you need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 512-463-1750 or via email at publicrecords@gov.texas.gov.

Sincerely,



Joseph Behnke
Assistant General Counsel
Office of Governor Greg Abbott

cc: Clay Goode
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005
VIA EMAIL ONLY

POST OFFICE BOX 12428 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 512-463-2000 (VOICE) DIAL 7-1-1 FOR RELAY SERVICES

From: "Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO" <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
To: "Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO" <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
CC: "Hoelscher, Douglas L. EOP/WHO" <Douglas.L.Hoelscher@who.eop.gov>
"Schroeder, Allie F. EOP/WHO" <Allie.F.Schroeder@who.eop.gov>
"Imhoff, Olivia P. EOP/WHO" <Olivia.P.Imhoff2@who.eop.gov>
"Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO" <Zachariah.D.Swint2@who.eop.gov>

Date: 1/2/2020 9:40:18 AM

Subject: Updated Trump Administration Intergovernmental Affairs Contact Information - 1/2/2020

Attachments: White House Intergovernmental Affairs Contact List - Updated 01-01-2020.pdf
Federal Agency Intergovernmental Affairs Contact List - 01-01-2020.pdf

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.



Governors' Senior Staff,

As begin a new year, we wanted to provide a quick update and share updated contact information for our office and our intragovernmental affairs team. In addition, as you begin your 2020 administrative and legislative agenda, please keep us updated on your priorities.

President Donald J. Trump will continue to work tirelessly to address the needs and priorities of the American people, as he has since the day he took office. Below is a few recent examples.

- Partnership on Regulatory Innovation: President Trump and the Vice President Pence [hosted](#) Governors and other state and tribal leaders to discuss the Governors' Initiative on Regulatory Innovation, which builds on the Administration's successful regulatory reform agenda by engaging State, local, and Tribal leaders on reducing the number of regulations and associates costs across the country (more [here](#)).
- Expanding Trade: President Trump [secured](#) the U.S. House of Representatives support for the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) with bipartisan support from governors, state, and local leaders. President Trump also secured Historic Phase One Trade Agreement with China (more [here](#)). Japan's Parliament approved the U.S. – Japan Trade Deal that will provide staged reduction of Japanese tariffs for more than \$2 billion worth of U.S. beef and pork, matching access now granted to the 11 Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact countries (more [here](#)).
- Supporting Our Nation's Military: President Trump [signed](#) the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that delivers on his pledge to rebuild our military by signing legislation authorizing \$716 billion for our national defense. The legislation also supports our civilian workforce by providing up to 12 weeks of paid parental leave to nearly all Federal employees to help recruit the best and brightest for years to come (more [here](#)).
- Transforming Mental Health: President Trump [spoke](#) at the White House Summit on Transforming Mental Health Treatment to Combat Homelessness, Violence, and Substance Abuse. Also, here you find C-SPAN [coverage](#) of White House Mental Health Summit.
- Supporting Working Families: President Trump [spoke](#) at the White House Summit on Child Care an Paid Leave that also included a governor-panel (more [here](#)). You can find a CEA paper on The Role of Affordable Child Care in Promoting Work Outside the Home [here](#).

• Supporting Indian Country: The White House hosted a Conference on Supporting Contemporary Native American

Veterans that honored the long legacy of military service of the Native American and Alaska Native community (more [here](#)). President Trump signed an Executive Order establishing a task force to address the rash of violence against missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives (more [here](#)). President Trump [signed](#) legislation supporting tribal sovereignty and native culture (more [here](#)).

- Lowering Prescription Drug Prices: HHS issued a NPRM that, if finalized, would allow for the importation of certain prescription drugs from Canada (more [here](#)). The NPRM would allow states and certain other non-federal government entities to submit importation program proposals to the FDA for review and authorization.
- Combatting the Opioid Epidemic: The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) announced an initial round of 150 new grants for its Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program. The 150 grants represent a total Federal investment of over \$18 million to community coalitions (more [here](#)). ONDCP also recently announced \$4.5 million in Combating Opioid Overdose through Community-Level Intervention (COOCLI) grants to 14 programs across the country (more [here](#)).
- Supporting Opportunity Zones: Treasury and IRS [issued](#) final regulations implementing the Opportunity Zones tax incentive. SBA finalized a [rule](#) to implement changes to the Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) program that will make the program more attractive to small business and encourage them to invest in HUBZone communities and hire HUBZone residents.
- Pro-Growth Economic Policies Benefit Previously Left Behind Americans the Most: CEA released a [paper](#) on the Impact of the Trump Labor Market on Historically Disadvantaged Americans.

Finally, attached you will find *updated* contact information for the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Federal Agency Intergovernmental Affairs Contacts.

White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Contact Information

Doug Hoelscher, *Deputy Assistant to the President & Director*

Cell: 202-881-8950

Email: Douglas.L.Hoelscher@who.eop.gov

Nic Pottebaum, *Special Assistant to the President & Deputy Director*

Cell: 202-881-7803

Email: Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov

Allie Schroeder, *Associate Director*

Cell: 202-881-6094

Email: Allie.F.Schroeder@who.eop.gov

Olivia Imhoff, *Deputy Associate Director*

Cell: 202-881-7466

Email: Olivia.P.Imhoff2@who.eop.gov

Zach Swint, *Deputy Associate Director*

Cell: 202-881-6717

Email: Zachariah.D.Swint2@who.eop.gov

We look forward to the continued State-Federal partnership in the New Year!

Thanks,

Nic

--

Nicholas D. Pottebaum

Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director
White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
O: 202-456-2132 | C: 202-881-7803 | E: Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov



THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of Intergovernmental Affairs White House Contact List

Name	Position	Office Number	Cell Number	E-Mail
Doug Hoelscher	Deputy Assistant to the President & Director of Intergovernmental Affairs	202-456-4247	202-881-8950	Douglas.L.Hoelscher@who.eop.gov
Nic Pottebaum	Special Assistant to the President & Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs	202-456-2132	202-881-7803	Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov
Allie Schroeder	Associate Director	202-456-2963	202-881-6094	Allie.F.Schroeder@who.eop.gov
Olivia Imhoff	Deputy Associate Director	202-456-2744	202-881-7466	Olivia.P.Imhoff2@who.eop.gov
Zach Swint	Deputy Associate Director	202-456-1199	202-881-6717	Zachariah.D.Swint2@who.eop.gov

Updated: January 1, 2020



THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Federal Agency Intergovernmental Affairs Contact Information

Department	Name	Phone Number	E-Mail
Agriculture / USDA	Lillie Brady	202-845-3872	Lillie.Brady@osec.usda.gov
Army Corps / USACE	Ryan Fisher	703-697-4672	ryan.a.fisher12.civ@mail.mil
Army Corps / USACE	Katie Krause	703-693-3656	katherine.j.krause.civ@mail.mil
Commerce / DOC	Anthony Foti	202-482-1148	afoti@doc.gov
Corp. for National & Community Service	Bo Bryant	202-528-2744	bbryant@cns.gov
Corp. for National & Community Service	Samantha Gottshall	202-754-2495	sgottshall@cns.gov
Defense / DOD	Tara Butler	703-697-2074	tara.a.butler4.civ@mail.mil
Energy	Mark Planning	202-586-2031	Mark.planning@hq.doe.gov
Education	Cody Reynolds	202-453-5737	cody.reynolds@ed.gov
Environmental Protection Agency / EPA	Britt Carter	202-440-0728	carter.brittany@epa.gov
EXIM	Sierra Robinson	202-565-3232	Sierra.Robinson@exim.gov
FEMA	Robby Wehagen	202-856-5249	robby.wehagen@fema.dhs.gov
FEMA	Kimberly Helm	202-212-1351	Kimberly.helm@fema.dhs.gov
Food & Drug Administration / FDA	Nick Alexander	301-796-8893	nicholas.alexander@fda.hhs.gov
General Services Administration / GSA	Kevin Ortiz	202-501-0563	Kevin.ortiz@gsa.gov
Health & Human Services / HHS	Darcie Johnston	202-690-1058	darcie.johnston@hhs.gov
Homeland Security / DHS	John Hill	202-631-5451	john.h.hill@hq.dhs.gov
Homeland Security / DHS	Chérie Short	202-447-3101	Cherie.short@hq.dhs.gov
Homeland Security / DHS	Nick Barbknecht	202-365-7768	Nick.barbknecht@hq.dhs.gov
Housing & Urban Development / HUD	Stephanie Fila	202-402-6471	stephanie.c.fila@hud.gov
Interior / DOI	Tim Williams	202-208-6015	timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov
Interior / DOI	Sarah Spaulding	202-856-6865	sarah_spaulding@ios.doi.gov
Justice / DOJ	Jessica Hart	202-532-5190	Jessica.E.Hart@usdoj.gov
Labor / DOL	Michael Downing	202-693-4600	Downing.Michael.R@DOL.gov
NASA	Taylor Weeks	202-358-1110	Taylor.L.Weeks@nasa.gov
Peace Corps	Rachel Kahler	202-692-2033	rkahler@peacecorps.gov
Small Business Administration / SBA	George Brown	202-205-6972	George.Brown@sba.gov
State / DOS	Bill Killion	202-647-3047	killionw@state.gov
Transportation / DOT	Sean Poole	202-597-5109	Sean.poole@dot.gov
Trade and Development Agency / USTDA	Dianne Quebral	703-229-7179	dquebral@ustda.gov
Trade / USTR	Molly Foley	202-395-9486	Molly.L.Foley@ustr.eop.gov
Treasury	Jackson Miles	202-622-5102	Jackson.Miles@treasury.gov
US Patent and Trademark Office	Peter Krug	202-578-6242	Peter.krug@uspto.gov
Veteran Affairs / VA	Thayer Verschoor	202-461-7385	Thayer.Verschoor@va.gov
Drug Control / ONDCP	Kayla Tonnessen	202-395-4693	Kayla.M.Tonnessen@ondcp.eop.gov
Drug Control / ONDCP	Natasha Eby	202-395-6650	Kendel.S.Ehrlich@ondcp.eop.gov

Updated: January 1, 2020

From: "The White House" <info@mail.whitehouse.gov>
To: "Wes Hambrick" <Wes.Hambrick@gov.texas.gov>
Date: 1/8/2020 10:23:37 AM
Subject: President Trump to Address the Nation on Iran Attacks

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

WEST WING READS

President Trump to Address the Nation on Iran Attacks

President Donald J. Trump will speak on the Iran crisis at 11 a.m. this morning, "after Iran attacked two military bases in Iraq that house American troops," David Jackson reports for *USA Today*.

Last night, the President announced on Twitter that "All is well," adding that "missiles launched from Iran at two military bases located in Iraq. Assessment of casualties & damages taking place now. So far, so good! We have the most powerful and well equipped military anywhere in the world, by far!"

[Click here to read more.](#)

Watch: [President Trump address the nation live at 11 a.m. ET](#)

While the Iranian regime portrays Qasem Soleimani as a hero, "ordinary Iranians and many others in the region know him as a murderous and brutal killer responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands in Iran and across the region." In the wake of his death, "Iranians on social media have been thanking President Trump by posting photos and videos," Raman Ghavami writes in the [Washington Examiner](#).

"Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell made it official Tuesday: He's calling House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's bluff, and refusing to guarantee impeachment trial procedures of her choosing." Speaker Pelosi's stall tactics reveal "the blatant, politically driven contradiction between her rush to a House vote on impeachment and her subsequent delay of any Senate trial," the [New York Post](#) editorial board writes.

Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump delivered a keynote address yesterday at the annual Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, touting innovation as an engine for American job growth, James Rogers and Stephanie Bennett report for [Fox News](#).

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The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: "The White House" <info@mail.whitehouse.gov>
To: "Wes Hambrick" <Wes.Hambrick@gov.texas.gov>
Date: 1/10/2020 3:43:59 PM
Subject: Resolute Reads

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.



