



# South Florida Progressive bulletin

March 20, 2017

## EVENTS AND ACTIVISM CALENDAR:

One of the most valuable services this bulletin can offer our community is a comprehensive calendar of events sponsored by various activist groups so that we can unite our voices and grow in strength as a movement. Please keep us informed so that we can post your events. United We Stand! Resist! Email your event to [fritziethemusic@gmail.com](mailto:fritziethemusic@gmail.com)

### **Mar 21 Mom's Rising Tele Town Hall; 9pm**

U.S. government and civics about how everything works.

[http://action.momsrising.org/survey/KeepMarchingTeleTownHall\\_Civics/?t=5&akid=8897.2448172.fz-Occ](http://action.momsrising.org/survey/KeepMarchingTeleTownHall_Civics/?t=5&akid=8897.2448172.fz-Occ)

How does a bill become a law? How does Congress interact with the White House, federal agencies and with the Supreme Court? What are some of the less-understood legislative tools lawmakers use to shape policy, like budget reconciliation and congressional review acts?

### **Mar 21-22 Progress for All Tallahassee Road Trip**

-[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQ2HH\\_Vre2I9vllBUutXOa3M2wGEiTOTp6RYI-2dOgFQEPbA/viewform?c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQ2HH_Vre2I9vllBUutXOa3M2wGEiTOTp6RYI-2dOgFQEPbA/viewform?c=0&w=1)

### **Mar 22 Day of Advocacy in Tallahassee:**

Reclaiming Florida's Future for All 10 am-4 Florida Capitol

### **Mar 30 Labor Community Roundtable/ United Front Against Trump**

6:30-9 pm; 8191 NW 12th St (Chevy's)

### **Apr 15 - Tax March**

### **Apr 22 - Scientist's March - DC**

### **Apr 29 People's Climate Justice March - DC and everywhere**

### **May 1 - Nationwide Strike** sponsored by Kshama Sawant's Movement for the 99%

## FROM THE FRONT LINES - IRAQ

I think west Mosul will be destroyed," says Mr Zebari, Kurdish leader and former foreign minister of Iraq, pointing to the high level of destruction in east Mosul just taken by government forces. He explains that Isis is able to put up such stiff resistance by skilful tactics using networks of tunnels, sniper teams and suicide bombers in great numbers. He adds that no date has yet been set for the resumption of the Iraqi government offensive into west Mosul, but he expects the fighting to be even tougher than before.

A further reason for fanatical resistance by Isis is that Mr Zebari is certain that the Isis leader and self-declared Caliph Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is still in west Mosul and reports of him being killed or injured in an air strike elsewhere in Iraq are incorrect. He says that Isis sector commanders in the city are experienced professional soldiers, all of whom were once officers in Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard or Special Forces, and will fight effectively to defend their remaining stronghold in the larger part of the city that is to the west of the Tigris River.

The elite Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Services, led by the 10,000-strong Golden Division, had expected to take the whole of Mosul, once a city of two million people, by the end of 2016. But ferocious resistance by some 3,000 Isis fighters on the east bank of the Tigris meant that this part of the city was only captured after three months of fighting with heavy loss of life on all sides, especially among civilians.

Mr Zebari, who originally comes from Mosul, describes the present situation in the city as "horrible" and "a shambles", even in those parts of it that Iraqi government forces have captured, though not fully occupied and secured. "There are Isis 'sleeper cells' with maybe 16 to 24 men in each district which come out of hiding and kill people who are cooperating with the government," he says. "They target restaurants which have reopened and serve soldiers." There has also been a complete failure by the government to restore basic services like electricity and water supply. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-mosul-west-east-battle-iraq-army-campaign-government-fighters-a7603746.html>

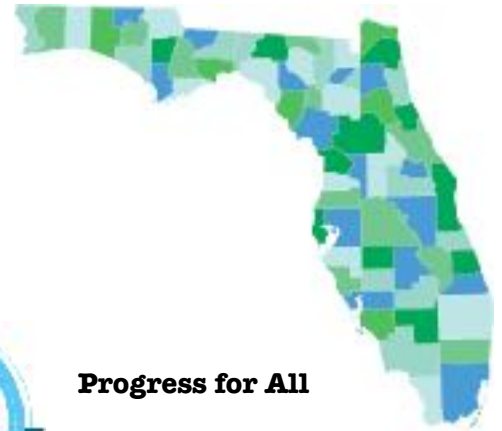
Broward County Commission tabled a resolution on March 14th which stated Broward would NOT be a Sanctuary County. The vote was late in a long day and there were many to speak to the issue as well as emails and phone calls. Broward is not a Sanctuary County, but it is not forbidden to provide sanctuary by this resolution that failed. Nan Rich, Dale Holness Michael Udine, Beam Furr, and Mark Bogen all voted to table the issue and defy Trump's order.