RESOLUTE READS

FIVE STORIES PRESIDENT TRUMP DOESN'T WANT YOU TO MISS

Trump Wins His Standoff with Iran

-The Washington Post

"When Trump drew his red line—warning Tehran that if it killed even one American, the United States would respond militarily against Iran—the regime never expected him to enforce it. His decision to kill Soleimani clearly stunned Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and left his regime chastened," Marc Thiessen writes.

Press Secretary: Biased media was practically "mourning" for Soleimani

Record 158,803,000 Americans Employed; 1.85M Year-to-Year Increase

-CNSNews

Today's jobs report brings more good news: "The number of employed Americans—158,803,000—set a 25th record under President Trump . . . In December, the number of unemployed Americans, 5,753,000, matched the Trump-era low set in September 2019. The unemployment rate remained at its 50-year low of 3.5 percent," Susan Jones reports.

MORE: Wages are rising fastest for blue-collar Americans!

Washington Tries, And Fails, To Defend Nancy Pelosi's Failed Impeachment Strategy

-The Federalist

"In the immediate aftermath of Nancy Pelosi's decision to hold the Articles of Impeachment rather than send them to the Senate, not even the most pro-Pelosi hacks in existence could make the case for the strategy. The same question ping-ponged through DC greenrooms: 'Is she really doing this?'" Ben Domenech writes.



Wasn't impeachment supposed to be "urgent"?

Nancy Pelosi's Pointless War-Powers Ploy

-*New York Post*

"Speaker Nancy Pelosi just pushed through a bill aiming to limit President Trump's ability to hit Iran, even though the crisis is over. Why? Thursday's House passage of her war-powers resolution is almost certainly pure symbolism. Nothing like this is going to pass the Senate, and even if it did its constitutional status would be dubious," the *New York Post* editorial board writes.

Ivanka Trump Talks Investment in U.S. Jobs in CES Keynote, Gets Warm Reception

-*Variety*

"Ivanka Trump talked about the current and future state of the U.S. workforce at CES — an appearance that was met with a fair amount of enthusiasm among the tech-industry attendees. In a keynote session Tuesday at CES in Las Vegas, the daughter of and adviser to President Donald Trump said the administration has worked to put in place multiple programs to retrain American workers and is looking for new ways to bring people into the workforce," Todd Spangler reports.

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The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: John Wittman <John.Wittman@gov.texas.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 5, 2019 5:26 PM
To: Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov; Michael.B.Williams@who.eop.gov
Cc: Matt Hirsch <Matt.Hirsch@gov.texas.gov>; Luis Saenz <luis.saenz@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: SF H.S. One Pager

Nicholas and Michael,

Attached is a one-pager on what Governor Abbott did immediately following the Santa Fe High School Shooting.

Let me know if you need anything else.

John Wittman

Senior Communications Adviser & Press Secretary

Office: 512-936-3351

Mobile: 512-783-6135



In the aftermath of the Santa Fe High School shooting, which left eight students and two teachers dead, Governor Abbott convened three days of roundtables to listen to students, teachers, law enforcement and other stakeholders and determine the best ways to ensure a tragedy like this never happens again.

Governor Abbott Announces Roundtables

- The Santa Fe High School shooting occurred on Friday, May 18, 2018.
- Within three days, Governor Abbott announced a series of roundtables to generate solutions that improve safety and security at Texas schools and in our communities, with the first roundtable occurring on Tuesday, May 22, 2018.
- The roundtables included voices from across Texas, including parents, teachers, students, legislators, and interest groups that advocate for and against further gun regulations.

Release: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-set-to-host-series-of-roundtable-events-to-discuss-school-safety>

Media: <https://www.texastribune.org/2018/05/21/texas-gov-greg-abbott-roundtable-discussions-after-santa-fe-shooting-s/>

Roundtables Result in School and Firearm Safety Action Plan

- On May 30, after a series of roundtables with school safety stakeholders, Governor Abbott unveiled a 40-point plan to address school safety in Texas.
- The proposal included calls for increasing law enforcement presence at schools, strengthening existing campus security programs, enhancing firearm safety, providing mental health evaluations that identify students at risk of harming others, and much more.
- Additionally, the plan included immediate funding that could be deployed to Santa Fe, as the community recovered from the shooting.

Release: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-unveils-plan-to-address-school-safety-in-texas>

Plan: https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/School_Safety_Action_Plan_05302018.pdf

Media: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/texas-governor-greg-abbott-school-safety-plan-in-wake-of-santa-fe-high-school-shooting-2018-05-30/>

Governor Abbott Signs School Safety Bills

- The legislature convened in January 2019, and using the ideas forged during the roundtables, they passed legislation to enhance safety at Texas schools.
- Among other things, Governor Abbott signed laws that devote more resources to mental health, including the creation of a mental health consortium to bring together professionals from Texas medical schools and other health care providers to connect children with mental health services.
- The bipartisan school safety measures also included funding to the tune of \$300 million over the next two years to address school safety.

Release: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-signs-legislation-to-enhance-school-safety-expand-access-to-mental-health-resources>

Media: <https://www.texastribune.org/2019/06/06/texas-santa-fe-mass-shooting-mental-health-school-safety/>

From: "The White House" <info@mail.whitehouse.gov>
To: "Wes Hambrick" <Wes.Hambrick@gov.texas.gov>
Date: 1/13/2020 11:05:00 AM
Subject: Trump's Average Unemployment Rate is the Lowest in Recorded History

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.



Trump's Average Unemployment Rate is the Lowest in Recorded History

"President Trump starts off 2020 having presided over a lower average unemployment rate than any president at a comparable point in office in recorded history," Philip Klein reports in the *Washington Examiner*.

"Since February 2017, Trump's first full month in office, the monthly unemployment rate has averaged 3.9%. No prior president has averaged less than 4% over the first 35 months of his presidency. The closest was Dwight Eisenhower." The unemployment rate for December held steady at a historically low 3.5%, according to Friday's jobs report.

[Click here to read more.](#)

"The Trump administration on Friday marked the 100th mile of wall construction along the southern border"—the first part of many more miles to come, Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf says. "Officials have said that there is no comparison between the old Vietnam-era landing mats and the new 30-foot structures—complete with cameras, access roads, lights and other tech," Adam Shaw reports for [Fox News](#).

"Naturally, the Obama alums were in perfect sync with the dominant media narrative in the four days between the Soleimani strike and Iran's feeble retaliation. They helped feed the breathless headlines and feverish speculation that the coming conflagration would rattle the world . . . Instead, they all had egg on their faces for getting the big story wrong. Again," Michael Goodwin writes in the [New York Post](#).

President Trump's tweet in Farsi supporting Iranians who are protesting Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has earned more than 350,000 likes, making it the "most liked Persian tweet" ever, Carlin Becker reports for the [*Washington Examiner*](#).

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From: "The White House" <info@mail.whitehouse.gov>
To: "Wes Hambrick" <Wes.Hambrick@gov.texas.gov>
Date: 1/14/2020 10:59:38 AM
Subject: 13 Years and 16,000 Pages—It's Time to Fix It

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

WEST WING READS

13 Years and 16,000 Pages—It's Time to Fix It

It took about 5 years from the start of construction to build the Hoover Dam, one of the modern world's engineering marvels. Today, however, "even modest public works, including roads, bridges and airport runways, can spend years in limbo," *The Wall Street Journal* editorial board writes.

A big culprit: "The National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. That 1970 law requires an environmental study of any major project that involves federal funding or permitting. NEPA hasn't been overhauled in 40 years." One 12-mile interstate expansion in Denver took 13 years, with a final report running 8,951 pages—plus 7,307 more in appendix.

President Trump recently proposed a new rule to fix that. "Characterizing the Democratic response as 'knee jerk' would be an insult to knees, or jerks, or both," the editors write.

[Click here to read more.](#)

"President Donald Trump was welcomed with overwhelming enthusiasm in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome Monday night before the college football national title game . . . Trump was shown on the dome's two big boards as he and his wife and first lady, Melania Trump, entered," Andre Toran and Paul Myerberg report for [USA Today](#).

Deregulation has been an unsung success story of the Trump Administration. This week, "the Labor Department adds its 'joint employer' rule to the long list of deregulatory wins . . . The new rule we're introducing updates one from 1958, which said joint employment exists when two employers are 'not completely disassociated' from each other. Little explanation was given for that legal test, leading to uncertainty, unnecessary litigation and divergent standards in different federal courts," White House Acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney and

Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia write in [The Wall Street Journal](#).

Senior Advisor to the President Jared Kushner visits Milwaukee today to discuss skills training for former inmates. “Kushner's visit follows the first anniversary of the First Step Act, legislation aimed at overhauling the criminal justice system in an effort to reduce the number of people in the nation's prisons and help former inmates rejoin society,” Mary Spicuzza reports for the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#).

Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump travels to Georgia today “to highlight and advance the administration's work against human trafficking. She intends to tour two facilities on Tuesday that help survivors in downtown Atlanta.” Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and other Administration officials will join her, Joshua Sharpe reports in [The Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#).

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From: "Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO" <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
To: "Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO" <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
CC: "Hoelscher, Douglas L. EOP/WHO" <Douglas.L.Hoelscher@who.eop.gov>
"Schroeder, Allie F. EOP/WHO" <Allie.F.Schroeder@who.eop.gov>
"Imhoff, Olivia P. EOP/WHO" <Olivia.P.Imhoff2@who.eop.gov>
"Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO" <Zachariah.D.Swint2@who.eop.gov>

Date: 1/15/2020 5:16:52 PM

Subject: FW: Statement by the Press Secretary on the Injunction Prohibiting Responsible Refugee Resettlement

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

Governors' Senior Staff,

FYI – see below on Statement by the Press Secretary on the Injunction Prohibiting Responsible Refugee Resettlement.

Thanks
Nic

202-881-7803

Subject: Statement by the Press Secretary on the Injunction Prohibiting Responsible Refugee Resettlement



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2020

**Statement by the Press Secretary on the Injunction Prohibiting Responsible
Refugee Resettlement**

Another lawless district court has asserted its own preferred immigration policy in place of the laws of the United States – and, in so doing, robbed millions of American citizens of their voice and their say in a vital issue directly affecting their communities. President Trump rightly and justly recognized that your communities are unique, and while some cities have the resources to adequately support refugees and help them be successful, not all communities can sustain the substantial and costly burden. Knowing that, the Trump Administration fulfilled a key promise by giving States and localities a seat at the table in deciding whether or not refugees will be placed in your communities. In addition, under the Refugee Act of 1980, Congress explicitly afforded the President authority over the refugee resettlement process, including by taking local consultation into account. This is a preposterous ruling, one more example of nationwide district court injunctions run amok, and we are expeditiously reviewing all options to protect our communities and preserve

the integrity of the refugee resettlement process.

###

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From: "The White House" <info@mail.whitehouse.gov>
To: "Wes Hambrick" <Wes.Hambrick@gov.texas.gov>
Date: 1/15/2020 10:58:36 AM
Subject: Illegal Immigrant Crossings Fall 78% and Once Overcrowded Cells are Empty

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Illegal Immigrant Crossings Fall 78% and Once Overcrowded Cells are Empty

"There are a lot of statistics Mark A. Morgan, acting U.S. Customs and Border Protection commissioner, uses to show how Trump policies have helped to cut illegal immigration into the United States"—but there are two that he thinks really make that accomplishment clear, Paul Bedard reports for the *Washington Examiner*.

"First is daily apprehensions, a number that hit 4,600 at the height of the latest crisis in May. That has now dropped to 1,300. What's more, he said, the 21-daily average is below 1,000, a 78% cut."

Second, detention facilities that once had *five times* more illegal immigrants in custody than beds available are now well below capacity. That's good news for American citizens, legal immigrants, victims of human smuggling, and our law enforcement officers.

[Click here to read more.](#)

"House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's delay in transmitting articles of impeachment against President Trump to the Senate was never going to result in what anti-Trump activists demanded. But it further eroded the credibility of the impeachment process by reinforcing the perception that it is nothing but partisan political theater," Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) writes for [Fox News](#).

The U.S. economy is the best it's been in 50 years. But critics of the President have to find something to complain about, and their latest target is trade. Here's the problem: As President Trump holds our trade partners accountable, "the economy remains robust, wages continue to rise, and inflation stays muted," White House Director for Trade and Manufacturing Policy Peter Navarro writes in [The Wall Street Journal](#).

"Ivanka Trump says the White House is committed to ending human trafficking, which she called 'modern day slavery.' President Donald Trump's daughter and adviser made the comments during a trip to Atlanta on Tuesday. She visited nonprofit groups that help victims of human trafficking," [The Associated Press](#) reports.

"Former President Barack Obama's national security adviser fully supported President Trump's decision to kill top Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani . . . 'What the administration did in the Soleimani case is absolutely correct,'" Gen. James Jones said. Gen. Jones called it a "powerful step," Caitlin Yilek reports in the [Washington Examiner](#).

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From: "Robbins, Amanda H. EOP/WHO" <Amanda.H.Robbins@who.eop.gov>

To: "Robbins, Amanda H. EOP/WHO" <Amanda.H.Robbins@who.eop.gov>

CC: "Korn, Jennifer S. EOP/WHO" <Jennifer.S.Korn@who.eop.gov>

Date: 1/16/2020 4:10:36 PM

Subject: President Donald J. Trump Is Safeguarding The Right To Religious Freedom For Students And Organizations

Attachments: Religious Freedom Day, 2020.pdf

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

Good afternoon,

Happy Religious Freedom Day! Thank you to all those who were able to tune into our call on this historic and exciting day.

1. Please see the below factsheet on the announcements to read and share with your communities.
2. The Department of Education's *Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools* can be found [HERE](#). We welcome you to share these guidelines with students and teachers in your communities.
3. Lastly, we have attached [The President's Proclamation for Religious Freedom Day 2020](#).

We welcome your statements of support on all of The President's announcements made today.

All the Best,

Amanda Robbins
Associate Director
White House Office of Public Liaison
Amanda.H.Robbins@who.eop.gov



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 2020

**PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP IS SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHT TO RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM FOR STUDENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

*"Our Founders understood that no right is more fundamental to a peaceful, prosperous,
and virtuous society than the right to follow one's religious convictions." – President
Donald J. Trump*

PROTECTING PRAYER IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS: President Donald J. Trump remains committed to protecting every student's constitutional right to pray in school.

- The Trump Administration is taking action to further safeguard students' constitutionally protected right to pray in school.
- President Trump is updating Federal guidance regarding protected prayer and religious expression in public schools, which has not been issued since 2003.
 - The update will help safeguard students' rights by giving education providers and students the most current information concerning prayer in public schools.
- To receive Federal funds, local educational agencies must confirm that their policies do not prevent or interfere with the constitutionally-protected rights outlined in the guidance.
- The updated guidance will help improve individuals' ability to file a complaint if they are denied the ability to participate in protected religious expression.
- The new guidance makes clear that students can read religious texts or pray during recess and other non-instructional periods, organize prayer groups, and express their religious beliefs in their assignments.

PROMOTING EQUAL TREATMENT: The Administration is working to ensure that our Nation's religious organizations are treated equally by the Federal government.

- The Administration is issuing nine proposed rules to protect religious organizations from unfair and unequal treatment by the Federal government.
 - The proposed rules would eliminate burdensome Obama-era requirements that unfairly imposed unique regulatory burdens only on religious organizations.
- The Office of Management and Budget is also releasing a memo requiring Federal agencies to ensure that the grant-making practices of state recipients of Federal funding comply with the First Amendment.
- The Trump Administration is committed to ensuring religious organizations can compete on a level playing field for funding, without discrimination.

CHAMPIONING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: These actions build on President Trump's longstanding commitment to safeguarding the fundamental right to religious freedom.

- During his first year in office, President Trump signed an Executive Order upholding religious liberty and the right to engage in religious speech.
- President Trump signed an Executive Order recognizing the essential contributions of faith-based organizations and establishing the Faith and Opportunity Initiative.
- The Administration continues to unequivocally stand up for religious liberty in the courts.
- President Trump reversed the Obama-era policy that prevented the government

- from providing disaster relief to religious organizations.
- Last year, President Trump hosted a Global Call to Protect Religious Freedom event at the United Nations and called on the international community and business leaders to work to protect religious freedom around the world.
- The Administration has stood up for religious liberty around the world, partnering with local and faith-based organizations to provide assistance to vulnerable religious minorities.

###

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Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2020

Religious Freedom Day, 2020

- - - - -

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

From its opening pages, the story of America has been rooted in the truth that all men and women are endowed with the right to follow their conscience, worship freely, and live in accordance with their convictions. On Religious Freedom Day, we honor the foundational link between freedom and faith in our country and reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding the religious liberty of all Americans.

Religious freedom in America, often referred to as our "first freedom," was a driving force behind some of the earliest defining moments of our American identity. The desire for religious freedom impelled the Pilgrims to leave their homes in Europe and journey to a distant land, and it is the reason so many others seeking to live out their faith or change their faith have made America their home.

More than 230 years ago, the Virginia General Assembly passed the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, which was authored and

championed by Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson famously expounded that "all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of Religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge or affect their civil capacities." This statute served as the catalyst for the First Amendment, which enshrined in law our conviction to prevent government interference in religion. More than 200 years later, thanks to the power of that Amendment, America is one of the most religiously diverse nations in the world.

Since I took office, my Administration has been committed to protecting religious liberty. In May 2017, I signed an Executive Order to advance religious freedom for individuals and institutions, and I stopped the Johnson Amendment from interfering with pastors' right to speak their minds. Over the last 3 years, the Department of Justice has obtained 14 convictions in cases involving attacks or threats against places of worship. To fight the rise of anti-Semitism in our country, I signed an Executive Order last month to ensure that Federal agencies are using nondiscrimination authorities to combat this venomous bigotry. I have also made clear that my Administration will not tolerate the violation of any American's ability to worship freely and openly and to live as his or her faith commands.

My Administration also remains cognizant of the stark realities for people seeking religious liberty abroad and has made protecting religious minorities a core pillar of my Administration's foreign policy. Repressive governments persecute religious worshipers using high-tech surveillance, mass detention, and torture, while terrorist organizations carry out barbaric violence against innocent victims on account of their religion. To cast a light on these abuses, in July 2019, I welcomed survivors of

religious persecution from 16 countries into the Oval Office. These survivors included Christians, Jews, and Muslims, who all shared similar stories of persecution. At the United Nations in September, I called on global leaders to take concrete steps to prevent state and non-state actors from attacking citizens for their beliefs and to help ensure the sanctity and safety of places of worship. And, last summer, the State Department convened its second Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom, where our diplomats engaged a broad range of stakeholders in government and civil society, both religious and secular, to identify concrete ways to combat religious persecution and discrimination around the world and ensure greater respect for freedom of religion and belief.

On this Religious Freedom Day, we reaffirm our commitment to protecting the precious and fundamental right of religious freedom, both at home and abroad. Our Founders entrusted the American people with a responsibility to protect religious liberty so that our Nation may stand as a bright beacon for the rest of the world. Today, we remain committed to that sacred endeavor and strive to support those around the world who still struggle under oppressive regimes that impose restrictions on freedom of religion.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2020, as Religious Freedom Day. I call on all Americans to commemorate this day with events and activities that remind us of our shared heritage of religious liberty and that teach us how to secure this blessing both at home and around the world.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this

fifteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord
two thousand twenty, and of the Independence of the United States
of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.

DONALD J. TRUMP

###

From: "The White House" <info@mail.whitehouse.gov>
To: "Wes Hambrick" <Wes.Hambrick@gov.texas.gov>
Date: 1/16/2020 5:23:37 PM
Subject: Out with NAFTA, in with USMCA!

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.



The White House • January 16, 2020

Out with NAFTA, in with USMCA!

In 2016, candidate **Donald J. Trump** made a promise that was familiar to voters across America: He would do away with the job-killing NAFTA as President and replace it with a better deal for American workers, businesses, and customers.

The promise wasn't unique, but the result was. Today, after years of Washington neglect on trade, the Senate approved President Trump's United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA) to replace NAFTA by an overwhelming 89-10 margin.

Republicans and Democrats alike had long criticized NAFTA for its weak labor and environmental provisions, among other flaws. Many promised to scrap it and push for new negotiations with Canada and Mexico. "NAFTA's shortcomings were evident when signed and we must now amend the agreement to fix them," then-candidate Barack Obama pledged in 2008, the year he was elected President.

Nothing happened, and the Obama Administration slowly walked back its promises to get tough on trade. A decade later, President Trump would keep his.



Press Secretary Grisham: [USMCA will deliver billions for our farmers](#)

The new agreement is a landmark victory for American working- and middle-class families. The U.S. International Trade Commission estimates that within 5 years, USMCA could add up to \$235 billion in new economic growth—and 589,000 jobs—to the U.S. economy. Just as important, the deal will put in place the strongest and most comprehensive labor protections of any trade agreement in American history.

Economy, the President keeps delivering on his signature campaign promises. Just yesterday, he joined the Vice Premier of China to sign a historic Phase 1 deal that addresses Beijing's unfair trade practices, including intellectual property theft.

The unemployment rate is the lowest it's been since 1969. America has its best economy in at least 50 years. With a major China trade deal in the books and USMCA set to replace NAFTA, it's about to get even better.

 **Kellyanne Conway: How both Speaker Pelosi and President Trump made history**

Video of the day: Phase 1 deal with China signed!



President Trump made history yesterday by completing Phase 1 of a new trade agreement with China. With China's Vice Premier at the White House for the ceremony, the two leaders expressed hope for a future of harmony and shared prosperity.

"Together, we are righting the wrongs of the past and delivering a future of economic justice and security for American workers, farmers, and families," President Trump said.

"The agreement is a credit to President Trump's China strategy and a mark against his detractors."

Protecting prayer in America's schools

Religious freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. Since taking office, President Trump has tasked his Administration with doing everything it can to protect what many call our “first right” as citizens: the power to worship freely.

For National Religious Freedom Day, the Trump Administration is taking another step to safeguard our religious liberties. Today, the President updated Federal guidance on prayer and religious expression in public schools: To receive Federal funds, local educational agencies must confirm that their policies do not prevent or interfere with every student's right to pray.

“**From its opening pages**, the story of America has been rooted in the truth that all men and women are endowed with the right to follow their conscience, worship freely, and live in accordance with their convictions,” President Trump said in a statement.

[Read President Trump's Proclamation for Religious Freedom Day, 2020.](#)

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From: "Office of Intergovernmental Affairs \(\IGA\)\" <IGA@messages.dhs.gov>

To: "Wes Hambrick" <Wes.Hambrick@gov.texas.gov>

Date: 1/17/2020 2:28:41 PM

Subject: Acting Secretary Wolf's Prepared Remarks to the Homeland Security Experts Group

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of Public Affairs

Acting Secretary Wolf's Prepared Remarks to the [Homeland Security Experts Group](#)

– As Prepared –

Thank you, Secretary Chertoff and Congresswoman Harman, for the kind introduction.

It's great to be here with the Homeland Security Experts Group, where colleagues, experts, and thought leaders can constructively discuss the most pressing threats to the Homeland.

Some of you have served at the Department, and others continue to serve as mentors and friends to Departmental leadership.

A few of you have even stood in this role—and I often refer to the examples you have set as DHS heads into a new decade, where the threat landscape is more complex and dynamic than ever.

On behalf of the Department and me personally, thank you—to all of you—for lending your expertise and insights to making our country more secure.

Roadmap: 2020 Scene Setter

As Acting Secretary, my priorities are guided by a determination to ensure the Department is robust, resilient, and forward-leaning—in 2020 and in the years to come.

Today, I want to provide a 360-degree view of the threat landscape, and, in turn, DHS's priorities this year.

As I walk you through these threats, you'll hear some missions that you're familiar with—

but we've also been doing work that you might have missed, and that doesn't always make the headlines.

One example is earlier this week, we formally rolled out our first-ever Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, the Importation of Goods Produced with Forced Labor, and Child Sexual Exploitation.