*FL House Appropriations committee voted to cut food assistance for 157,000 children 44,000 disabled. To sign petition protesting this cut: <http://act.andrewgillum.com/page/s/food-assistance-cuts?source=em170316-foodassistance-b>*

An executive order of President Theodore Roosevelt on March 14, 1903 established Pelican Island, which was the first national wildlife refuge in the country. Egrets in particular were beneficiaries after having been nearly hunted to extinction in the years running up to President Roosevelt's Executive Order. Roosevelt's Executive Order was one of the first signs of the growing influence of the Audubon Society on national opinion. While National Parks and preservation was a movement that started out west, few today realize the first National Wildlife Refuge was actually here in Florida. Pelican Island:



*Four environmental groups filed suit Wednesday against the Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for authorizing 50,000 acres of phosphate mining in central Florida that the groups said violates the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. The suit, filed in Tampa federal court, takes aim at the two federal agencies over their approval of three new mines and the expansion of a fourth one in Manatee, Hardee and DeSoto counties. <http://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/wetlands/environmental-groups-sue-federal-agencies-over-effects-of-phosphate-mining/2316750>*



### **Progress for All**

is taking a group of activists to Tallahassee to lobby March 22nd on these issues:

- Banning Fracking in

Florida: This extreme extraction method poses risks to our environment and does not benefit the people of Florida. We don't want to see what happened in Naples happen anywhere in Florida again!

- Supporting Renewable Energy: Florida is the sunshine state, and through the Constitutional Amendment process, we've made great strides toward owning that name! Now we need the legislature to follow suit, through legislative action, including implementing Amendment 4.

- Protection of Florida's Waters: From the Panhandle to the Keys, Floridians demand clean water. Our springs, rivers, estuaries, lakes, bays and Everglades will continue to degrade, and threaten our health, quality of life, and economy, until decision-makers buy the land needed to restore and protect our watersheds.

**Aramis Ayala, the first Black woman state attorney in Florida history, just made a heroic move by refusing to seek the death penalty in any case--and Florida Governor Rick Scott removed her from a key case and handed it over to a white prosecutor in another county.**

Even the victim's family is in support of Ayala's decision to not pursue the death penalty. Gov. Scott is punishing her for doing the right thing and undermining the voters who chose her--and he must be stopped.

In November, Ayala ousted incumbent Jeff Ashton. She ran on a daring and progressive platform in which she championed dramatic changes to the criminal justice system that would shift the power and control from law enforcement to enhancing safety and well-being of community members. As State Attorney, Ayala understands that justice deserves to be in the hands of the people.

Sign the petition to support Ayala: <https://act.colorofchange.org/sign/gov-rick-scott-aramis-ayala/?t=2&akid=7125.178694.WxHHtM>

## From **The Democrats' Dangerous Diversion**

by Sandy Davies: <https://consortiumnews.com/2017/03/12/the-democrats-dangerous-diversion/>

Since the leadership of the Democratic Party was taken over by the corporate-backed Democratic Leadership Council (DLC) a generation ago, it has followed an unwritten rule that it must never accept responsibility for losing an election, nor respond to signs of public disaffection with any weakening of its commitment to pro-corporate, neoliberal policies. In its desperation to prevent the democratic reform of the Democratic Party, it is aggressively tarring nuclear-armed Russia with the same brush it used to tar and feather Ralph Nader after the 2000 election.

Their unshakable commitment to fight tooth and nail for the interests of their wealthy campaign contributors over those of poorer, younger and darker-skinned voters in every election, every national, state and local party committee and on every issue, even as they pretend they are doing the exact opposite, could only be a viable political strategy in Lewis Carroll's Wonderland. In the real world, their demonstrated disdain for the people from whose votes they derive their power is a strategy for political suicide.