These horrific crimes don't just threaten Americans' personal and public safety—they threaten our physical and virtual borders, our immigration and customs systems, our prosperity, and our national security. Which is precisely why DHS is at the forefront in combating this evil.

Our Strategy outlines nearly 40 action items that the Department will work toward implementing.

Our work formally establishes this mission as a Departmental priority—allowing it to be resourced and addressed accordingly in the months and years to come.

There are a variety of issues – like this one – that may not rise to the highest threat level, but

are nevertheless important and critical to what we do.

While the media may focus on one or two mission sets, rest assured that the men and women of the Department are determined, focused and heads down everyday doing the work to keep the Homeland secure.

So, let's jump in and discuss the top threats facing the Homeland.

International Threats

In light of recent international events, I'll begin with the threats that emanate from nation states—specifically, Iran, China, and Russia.

Each of these countries has a different motivation and end-goal, but all attempt to undermine our interests and international standing.

International Threats: Iran

First, let's discuss the country that's dominated news coverage so far this year: Iran.

As I have stated repeatedly, there is no credible, specific threat to the Homeland from Iran.

However, given what we know about Iran, and their capabilities and motivations, the Department continues to operate with an enhanced posture.

The threat from Iran is not new to DHS.

In fact, in the summer of 2019 the Department began working on and then established an Iran Contingency Plan – a set of actions that the Department could take to address a variety of threats from Iran.

We've been ready—and remain ready—to initiate various protective measures immediately, should the need arise.

Given these events—for the first time in DHS history, we took the step of issuing a National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin driven by a specific event.

It was the right decision.

The NTAS Bulletin was issued to both inform and reassure the American public, state and local governments, and private sector stakeholders that DHS is actively monitoring and preparing for any specific, credible threat, should one arise.

As the NTAS Bulletin mentions, we remain especially vigilant regarding cyber-enabled attacks from Iran against a range of U.S.-based targets—including our critical infrastructure.

International Threats: China

Looking to the long-term, however, it is China who remains our most significant and persistent strategic adversary.

Unlike other nation states, China works to threaten the United States' power and prominence from “within the system” using both overt and covert means.

It uses the openness of our society and institutions against us—be it our academic and scientific communities, or Silicon Valley—to aggressively expand its ability to shape information and the Chinese narrative abroad.

Beijing will continue to use overt legal, political, and economic levers of coercion—such as market access—to further pressure and shape the information environment.

Covertly, it employs a number of tactics to undermine our influence and standing in the world.

China is our most persistent nation state threat in the cyber realm.

Through cyber espionage and other activities that impact our economic prosperity and intellectual horsepower, it is pursuing a long-term “whole-of-nation” effort to threaten and undermine the United States.

While we value our partnership with Beijing to promote global prosperity, we are working to hold Chinese bad actors accountable for their malign activities.

Action is being taken across the Executive Branch, including by DHS, to use regulatory tools to appropriately respond to the threat it poses—such as the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS, and Team Telecom.

At DHS specifically, I’m focused on leveraging DHS’s unique authorities, data, and missions to counter Beijing’s long-term strategic objectives.

When I stepped into this position, I found that each Component at the Department was addressing the China threat in their own silo, utilizing their individual authorities and in most cases were not coordinating across the Department.

A siloed approach is not sufficient to address this threat.

As a result, we have an effort underway to examine all our mission sets as they relate to China.

This includes, but is certainly not limited to, the protection of critical infrastructure, countering weapons of mass destruction, supply chain integrity, immigration security, maritime security, transportation security, countering foreign interference, Cybersecurity and counterintelligence.

Through this effort, we’ll identify and prioritize threats and match our resources and capabilities accordingly.

We’ll be able to quickly identify any vulnerability gaps and determine where any additional resources or authorities are needed.

It is precisely this type of planning that goes on behind the scenes in the Department daily ...that doesn’t make headlines ...but is critically important to ensure we are properly positioned to respond quickly to any threat.

International Threats: Russia

Lastly, let me touch on Russia.

Unlike China, Russia doesn’t seek to weaken our economy and surpass us on the world-stage; rather they focus on actions that disrupt and undermine the American way of life.

As we saw in 2016, we fully expect Russia to attempt to interfere in the 2020 elections to sow public discord and undermine our democratic institutions.

Let me be clear: We are prepared.

And more importantly, the state and local officials who run our elections are prepared.

We are working with our Federal partners to make sure those officials on the frontlines of our elections have the information and the tools they need to combat Russian interference.

We are also working to make sure the American people understand how the Russians seek to undermine confidence in our elections, and the simple steps they can take to avoid amplifying foreign influence campaigns.

We were prepared in 2018, when DHS established classified and unclassified election war rooms.

These war rooms connected election officials in all 50 states, political parties, social media companies and agencies across the U.S. Government, including DOD, the FBI and the Intelligence Community.

Our efforts helped make the 2018 elections the most secure elections in the modern era.

In 2020, we're doing this and more to prevent our adversaries from degrading faith in our democracy and election results.

Which leads me to my next point.

Election Security

Election security is understandably front of mind for the Nation and a lot of us in the room.

From the White House down—the Department, and U.S. Government more broadly, are laser-focused on this issue.

Under the leadership of Director Krebs, the Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA, has been working diligently around-the-clock to ensure our election systems are secure and resilient.

Thanks to their efforts, we're working as a government, and with state and local election officials better than ever.

This is in sharp contrast to 2016, when we were in contact with few to none. And had relationships with few to none.

CISA is providing these partners with information, technical assistance, resources, and tools to secure and promote the resiliency of their systems.

On election day, it's state and local election officials who bear the risk to their systems, so we're doing all we can now to ensure they are secure.

Voters, of course, also play a critical role.

We're working hard as a Department to ensure that voters are aware of their rights, which includes their ability to request a provisional ballot if anything goes wrong on Election Day.

We recognize the potential effects of targeted attacks on our elections—both real and claimed.

We'll continue to educate targeted populations to make them less receptive to misinformation campaigns.

We'll also continue to work with partners to prepare and practice for potential disruptions.

As all homeland security operators understand, 100% security is never realistic.

Instead, we're focused on building more resilient election systems and processes, as well as encouraging states to audit election results via paper.

In 2020, over 90% of votes will have a corresponding paper ballot. This is a significant achievement.

Border Security

Pivoting now, let me talk about border security.

Our number one duty as a country is to not only know who is coming into our country—but what is coming into our country.

Transnational criminal organizations work on a daily basis to funnel people and illegal contraband, such as drugs, money and weapons, into the United States.

To put it simply—border security is national security, and we are prioritizing it as such.

What we have seen and experienced over the last several years is that our security is closely linked with the security and stability of our partners to the south.

Working with our Central American partners, we have built a historic regional framework and coalition to reduce the reach of transnational criminal organizations and to ensure those seeking protections can do so closer to home.

These agreements not only provide for burden sharing of asylum responsibilities with U.S. support to build their capacity...

They also promote regional safety and security, by sharing personnel and information to combat TCOs together.

This coalition is founded on the basic premise that— A secure region is a stable and prosperous region that will attract both public and private investment, and will provide opportunities for the youth – who represent the future of these countries.

In 2019, we signed 12 agreements with our Central American partners—Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

These security agreements are the first stage leading to further partnerships for prosperity.

At DHS—we're working closely with Development Finance Corporation to identify investments that will improve port security and trade facilitation, as well as increase economic opportunity in the region.

In addition to promoting economic security, such investment counters influence from our adversaries in the region. It makes sense—where we have a strong presence, our strategic adversaries will not.

And I think we can all agree that we don't want countries like China or Russia permanently establishing influence in our backyard.

But international engagement is only one component of our strategy to address the ongoing border security crisis.

To cover it briefly—over the last several months we have put together a strategy that is working. We have essentially ended catch-and-release, eliminating the insidious incentive to exploit children for entry into the United States.

We have more tools than ever before to quickly remove, return, and repatriate aliens who illegally cross our borders.

We have cracked down on asylum fraud across the board—working tirelessly to restore enforcement of federal statutes enacted by Congress.

Lastly, but critically important, we have expedited and continued construction of the Border Wall System.

When we ask our agents on the ground what it would take to fully secure our border, there's no ambiguity in their answer.

Number one on their list is a Border Wall System.

Last week, I visited the border to announce the completion of 100 miles of new border wall.

We have another 130 plus miles under construction and over 200 miles in the pre-construction phase.

Today, we remain on track to complete construction of over 400 miles of border wall system by the end of 2020.

Again, all of these actions culminate in a Strategy that is working.

We have decreased illegal crossings seven months in a row for the first time since 2008, and will continue to take action against transnational criminal organizations that threaten American safety.

But let me be clear – while we have achieved great success over the past several months, we remain in a crisis with over 40,000 aliens apprehended every month crossing the border illegally. This is not sustainable ...and we must do more.

Counterterrorism

Lastly, I want to speak to the mission that's been virtually synonymous with our Department since its inception: counterterrorism.

Since 9/11, we have achieved significant successes in mitigating the ability of foreign terrorist organizations, or FTOs, to attack the homeland.

We have done this in a number of ways, including by raising the global baseline of security. In 2017, facing an aviation threat emanating overseas, DHS worked with its international partners to raise the security baseline around the world.

Today, commercial aviation is more secure because of the actions we took. Much like we did then, today, DHS is working to raise the global baseline for security.

We're establishing criteria that all foreign governments must satisfy to assist DHS in vetting foreign nationals seeking to enter our country.

We are transparent and upfront with every country on the criteria and information we require. There are no surprises.

For a small number of countries that lack either the will or the capability to adhere to these criteria, travel restrictions may become necessary to mitigate threats.

But let me be clear: travel restrictions are NOT based on the faith of the citizenry or the region of the world these countries reside.

Instead, they are imposed because a country does an inadequate job of sharing information, or otherwise poses an elevated public safety or national security risk.

When the safety and security of the American people is at stake, we don't leave any room for error.

As we continue to address the threat from foreign terrorist organizations, we also are seeing an increasing threat from domestic actors, who adopt FTO techniques to inspire individuals to violence.

The recent trend of Americans driven by violent extremist ideologies or personal grievances to commit acts of terrorism and targeted violence with little apparent warning creates a unique challenge to traditional law enforcement and investigation methods.

This threat is real and, at times, unpredictable, and has serious ramifications on Americans' perception of safety.

The Department's Strategic Framework for Countering Terrorism and Targeted Violence, that we released last

TX-GOV-20-0106-A-000045

fall positions DHS to confront this evolving threat.

The framework explains how we'll leverage the tools and expertise that have protected the country from FTOs, to address the evolving challenges today.

I want to specifically call out the framework's focus on enhancing prevention and resilience.

The framework calls a "whole-of-society" approach to identifying individuals on a path to violence, and builds off-ramps and intervention points for them.

Importantly, the Framework explicitly recognizes the need to support and protect our most vulnerable populations, particularly our youth.

On this point, I'd like thank Congress for recognizing the importance of this threat and our work in this area.

We're glad to have been provided additional funding in FY 20 to advance our work in this area.

Implementing this framework to end these abhorrent attacks will continue to be one of DHS's top priorities under my leadership.

We're working aggressively to develop the implementation plan, which will be ready in the coming weeks.

The plan will serve as a roughly 2 year action document—running from FY 2020 to 2022—that lays out steps and milestones for DHS along the way.

Lastly, I want to mention the urgency of this threat to our faith-based communities and houses of worship. We are responding.

Specifically, we are actioning the recommendations of the Homeland Security Advisory Council's Subcommittee on the Prevention of Violence Against Faith-Based Communities.

I want to again thank the Subcommittee for their work on this important issue.

Conclusion

As each one of these threats show—DHS professionals are operating in a more complex and dynamic environment than ever before.

And throughout all the work we do, we continue to emphasize the importance of transparency, the protections of civil rights and civil liberties, and the protection of data in a digital age.

It's an honor and privilege to lead DHS in our mission to protect the American people—but as is true and has been true for years, no one agency can tackle these issues alone.

Robust partnerships are critical to our success across the homeland security enterprise—from state and local law enforcement, to airlines, to cyber security companies, to disaster response organizations, and a variety of others.

Our private sector partners are ultimately why we are successful at securing the Homeland.

Thank you again to members of the HSEG for your ongoing contributions to our homeland security.

Our nation is fortunate to have so many bright minds applying their expertise to the most pressing issues we face.

And thank you again for the opportunity to outline the tremendous work of the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security.

#

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From: "The White House" <info@mail.whitehouse.gov>
To: "Wes Hambrick" <Wes.Hambrick@gov.texas.gov>
Date: 1/17/2020 3:22:37 PM
Subject: Five Stories President Trump Doesn't Want you to Miss

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RESOLUTE READS

FIVE STORIES PRESIDENT TRUMP DOESN'T WANT YOU TO MISS

Vice President Pence: A Partisan Impeachment, a Profile in Courage

-The Wall Street Journal

"As the U.S. Senate takes up a purely partisan impeachment, and the mainstream media focuses on what Republican senators may do, it may be timely to consult Kennedy's definition of political courage and why he considered one statesman in particular worthy of admiration," Vice President Mike Pence writes. In 1868, it was Republicans who tried to impeach a President they didn't like on "dubious constitutional grounds." In what one historian called "the most heroic act in American history," Sen. Edmund Ross of Kansas ignored political pressure and voted to acquit President Andrew Johnson.

"Who, among the Senate Democrats, will stand up to the passions of their party this time?"

Trump Honors National Champion LSU Tigers at White House

-Fox News

"Just days after they capped off a 15-0 national championship season in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome with President Trump in attendance, the LSU Tigers stopped by the White House on Friday to be honored by the commander in chief. They topped Clemson 42-25 to grab their first title since the 2007-2008 season," Tyler Olson reports.



Watch: President and First Lady attend the National Championship game

Trump's Phase One China Trade Deal Result of Negotiator-in-Chief's Courage

-Fox Business

"For decades, as a result of political short-sightedness and economic expediency, policymakers have acquiesced to Communist-controlled China," Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX) writes. "At this critical juncture in history, we are fortunate to have a Negotiator-in-Chief who understands that China is the biggest existential threat to America and, more importantly, who has the political courage to do something about it."

Senate Approves USMCA Trade Deal in Landslide Vote

-*New York Post*

"The Senate in a landslide vote Thursday passed a new trade deal with Mexico and Canada, giving President Trump his second high-profile trade win in as many days," Mark Moore reports. USMCA will replace the Clinton-era, job-killing NAFTA and "passed by a 89-10 vote, sending it to the president's desk for his signature."

VP Pence: 'USMCA Is a Huge Win for American Workers and American Farmers'

Pelosi's Impeachment Offenses

-*The Wall Street Journal*

"The Senate can now do better by the Constitution by holding a trial that judges President Trump without validating the partisan House process and its weak case . . . The House hearings blocked GOP witnesses and limited cross-examination. Despite selective leaks and a pro-impeachment media, they failed to move public opinion," *The Wall Street Journal* editorial board writes.

MORE: "A normal court would reject a dishonest prosecutor like Adam Schiff"

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From: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 2:28 AM
To: Luis Saenz; Wes Hambrick
Subject: FW: DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020

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fyi

From: White House Press Office <info@mail.whitehouse.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2020 8:24 PM
To: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
Subject: DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2020

**DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020**

Out-of-Town Pool

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg

Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT

TV Corr & Crew: CBS

Print: WSJ

Radio: VOA

LOCAL / EST

8:25AM / 2:25AM THE PRESIDENT arrives at Zurich Airport

Zurich, Switzerland

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

8:35AM / 2:35AM THE PRESIDENT departs Zurich, Switzerland, en route to Davos, Switzerland

Zurich, Switzerland

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

9:20AM / 3:20AM THE PRESIDENT arrives at InterContinental Davos Landing Zone

Davos, Switzerland

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

9:30AM / 3:30AM THE PRESIDENT departs InterContinental Davos Landing Zone en route to InterContinental Davos

TX-GOV-20-0106-A-000051

Davos, Switzerland

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

9:35AM / 3:35AM THE PRESIDENT arrives at InterContinental Davos

Davos, Switzerland

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

11:10AM / 5:10AM THE PRESIDENT departs InterContinental Davos en route to Davos Congress Centre

Davos, Switzerland

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

11:20AM / 5:10AM THE PRESIDENT arrives at Davos Congress Centre

Davos, Switzerland

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

11:30AM / 5:30AM THE PRESIDENT delivers opening remarks at the World Economic Forum

Davos, Switzerland

Pre-Credentialed Media

12:15PM / 6:15AM THE PRESIDENT participates in a pull-aside meeting with the Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum

Davos, Switzerland

Closed Press

12:35PM / 6:35AM THE PRESIDENT participates in a reception with the International Business Council

Davos, Switzerland

Closed Press

2:30PM / 8:30AM THE PRESIDENT participates in a bilateral meeting with the President of the European Commission

Davos, Switzerland

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

4:15PM / 10:15AM THE PRESIDENT participates in a bilateral meeting with the President of the Swiss Confederation

Davos, Switzerland

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

5:20PM / 11:20AM THE PRESIDENT participates in a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Davos, Switzerland

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

6:30PM / 12:30PM THE PRESIDENT participates in a dinner with Global Chief Executive Officers

Davos, Switzerland

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

7:50PM / 1:50PM THE PRESIDENT departs Davos Congress Centre en route to the RON Location

Davos, Switzerland

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

8:00PM / 2:00PM THE PRESIDENT arrives at the RON Location

Davos, Switzerland

Out-of-Town Travel Pool

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From: "Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO" <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
To: "Luis Saenz" <luis.saenz@gov.texas.gov>
Date: 1/22/2020 8:26:13 AM
Subject: RE: FYI

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Good stuff. Thank you for sharing!

From: Luis Saenz <luis.saenz@gov.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 9:25 AM
To: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
Subject: FYI

>https://twitter.com/gregabbott_tx/status/1219966746930495488?s=12<

POTUS tried to get my boss to leave w him and fly home. Big thanks but we're still in meetings and Gov is on another panel and is guest of honor at a dinner tonight.

POTUS did very well yesterday in speech. Strong.

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:&&&&&&&

From: "Robbins, Amanda H. EOP/WHO" <Amanda.H.Robbins@who.eop.gov>

To: "Robbins, Amanda H. EOP/WHO" <Amanda.H.Robbins@who.eop.gov>

CC: "Korn, Jennifer S. EOP/WHO" <Jennifer.S.Korn@who.eop.gov>

Date: 1/23/2020 1:25:50 PM

Subject: POTUS Will Address the March for Life TOMORROW

Attachments: Sanctity of Life Day, 2020.pdf

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Good afternoon,

As you may have heard, The President is addressing the March for Life on the National Mall tomorrow, Friday, January 24th, as the first sitting President to address the March in person.

We are excited for you all to tune in to watch his remarks [LIVE HERE](#), starting around 12:00 PM EST tomorrow.

We welcome your statements of support for this historic speech. Please share with us any social media posts your organization posts on the President's commitment to defending life at all stages. We have also attached the Presidential Proclamation for Sanctity of Life Day 2020.



Donald J. Trump ✓
@realDonaldTrump

See you on Friday...Big Crowd!



March for Life ✓ @March_for_Life · Jan 31, 2019

Hundreds of thousands of pro-life Americans made their voices heard this month. We are a pro-life generation. Thank you for marching for life!

Join us again at the March for Life on January 24, 2020. #whywemarch



5:04 PM · Jan 22, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

11



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 21, 2020

NATIONAL SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE DAY, 2020

- - - - -

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Every person -- the born and unborn, the poor, the downcast, the disabled, the infirm, and the elderly -- has inherent value. Although each journey is different, no life is without worth or is inconsequential; the rights of all people must be defended. On National Sanctity of Human Life Day, our Nation proudly and strongly reaffirms our commitment to protect the precious gift of life at every stage, from conception to natural death.

Recently, we have seen decreases in the total number and rate of abortions in our country. From 2007-2016, the most recent period of analysis, the number and rate of abortions decreased by 24 percent and 26 percent, respectively. The rate of teen pregnancies -- the vast majority of which are unplanned -- has almost continuously decreased over the last quarter century, contributing to the lowest rate of abortions among adolescents since the legalization of abortion in 1973. All

Americans should celebrate this decline in the number and rate of abortions, which represents lives saved. Still, there is more to be done, and, as President, I will continue to fight to protect the lives of the unborn. I signed into law legislation under the Congressional Review Act that allows States and other grantees to exclude organizations that perform abortions from their Title X projects. My Administration has also issued regulations to ensure Title X family planning projects are clearly separated from those that perform, promote, or refer for abortion as a method of family planning; to protect the conscience rights of healthcare workers and organizations, including with respect to abortion; and to ensure the Federal Government does not force employers that object, based on religious belief or moral conviction, to provide insurance for contraceptives, including those they believe cause early abortions. Additionally, I have called on the Congress to act to prohibit abortions of later-term babies who can feel pain.

My Administration is also building an international coalition to dispel the concept of abortion as a fundamental human right. So far, 24 nations representing more than a billion people have joined this important cause. We oppose any projects that attempt to assert a global right to taxpayer-funded abortion on demand, up to the moment of delivery. And we will never tire of defending innocent life -- at home or abroad.

As a Nation, we must remain steadfastly dedicated to the profound truth that all life is a gift from God, who endows every person with immeasurable worth and potential. Countless Americans are tireless defenders of life and champions for the vulnerable among us. We are grateful for those who support women experiencing unexpected pregnancies, those who provide healing to women who have had abortions, and those who welcome

children into their homes through foster care and adoption. On National Sanctity of Human Life Day, we celebrate the wonderful gift of life and renew our resolve to build a culture where life is always revered.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 22, 2020, as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. Today, I call on the Congress to join me in protecting and defending the dignity of every human life, including those not yet born. I call on the American people to continue to care for women in unexpected pregnancies and to support adoption and foster care in a more meaningful way, so every child can have a loving home. And finally, I ask every citizen of this great Nation to listen to the sound of silence caused by a generation lost to us, and then to raise their voices for all affected by abortion, both seen and unseen.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.

DONALD J. TRUMP

From: "Office of Intergovernmental Affairs \(\IGA\)\" <IGA@messages.dhs.gov>
To: "Wes Hambrick" <Wes.Hambrick@gov.texas.gov>
Date: 1/24/2020 12:35:41 PM
Subject: DHS Steps Up REAL ID Education and Awareness Efforts

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of Public Affairs

DHS Steps Up REAL ID Education and Awareness Efforts

WASHINGTON, D.C.- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently sent letters to the Governors of all states, the District of Columbia, and territories asking them to provide DHS with a monthly update of the number of REAL IDs issued by their jurisdictions. The states now report to DHS that they have collectively issued more than 95 million REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and ID cards (34%) out of 276 million total cards. While this is a noteworthy improvement over the 67 million REAL ID-compliant cards (27%) out of a total 249 million total cards previously reported in the fall, DHS urges the American public to get a REAL ID immediately and not wait until the deadline.

Importantly, the Department has been increasing its overall education and awareness efforts with national organizations, the travel industry, state governments, federal agencies, and Congress.

For example, DHS recently met with both the National Governors Association (NGA) and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) to emphasize the importance of getting the American public prepared for the REAL ID deadline and to solicit their ideas for making it easier for Americans to obtain a REAL ID.

"Over 95 million Americans already have REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and the number is increasing every day. DHS continues doing everything it can to inform Americans on the requirement to obtain a REAL ID or acceptable alternative ID before the full enforcement deadline for domestic air travel," said Acting Secretary Wolf. "The real work is still ahead because two-thirds of all licenses are presently not compliant with REAL ID. Americans should be mindful that their future preparations for flying and accessing certain federal facilities include getting a REAL ID or alternative, such as a passport."

[Watch Acting Secretary Wolf's Message to Air Travelers](#)

To encourage the submission of ideas and solutions from across the Nation, DHS also issued a Request for Information (RFI) on November 7, 2019, requesting substantive business and technical proposals that could streamline the REAL ID application requirements while still ensuring the security and protection of identity information. The RFI period closed on December 9, 2019 and DHS received 69 submissions from the public, states, private sector, and associations. DHS is expediting its review of the proposals and will work with the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Congress, as necessary, to implement viable solutions.