As Jonathan Marshall at Consortiumnews.com reported on March 10, experts from the Federation of American Scientists, the Natural Resources Defense Council and MIT wrote in a recent BAS article that new "super-fuzes" installed on U.S. nuclear warheads since 2009 have significantly increased the danger of nuclear war by giving the U.S. the ability to destroy all Russia's fixed land-based nuclear missiles with only a fraction of U.S. own weapons.

Coupled with President Obama's deployment of a formerly illegal ABM (anti-ballistic missile) system on Aegis missile destroyers and at bases in Eastern Europe, the authors wrote that this upgrade to U.S. nuclear warheads is "exactly what one would expect to see if a nuclear-armed state were planning to have the capacity to fight and win a nuclear war by disarming enemies with a surprise first strike." They concluded that "Russian planners will almost surely see the advance in fuzing capability as empowering an increasingly feasible U.S. preemptive nuclear strike capability."

In the midst of escalating tensions over Syria, Ukraine, Iran or some other new crisis, a realistic fear of a U.S. first strike could force a hasty decision by Russian officials and seal the fate of humanity. The BAS authors believe that this predicament leaves Russia little choice but to pre-delegate its nuclear launch authority to lower levels of command, increasing the risk of an accidental or mistaken launch of nuclear weapons.

it is our country and its allies, not Russia, that have launched invasions, military occupations, bombing campaigns, coups and drone wars against at least ten countries in the past 20 years, while Russia only recently become engaged in two of these conflict zones when its interests were directly impacted by our actions.

For all of you who aren't sure, it is possible to be gay and Christian.

It's also possible to believe in God and science.

It is possible to be pro-choice and anti-abortion.

It is equally possible to be a feminist and love and respect men.

It's possible to have privilege and be discriminated against, to be poor and have a rich life, to not have a job and still have money.

It is possible to believe in sensible gun control legislation and still believe in one's right to defend one's self, family, and property.

It's possible to be anti-war and pro-military.

It is possible to love thy neighbor and despise his actions.

It is possible to advocate Black Lives Matter and still be pro police.

It is possible to not have an education and be brilliant.

It is possible to be Muslim and also suffer at the hands of terrorists.

It is possible to be a non-American fighting for the American dream.

It is possible to be different and the same.

We are all walking contradictions of what "normal" looks like.



Bernie Sanders interviewed in the Guardian:  
**"There are some people in the Democratic Party who want to maintain the status quo. They would rather go down with the Titanic so long as they have first-class seats."**

Guardian's conclusion: One thing's for sure: Democrats who refuse to change do so at their peril.

## A New Way for Democrats To Campaign?

Knowing that there is an infinite amount of money that the wealthy will devote to buying Senators and Congresspersons 2018, there are various strategies which might be effective to counter their unlimited capacity to buy television advertising for the candidates they own.

There are chasms of mistrust in our country. People are isolated into their spheres of locale, of community, of information sources, of identity. Families are divided over the Trump Hillary chasm that have not reunited yet.

I propose that the best investment the democratic party could make is to rent apartments NOW in communities all across the country - red and blue states - and hire young people to live there, to integrate themselves into the communities and earn the trust of people by helping them. So many people are so desperate...they need an extra pair of hands, to carry their groceries, to talk to seniors at their community centers, to pick up their kids after school. Then these young democrats can educate the people about the issues that affect their lives and how the right government policies can help them.