While it is the states that are responsible for issuing cards, DHS has worked extensively with every state to provide time, technical assistance, and make grants available to support compliance with the REAL ID Act security requirements. DHS urges the states, District of Columbia, and U.

S. territory officials to act to ensure that all their eligible residents obtain driver's licenses or identification cards that meet these enhanced security standards.

Beginning October 1, 2020, every commercial air traveler must present a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, state-issued enhanced driver's license, or [other acceptable forms of identification](#), such as a valid passport or U.S. military ID, to fly within the United States. Individuals who are unable to verify their identity will not be permitted to enter the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) checkpoint and will not be allowed to fly.

DHS is committed to enforcing the REAL ID Act in accordance with the regulatory timeframes. The American traveling public should check with their driver's licensing agency for more information on how to apply for a REAL ID.

Learn more about REAL ID at tsa.gov/real-id. **For information about flying with REAL ID, and to download the REAL ID toolkit, visit tsa.gov/real-id. To apply for a U.S. passport, visit travel.state.gov.**

BACKGROUND:

Based on a recommendation from the bipartisan 9/11 Commission, the REAL ID Act set security standards for the issuance and production of state driver's licenses and identification cards designed to inhibit terrorists' ability to evade detection by using fake or fraudulently-obtained driver's licenses and identification cards. The threat articulated by the 9/11 Commission is real and the United States is enforcing sound identity management practices to bolster homeland security. While each state decides whether it will comply with the REAL ID Act, all states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories are either already compliant or are in the process of implementing their REAL ID programs.

As states are responsible for issuing the licenses, there is some variation amongst the states in the physical appearance of their REAL ID cards. REAL ID-compliant cards have a "star" marking at the top of the card; star markings may be gold, black, or white, against various backgrounds. Upon enforcement, in lieu of using a REAL ID-compliant card, individuals may instead present an acceptable alternative form of identification, such as a U.S. passport, passport card, Global Entry card, U.S. military ID, or an Enhanced Driver's License (EDLs) issued by the states of Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Vermont, and Washington.

#

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From: "Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO" <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>

To: "Wes Hambrick"

CC: "Schroeder, Allie F. EOP/WHO" <Allie.F.Schroeder@who.eop.gov>
"Imhoff, Olivia P. EOP/WHO" <Olivia.P.Imhoff2@who.eop.gov>
"Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO" <Zachariah.D.Swint2@who.eop.gov>

Date: 1/28/2020 8:27:58 AM

Subject: FW: President Donald J. Trump Announces Intent to Nominate and Appoint the Following Individuals to Key Administration Posts

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Fyi – nominees in your state.

From: White House Press Office <info@mail.whitehouse.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 9:15 AM

To: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>

Subject: President Donald J. Trump Announces Intent to Nominate and Appoint the Following Individuals to Key Administration Posts



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28, 2020

**President Donald J. Trump Announces Intent to Nominate and Appoint the
Following Individuals to Key Administration Posts**

Today, President Donald J. Trump announced his intent to nominate the following individuals to key positions in his Administration:

Beth Harwell of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Brian Noland of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Today, President Donald J. Trump announced his intent to appoint the following individuals to key positions in his Administration:

**Mendel Goldstein of California, to be a Member of the United States Holocaust
Memorial Council.**

Curtis Darrow Robinson of Connecticut, to be a Member of the United States

1X-00000000-A-000063

Holocaust Memorial Council.

Sigal Mandelker of New York, to be a Member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

Hock E. Tan of California, to be a Member of the President's National Security and Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

Brian J. Truskowski of Connecticut, to be a Member of the President's National Security and Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

Theresa Mayer of Indiana, to be a Member of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

Hussein Tawbi of Texas, to be a Member of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

Harry C. Erwin III of Arkansas, to be a Member of the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Kevin Robl of California, to be a Member of the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Albert Riley James of Missouri, to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission.

###

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: "Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO" <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>

To: "Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO" <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
"Schroeder, Allie F. EOP/WHO" <Allie.F.Schroeder@who.eop.gov>
"Imhoff, Olivia P. EOP/WHO" <Olivia.P.Imhoff2@who.eop.gov>
"Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO" <Zachariah.D.Swint2@who.eop.gov>

Date: 1/28/2020 9:04:46 PM

Subject: Statement of Support? USMCA Signing Ceremony Tomorrow (Wednesday, 1/29) at 11:00 a.m. ET

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

Governors' Senior Staff,

Tomorrow (Wednesday, January 29) at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time, President Donald J. Trump will participate in a signing ceremony for the United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA). This will be a historic day for expanding trade and creating a fair playing field.

We hope your Governor will show his/her support for USMCA through a statement of support, via social media (Twitter, Facebook) and other media channels (TV, radio, speeches, press releases, op-eds, etc.) tomorrow. Below are some graphics you can leverage for social media.

Statements of Support Ask: Please send us any statements of support by your Governor to us by tomorrow (1/29) at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. We would also welcome statement of support from other appointed state leaders including economic development director, workforce director, Lt. governor, agriculture commissioners, etc.

Thanks,
Nic

--
Nicholas D. Pottebaum
Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director
White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
O: 202-456-2132 | C: 202-881-7803 | E: Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement

Background: Following a monumental signing of the Phase One Trade Agreement with China, President Donald J. Trump has delivered another trade win for American workers with the Senate's passage of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). The trade agreement, which has now been approved by both chambers of Congress with unprecedented bipartisan support, 89-10 in the Senate and 385-41 in the House, will replace the 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) fulfilling a core promise the President made to the American people. USMCA, which the President successfully negotiated over a year ago, rebalances trade between the three countries and will support mutually beneficial trade leading to freer markets, fairer trade, and robust economic growth in North America. You can find the Agreement's Text [here](#), pertinent Fact Sheets [here](#), and Support from State and Local Elected Officials [here](#) and [here](#).

GRAPHICS



CREATING FAIRER TRADE FOR AMERICAN



DAIRY



EGGS



POULTRY



WHEAT



OVER 76,000 MORE AUTO JOBS

IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS



BIG WIN FOR AMERICA'S ECONOMY



STRONGER GROWTH



MORE JOBS



MORE EXPORTS



RISING WAGES



**WIN FOR
AMERICA**



FARMERS



RANCHERS



BUSINESSES



WORKERS

USMCA
UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT

From: "Ramirez, Andrea R. EOP/WHO" <Andrea.R.Ramirez@who.eop.gov>
To: "Ramirez, Andrea R. EOP/WHO" <Andrea.R.Ramirez@who.eop.gov>
Date: 1/28/2020 2:18:41 PM
Subject: President Donald J. Trump's Vision for Peace, Prosperity, and a Brighter Future for Israel and the Palestinian People

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

Good afternoon,

Please see the below announcement. We are open to all statements of support including social media posts, letters, etc. If you or your organization issue out a statement of support, please reply back to this e-mail with a link to the statement and/or social media post(s).

Best,
Andrea R. Ramirez, Ph.D.
White House Office of Public Liaison



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28, 2020

**PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP'S VISION FOR PEACE, PROSPERITY, AND A
BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

"We are not here to lecture—we are not here to tell other people how to live, what to do, who to be, or how to worship. Instead, we are here to offer partnership – based on shared interests and values – to pursue a better future for us all" – President Donald J. Trump

BOLD VISION FOR PEACE: President Donald J. Trump recognizes it is time for a new approach to achieve peace, security, dignity, and opportunity for Israel and the Palestinian people.

- This Vision is the most serious, realistic, and detailed plan ever presented, one that could make Israelis, Palestinians, and the region safer and more prosperous.
- This Vision is just the first step and provides the basis for historic progress toward peace. The United States hopes this Vision will lead to direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

- It will be up to Israeli and Palestinian leaders to take courageous and bold actions to

- end the political stalemate, resume negotiations on the basis of this Vision, and make lasting peace and economic prosperity a reality.
- If the Palestinians have concerns with this Vision, they should bring them forth in the context of good-faith negotiations with the Israelis and help make progress for the region.
- Mere opposition to this Vision is simply a declaration of support for the hopeless status quo that is the product of decades of stale thinking.

DIPLOMATIC ACCOMPLISHMENT: President Trump is bringing together Israeli political rivals in support of a detailed vision for peace and promoting normalized relations between Israel and its neighbors.

- President Trump secured agreement from both Prime Minister Netanyahu and opposition leader Lieutenant General Benny Gantz to come to Washington, where they agreed to use this Vision as a basis for negotiation.
- For the first time in this conflict, President Trump has reached an understanding with Israel regarding a map setting forth borders for a two-state solution.
- President Trump has been bringing historic enemies in the region closer together, and his actions are promoting normalized relations between Israel and its neighbors.

MUTUAL RECOGNITION AND INDEPENDENCE: This Vision proposes a realistic two-state solution, offering a viable path to Palestinian statehood.

- Israel has now agreed to terms for a future Palestinian State.
- The Vision aims to achieve mutual recognition of the State of Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people and the future State of Palestine as the nation-state of the Palestinian people, with equal civil rights for all citizens within each state.
- The Vision creates a path for the Palestinian people to realize their legitimate aspirations for independence, self-governance, and national dignity.
- Under this Vision, neither Palestinians nor Israelis will be uprooted from their homes.

ISRAEL'S SECURITY: This Vision takes into account the realities on the ground and fully protects Israel's security.

- The Vision fully addresses Israel's security requirements, does not ask Israel to take additional security risks, and enables Israel to defend itself by itself against any threats.
- The Vision provides for a demilitarized Palestinian state living peacefully alongside Israel, with Israel retaining security responsibility west of the Jordan River.
- Over time, the Palestinians will work with United States and Israel to assume more security responsibility as Israel reduces its security footprint.

JERUSALEM AND HOLY SITES: Israel will continue to safeguard Jerusalem's Holy Sites and will guarantee freedom of worship for Jews, Christians, Muslims, and people of all faiths.

- The status quo at the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif will be preserved.

- The special and historic role of the King of Jordan with regard to the Muslim Holy Shrines in Jerusalem will be preserved.
- All Muslims are welcome to peacefully visit al-Aqsa Mosque.

FUTURE STATE OF PALESTINE: The Vision delivers significant territorial expansion for Palestinians and designates land reasonably comparable in size to the West Bank and Gaza for the establishment of the State of Palestine.

- Israel has agreed to a four-year land freeze to secure the possibility of a two-state solution.
- Jerusalem will stay united and remain the capital of Israel, while the capital of the State of Palestine will be Al-Quds and include areas of East Jerusalem.
- The Vision's map will more than double the size of the land currently used by the Palestinians.
- Beyond territory, the Vision provides for Palestinian use and management of facilities at the Haifa and Ashdod ports, Palestinian development of a resort area on the north shore of the Dead Sea, and continued Palestinian agricultural activity in the Jordan Valley.
- The Vision proposes modern and efficient transportation links for easy travel and movement of goods throughout the future state of Palestine, including Gaza and the West Bank.

NORMALIZATION: This Vision will end the refugee status quo and help put the region on a truly transformative path: one with stability, security, and abundant opportunities for prosperity.

- The Middle East needs strong regional partnerships to counter Iran and terrorism, strengthen security, and unlock vast opportunities for economic investment and regional prosperity.
- President Trump has cultivated these regional partnerships, helping historic enemies identify shared threats and mutually beneficial opportunities, facilitating the prospect of normalized relationships between Israel and its neighbors.
- This Vision will serve as a strong platform from which to further improve regional dynamics and strengthen regional partnerships.
- Under this Vision, Palestinian refugees will be given a choice to live within the future State of Palestine, integrate into the countries where they currently live, or resettle in a third country.
- The United States will work with the international community to establish a generous trust to aid in the process of resettling refugees.

PROSPERITY ACROSS THE REGION: This Vision, combined with the Peace to Prosperity economic framework, will unlock the potential of a region long held hostage by conflict.

- The Vision incorporates the massive \$50 billion Peace to Prosperity economic plan, which will spur the Palestinian economy.

- When properly implemented, the Vision will:

- Create more than 1 million new jobs;
- More than double Palestinian GDP; and
- Reduce unemployment below 10% and cut the poverty rate in half.

###

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From: "The White House" <info@mail.whitehouse.gov>
To: "Wes Hambrick" <Wes.Hambrick@gov.texas.gov>
Date: 1/28/2020 6:13:04 PM
Subject: JUST OUT: President Trump's bold vision for Middle East peace

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.



The White House • January 28, 2020

JUST OUT: President Trump's bold vision for Middle East peace

Today, President Trump introduced the most realistic and detailed plan ever presented for peace between Israel and the Palestinians.



WATCH: "We must break free of yesterday's failed approaches."

"Peace to Prosperity" is a fundamentally different vision for one of the world's most complex problems. "My vision presents a win-win opportunity for both sides," President Trump said today, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu standing alongside him.

President Trump also took the step of meeting yesterday with Israel's opposition leader, Lt. General Benny Gantz. In doing so, the President secured agreement from both major Israeli figures on the Peace to Prosperity Vision. "Peace transcends politics by any measure," President Trump said today.

Now, for the first time in this conflict, President Trump has reached an understanding with Israel's leadership **on a map with real borders** for a proposed two-state solution.

Palestinians and Israelis both deserve a future of peace and prosperity. A realistic compromise will protect Israel's security, fulfill the aspirations of self-determination for the Palestinians, and ensure universal and respectful access to the holy sites of Jerusalem.

President Trump's Vision designates defensible borders for Israel and does not ask it to compromise on the safety of its people. For Palestinians, the Vision delivers significant territorial expansion, allocating land roughly comparable in size to the West Bank and Gaza for

establishing a Palestinian State. Transportation links would allow for efficient movement between Gaza and the West Bank, as well as throughout Palestine.

“**All humanity** should be able to enjoy the glories of the Holy Land. This part of the world is forever connected to the human soul and the human spirit,” President Trump said. “These ancient lands should not be symbols of conflict, but eternal symbols of peace.”

[Click here to see President's Trump's full plan!](#)

\\u-10180 ?\\u-8276 ? More: [A two-state solution that keeps Israel secure](#)

WATCH: Dems and impeachment, 1998 vs. now

President Trump's legal team wrapped up its case against House Democrats' dangerous and weak Articles of Impeachment today, telling senators they should leave the right of choosing a President to the American people.

“**What they are asking** you to do is to throw out a successful president on the eve of an election with no basis and in violation of the Constitution,” White House Counsel Pat Cipollone said. “It would . . . weaken, weaken forever all of our democratic institutions.”



WATCH: Democrats in their own words, circa 1998

The first partisan impeachment in U.S. history came with a lot of bluster and distractions from Democrats and the media. Here are the 10 things that really matter:

- Democrats aren't just trying to remove President Trump from office—they want to **remove him from the ballot**. Their Articles of Impeachment would bar him from holding “any Office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States.”
- Investigating **corruption in Ukraine**, including potential conflicts of interest involving Hunter Biden and Burisma, is not “baseless,” as Democrats claim. Even the Obama State Department had concerns. [So did ABC News](#) and others.
- House Democrats' **sham investigation** was unauthorized and unconstitutional. A President defending his due-process rights is called **separation of powers**, not “Obstruction of Congress.”
- For Democrats, impeachment was always **a goal in search of an excuse**. Once the [Russia collusion hoax](#) failed, they found another excuse within months.
- Speaker Nancy Pelosi called impeachment a matter of “urgent” national security. Then she followed the **fastest impeachment** in history **with the longest delay**.

- Under House Democrats' **new bar for impeachment**, at least [20 former Presidents](#)

- would've been removed from office, including George Washington.
- Rep. Adam Schiff wants the Senate to do the House's job for it and investigate. The House ***didn't even bother to subpoena*** witnesses such as former National Security Adviser John Bolton that they now claim are crucial to hear.
- Even Democrats' own called witnesses testified that President Trump's policy of lethal defense ***aid toward Ukraine is stronger*** than under President Obama.
- The do-nothing Democrats keep putting politics first and the American people second. But ***President Trump is working hard*** and keeping his promises.
- You don't need to listen to secondhand sources: You can ***read the transcript!***

"All you need in this case is the Constitution and your common sense," Cipollone says.

Photo of the Day



Official White House photo by Shealah Craighead

President Trump joins Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to unveil the Trump Administration's Middle East peace plan | January 28, 2020

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From: "The White House" <info@mail.whitehouse.gov>
To: "Wes Hambrick" <Wes.Hambrick@gov.texas.gov>
Date: 1/29/2020 5:26:16 PM
Subject: PROMISE KEPT: President Trump signs USMCA—NAFTA is gone!

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.



The White House • January 29, 2020

PROMISE KEPT: President Trump signs USMCA—NAFTA is gone!

President Trump made history today, signing the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA) and keeping his signature promise to end the NAFTA era.

 **President Trump:** [For decades, Washington kept letting you down](#)

Repairing broken trade deals was a key agenda item that separated then-candidate Donald J. Trump from his political opponents. Washington pundits and “experts” were skeptical, as always: Both Republican and Democrat politicians for years had been promising voters that they’d scrap NAFTA for a stronger deal.

But President Trump is anything but a conventional, career politician.

“**Everybody said** that this was a deal that could not be done. Too complicated, too big—couldn’t be done,” the President said today from the South Lawn of the White House. “We got it done.”

USMCA’s improvements over NAFTA are significant. The new agreement “is the largest, fairest, most balanced, and modern trade agreement ever achieved,” President Trump says. Here is just a sampling of the biggest changes:

- *Broad economic benefits.* USMCA is estimated to create nearly 600,000 American jobs—and generate up to \$235 billion in economic activity.

- *Better protection for workers.* It has the strongest, most advanced, and most comprehensive labor protections of any American trade agreement in history.

-
- *Support for our farmers.* The agreement is a massive win for American farmers and ranchers, vastly improving access to Canadian and Mexican markets. U.S. agricultural exports are expected to increase by \$2.2 billion under the deal.
- *A boost for American manufacturers.* The U.S. auto industry alone expects to create up to 76,000 new jobs and spur \$34 billion in new investments.
- *Modernized terms.* Unlike NAFTA, USMCA has protections for American intellectual property, a first-of-its-kind chapter on digital trade, and provisions to crack down on unfair currency practices.

“**Two decades of politicians** ran for office vowing to replace the NAFTA,” the President added. “Yet once elected, they never even tried. They never even gave it a shot. They sold out. But I’m not like those other politicians . . . I keep my promises and I’m fighting for the American worker.”

“**Trump heading back to Michigan to celebrate trade deal with Mexico, Canada**”



President Trump: USMCA adds to America’s blue-collar BOOM!

The witch hunt never ends

They say it takes 10,000 hours to become an expert at something. If that’s true, then give credit where it’s due: House Democrats and their media allies have put in the hours—and then some.

Sadly, it’s not time spent on any useful skill or on a policy agenda for working Americans. Instead, it’s a 3-year obsession with doing anything possible to get rid of President Trump.



OOPS: Schiff hypothetical exposes Dem hypocrisy on investigations

The split screen in Washington today put a spotlight on the problem. On one side, President Trump stood next to a crowd of blue-collar workers as he signed a trade deal to replace the job-killing NAFTA. On the other, Democrats in Congress continued to waste the American people’s time and money with a never-ending partisan impeachment.

Each time a hoax looks to finally be dead—whether it be the Russia collusion myth or the Ukraine sham investigation—Democrats conjure up some new allegation or distraction. When Speaker Nancy Pelosi first announced a Ukraine impeachment probe *before* any actual investigation, the focus was on President Trump’s July 25 phone call. Then President Trump released the transcript and told Americans to read it for themselves. Democrats weren’t prepared for that level of transparency.

Democrats probably didn't count on [Ukrainian President Zelenskyy](#) refuting their claims, either. So Pelosi, Rep. Adam Schiff, and other top Democrats tried out a variety of new narratives, ranging from the “whistleblower” that Schiff lied about coordinating with to various made-up claims of extortion and bribery.

Imagine if Democrats had put politics second and the American people first. There's no limit to what our country could achieve—more middle-class tax cuts, much-needed reforms to immigration, further reductions in prescription drug prices, infrastructure upgrades, and more. America today is thriving. Democrats should join us and keep it going.

Watch: [The most revealing Adam Schiff moment](#)

Photo of the Day



Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen

President Trump signs the United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement | January 29, 2020

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From: "Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO" <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
To: "Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO" <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>
CC: "Hoelscher, Douglas L. EOP/WHO" <Douglas.L.Hoelscher@who.eop.gov>
"Schroeder, Allie F. EOP/WHO" <Allie.F.Schroeder@who.eop.gov>
"Imhoff, Olivia P. EOP/WHO" <Olivia.P.Imhoff2@who.eop.gov>
"Swint, Zachariah D. EOP/WHO" <Zachariah.D.Swint2@who.eop.gov>

Date: 1/29/2020 10:26:02 PM

Subject: Statement from the Press Secretary Regarding the President's Coronavirus Task Force

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

Governors' Senior Staff and State Leaders,

Below you will find a Statement from the Press Secretary Regarding the President's Coronavirus Task Force. The President Donald J. Trump's top priority is the health and welfare of the American people. That is why, in 2018, President Trump signed the [National Biodefense Strategy](#), which improves speed of action in situations such as this. The Administration, led by the President's Task Force, will continue to work to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Nic

--
Nicholas D. Pottebaum
Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director
White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
O: 202-456-2132 | C: 202-881-7803 | E: Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 29, 2020

Statement from the Press Secretary Regarding the President's Coronavirus Task Force

Today, President Donald J. Trump announced the formation of the President's Coronavirus Task Force. Members of the Task Force have been meeting on a daily basis since Monday. At today's meeting, which the President chaired, he charged the Task Force with leading the United States Government response to the novel 2019 coronavirus and with keeping him apprised of developments.

The Task Force is led by Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, and is coordinated through the National Security Council. It is composed of subject matter experts from the White House and several United States Government agencies, and it includes some of the Nation's foremost experts on infectious diseases.

The Task Force will lead the Administration's efforts to monitor, contain, and mitigate the spread of the virus, while ensuring that the American people have the most accurate and up-to-date health and travel information.

The President's top priority is the health and welfare of the American people. That is why, in 2018, President Trump signed the [National Biodefense Strategy](#), which improves speed of action in situations such as this. The Administration, led by the President's Task Force, will continue to work to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus.

The risk of infection for Americans remains low, and all agencies are working aggressively to monitor this continuously evolving situation and to keep the public informed. For more information, please visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

Members of the President's Coronavirus Task Force:

Secretary Alex Azar, Department of Health and Human Services

Robert O'Brien, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Dr. Robert Redfield, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health

Deputy Secretary Stephen Biegun, Department of State

Ken Cuccinelli, Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Homeland Security

Joel Szabat, Acting Under Secretary for Policy, Department of Transportation

Matthew Pottinger, Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor

Rob Blair, Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor to the Chief of Staff

Joseph Grogan, Assistant to the President and Director of the Domestic Policy Council

Christopher Liddell, Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Coordination

Derek Kan, Executive Associate Director, Office of Management and Budget

###

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Poo

From: "Barbknecht, Nick" <nick.barbknecht@hq.dhs.gov>

To: "Barbknecht, Nick" <nick.barbknecht@hq.dhs.gov>
"SHORT, CHERIE" <cherie.short@hq.dhs.gov>

Date: 1/13/2020 10:40:27 AM

Subject: FW: Arizona Officials Join Acting Secretary Wolf to Mark Completion of 100 Miles of New Border Wall System, Highlight Progress Addressing Border Crisis

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

DHS Partners – we're flagging below this press release from Friday celebrating our completion of 100 miles completed. Please continue to keep in touch if we can be of help to you. - Nick

Nick Barbknecht
Advisor, Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
M (202) 365-7768
nick.barbknecht@hq.dhs.gov

From: U.S. Department of Homeland Security <departmentofhomelandsecurity@service.govdelivery.com>

Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 6:04 PM

To: Barbknecht, Nick <nick.barbknecht@hq.dhs.gov>

Subject: Arizona Officials Join Acting Secretary Wolf to Mark Completion of 100 Miles of New Border Wall System, Highlight Progress Addressing Border Crisis

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of Public Affairs

Arizona Officials Join Acting Secretary Wolf to Mark Completion of 100 Miles of New Border Wall System, Highlight Progress Addressing Border Crisis

Wolf hails court's support of President's use of DOD funding for wall construction

YUMA, Ariz. – Today, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad F. Wolf was joined by United States Senator Martha McSally, Yuma Mayor Douglas Nicholls, U.S. Border Patrol Yuma Sector Chief Patrol Agent Anthony Porvaznik, and Yuma County Sheriff Leon Wilmot to announce the Federal government has completed construction on the first 100 miles of new border wall system along the southwest border.

“As of today, we have completed the first 100 miles of new border wall system on the southwest border. New wall has been constructed in every border state from California to Texas. This is a milestone for our entire country, and this would not have been possible without the President’s steadfast determination and leadership,” said Acting Secretary Wolf. “The new border wall system is an undeniable impediment to human smugglers, drug traffickers, and other criminals who have exploited our lack of effective border infrastructure to smuggle drugs, people and illegal contraband into our country. The President listened to his operators on the front lines and is fulfilling his promise to secure the border.”

Wolf continued: “The decision out of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals is a huge victory. It upholds the rule of law and our ability to use military construction funds to address the ongoing crisis at the border.”

"Arizonans live every day with the challenges and opportunities that come with being a border state," said Senator Martha McSally. "Yuma has been an example of how a border wall system makes a difference—along with dedicated agents, intelligence driven operations, roads, and technology. These additional barriers and a new port of entry will improve security and the economy for our community, state, and country."

“The wall is a critical component in border security measures for Yuma’s border region for the safety of our community, for proficient border crossing operations, and for economic stability,” said Mayor Doug Nicholls. “An efficiently-operated, safe southern border region is pivotal to the economy as a whole, inclusive of Yuma’s \$3 billion agriculture industry. We experienced a dramatic reduction in incursions when the 2006 wall was constructed, which decreased illegal crossings by 95%. Fourteen years later with changes in immigration patterns, we need to keep safety and efficiency a mainstay.”

The portion of the wall completed in the Yuma Sector is part of a high-tech system that combines a physical barrier with technology and real-time surveillance. In Fiscal Year 2019, Yuma Sector was the third busiest sector in the nation with almost 70,000 apprehensions between ports of entry. Nearly 25% of its 105 miles of land border now has new border wall. This new wall construction is combined with all-weather roads, lighting, enforcement cameras, and other related enforcement technology to help U.S. Customs and Border Protection continue to secure our southern border.

“The commemoration of the 100th border wall mile is monumental for Yuma Sector,” said Yuma Sector Chief Patrol Agent Anthony J. Porvaznik. “Our agents do a tremendous job on the front lines enforcing law and order on the border with all available resources. Now, they are equipped with a 30-foot wall which impedes and denies attempts to enter our country illegally, assault our agents, or smuggle dangerous narcotics and contraband into the United States.”

“In Arizona, border security isn’t a talking point or faraway concern; it’s an issue our residents live with every day,” said Governor Doug Ducey. “We know that barriers make a difference and aid our law enforcement along the border. We’re grateful to have an administration that has prioritized border security and listened to the needs of states.”

#

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n=

From: "Barbknecht, Nick" <nick.barbknecht@hq.dhs.gov>

To: "SHORT, CHERIE" <cherie.short@hq.dhs.gov>
"Barbknecht, Nick" <nick.barbknecht@hq.dhs.gov>

Date: 1/23/2020 11:14:00 AM

Subject: Immigration Hearing Facility Tour and Briefing in Laredo Tomorrow

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

DHS Partners – apologies for the late notice. If you are available, we would be happy to have you or your designate join us in Laredo, Texas tomorrow for a tour and briefing of an Immigration Hearing Facility. We plan to offer other opportunities to visit IHFs in the future, if you cannot attend this one so please let us know.

We will have a tour and briefing at the IHF in Laredo, Texas on Friday, January 24, 2020. We can host no more than THREE people from your organization. Please RSVP and provide the information requested below to Victor de Leon at Victor.deLeon@cbp.dhs.gov by 5:00pm EST today, January 23rd. Also, please indicate any specific topics or questions you would like the subject matter experts to address during your visit to the IHF. Finally, please review the instructions on *Allowed and Prohibited Items and Behaviors* below.

Participant Information - please submit the following to Victor.deLeon@cbp.dhs.gov by 5:00pm EST today, January 23rd

Submit no more than THREE people from your organization

Full Name (including middle)

Date of Birth

Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number

Country of Citizenship

State of Residency (if living in the U.S.)

Allowed and Prohibited Items/Behavior

- Behavior must be consistent with the courtroom decorum outlined in DOJ's Immigration Court Practice Manual (<https://www.justice.gov/eoir/office-chief-immigration-judge-0>) and FPS's codes of conduct and lists of prohibited items (<https://www.dhs.gov/code-conduct>).
- Cameras and recording devices are prohibited on DHS property, to include courtrooms or other EOIR space.
- No food or drink can be brought onto IHF premises.
- Disruptive behavior in the courtroom or waiting area is not tolerated.
- Attorneys and Accredited Representatives should observe the rules of professional conduct and regulations of their licensing authorities. Attorneys and accredited representatives should present a professional demeanor at all times.

Please indicate in your return email that you, and those in your party, have read and understand the instructions above.

We look forward to seeing you on the 24th. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information at this point.

Nick Barbknecht
Advisor, Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
M (202) 365-7768
nick.barbknecht@hq.dhs.gov

From: DHS.IGA <dhs.iga@hq.dhs.gov>

To: DHS.IGA <dhs.iga@hq.dhs.gov>

Date: 1/29/2020 3:11:24 PM

Subject: Overview of the H-1B Electronic Registration Process: A Webinar for Registrants, 02/06/2020

Attachments: H-1B Webinar Invitation - Registrants - Feb 2020.pdf

H-1B Webinar Invitation -AttorneysandReps - Feb 2020.pdf

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

Dear Homeland Security Partner,

The DHS Office of Intergovernmental Affairs would like to make you aware of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) invitation to participate in a webinar on **Thursday, February 6, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Eastern** for an overview of the H-1B electronic registration process for registrants. Another webinar, specifically tailored for attorneys and representatives, will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2020.

Please see attached and below for additional details regarding these two webinar invitations.

Thank you.

Regards,

Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
DHS.IGA@hq.dhs.gov
(202) 282-9310

Webinar Invitation

Overview of the H-1B Electronic Registration Process: A Webinar for Registrants

Thursday, Feb. 6
2 – 3:30 p.m. Eastern

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services invites you to participate in a webinar on Thursday, Feb. 6, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Eastern. During this webinar, USCIS representatives will provide an instructional presentation of the new H-1B electronic registration process in myUSCIS for registrants. Another webinar specifically tailored for attorneys and representatives will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

On Jan. 9, USCIS published a [Federal Register notice](#) to formally announce the implementation of the H-1B electronic registration process for fiscal year 2021 H-1B cap-subject petitions.

TX-GOV-20-0106-A-000087

H-1B cap-subject petitioners, including those eligible for the advanced degree exemption, are required to first register prospective beneficiaries electronically with USCIS and pay the associated H-1B registration fee in order to enter the beneficiaries into the selection process for filing an H-1B cap-subject petition for FY 2021.

We are hosting this webinar to allow users to familiarize themselves with the new electronic registration process.

To Register:

1. Visit our webinar [registration](#) page.
2. Enter your email address and select “Submit.”
3. Select “Subscriber Preferences.”
4. Select the “Event Registration” tab.
5. Complete the questions and select “Submit.”

Once we process your registration for the webinar, you will receive a confirmation email with additional details.

If you have any questions, or if you have not received a confirmation email within two business days, please email us at public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov.

To request a disability accommodation to participate in this engagement, email us at public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov by Feb. 3.

Note to media: This webinar is not for press purposes. Please contact the USCIS Press Office at 202-272-1200 for any media inquiries.

We look forward to your participation!

- [H-1B Webinar Invitation - Registrants - Feb 2020.pdf](#)
-



Webinar Invitation

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A Webinar for Registrants

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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Office of Public Affairs

Note to media: This webinar is not for press purposes. Please contact the USCIS Press Office at 202-272-1200 for any media inquiries.

We look forward to your participation!



Webinar Invitation

Overview of the H-1B Electronic Registration Process:

A Webinar for Attorneys and Representatives

Tuesday, Feb. 11
2 – 3:30 p.m. Eastern

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services invites attorneys and representatives to participate in a webinar on **Tuesday, Feb. 11, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Eastern.**

During this webinar, USCIS representatives will provide an instructional overview of the new H-1B electronic registration process in myUSCIS for attorneys and representatives. Another webinar specifically tailored for registrants will be held on Thursday, Feb. 6.

On Jan. 9, USCIS published a [Federal Register notice](#) to formally announce the implementation of the H-1B electronic registration process for fiscal year 2021 H-1B cap-subject petitions.

H-1B cap-subject petitioners, including those eligible for the advanced degree exemption, are required to first register prospective beneficiaries electronically with USCIS and pay the associated H-1B registration fee in order to enter the beneficiaries into the selection process for filing an H-1B cap-subject petition for FY 2021.

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To request a disability accommodation to participate in this engagement, email us at public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov by Feb. 7.



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Office of Public Affairs

Note to media: This webinar is not for press purposes. Please contact the USCIS Press Office at 202-272-1200 for any media inquiries.

We look forward to your participation!

From: DHS.IGA <dhs.iga@hq.dhs.gov>

To: DHS.IGA <dhs.iga@hq.dhs.gov>

Date: 1/30/2020 1:04:00 PM

Subject: EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program: Public Engagement, March 13, 2020

Attachments: EB-5 Petitions FIFO to FIVA Engagement Invitation 03-13-20.pdf

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

Dear Homeland Security Partner,

The DHS Office of Intergovernmental Affairs would like to make you aware of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) invitation to participate in their public engagement meeting on **Friday, March 13, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Eastern** regarding the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program.

Please see attached and below for additional details regarding this engagement opportunity.

Thank you.

Regards,

Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
DHS.IGA@hq.dhs.gov
(202) 282-9310

EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program: Public Engagement

Friday, March 13, 2020

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Eastern

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services invites you to participate in a public engagement meeting on Friday, March 13 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Eastern on the Immigrant Investor Program, also known as the EB-5 program.

This engagement is part of our ongoing efforts to enhance dialogue with the public on the EB-5 program. USCIS will address program updates, including the agency's change from a first-in, first-out case-processing approach to a visa availability approach for Form I-526, Immigrant Petition by Alien Investor. You will have an opportunity to ask questions during the engagement.

Participation Details:

You may attend this engagement either in person at USCIS, 111 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C., or by teleconference.

If you wish to attend in person, please email us at public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov. Seating is limited, so we encourage you to email early to request in person registration. Once we process your registration, you will receive a confirmation email with additional details.

To submit non-case-specific questions as agenda items before the engagement, email us at public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov by 5 p.m. Eastern on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

To join the event via teleconference:
Call in Toll Free number: (888) 946-7792

TX-GOV-20-0106-A-000093

Toll number for international callers: (517) 308-9375

Participant Passcode: 3996336

We recommend calling in 10 to 15 minutes before the teleconference begins.

To request a disability accommodation:

Email public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov, and put “EB-5 Engagement” in the subject line.

Note to media

This engagement is not for press purposes. Please contact the USCIS Press Office at 202-272-1200 for any media inquiries.

We look forward to engaging with you!

- [EB-5 Petitions FIFO to FIVA Engagement Invitation 03-13-20.pdf](#)
-



Engagement Invitation

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Note to media

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We look forward to engaging with you!