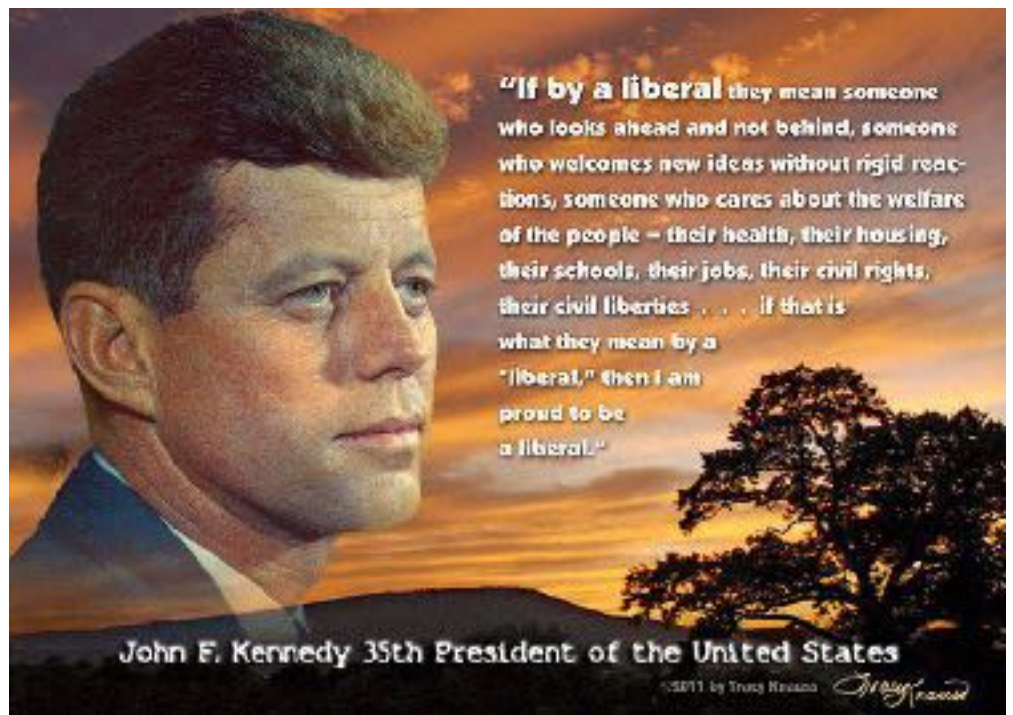
If you don't believe that there is a huge underbelly of suffering in our country, take a look at the movie Hell or High Water. Hollywood does a remarkable job of revealing the decay and desperation in small towns in the plains.

Grass roots organizing is a more cost effective way than the top down, high cost pundits and pollsters who were all wrong in 2016, and did a huge disservice to our country in the process.

Young people - college graduates? - need jobs, they are most affected by the economic inequality which engulfs our country now. They also want to make a difference. Their jobs would be integrating into communities in order to serve the people, then educate and organize the residents. It will take time to show the citizens that the democratic party cares about them, and this would help the young people to learn that the democratic party cares about them as well.

The television advertisements of the republicans and their owners won't be able to overpower the message of the hands on service of these young activists. The message of the young democrats will last long after one election cycle, as long as the party is committed to serving the underserved class - the non-donor class - that the republicans and neoliberal democrats have ignored for the past thirty years.

Even though the democratic party set a new record of spending in the 2016 election, there is no legacy of candidates ready to run in the next cycle; our legacy is loss. The corporate establishment rules in most state organizations, and local. Why not try a new strategy, bottom up grass roots organizing in communities all across America. We could start in districts identified by Swing Left, and then add more communities from those especially punished by Trump's policies. (Part II next issue: *Why This Won't Happen*) ~Fritzie



- On April 18, judges who presided over the International Monsanto Tribunal will assemble in The Hague, Netherlands. They will tell the world what they found, after six months of poring over testimony delivered by more than 30 witnesses, including victims of Monsanto's poisons, scientists, doctors and lawyers. The testimony was delivered during a 2-day citizens' tribunal, held in October, in The Hague.

As a result of record fundraising since the republican takeover, the ACLU has been able to conduct trainings, hire attorneys, and otherwise increase their vigilance in protecting our civil liberties. This is their communique following the recent Resistance Training in Miami: "We were able to accomplish great things at the Resistance Training. We've highlighted some of those accomplishments below:

1. We collected 809 rights restoration petitions, getting us one step closer to getting the amendment to restore voting rights to 1.5 million Floridians.
2. We raised over \$4,000 and are still counting contributions!
3. We passed out over 2,000 posters, buttons, Constitutions, decals, and other swag!
4. Nearly 200,000 people at 1,700 watch parties across the country, and in Canada, were able to tune in to the training in Miami!

We know there are still a lot of challenges to come in the months ahead. We know there are still groups of people, including immigrants, women, LGBT persons, Muslims and people of all faiths, that are being targeted by this administration as I'm typing this email. But, because of your commitment and dedication, we sent a very clear message to those who wish to trample on our civil liberties, that this is a fight we're ready to take head on.

Make the place you live and work a "Freedom City." If you missed this call to action at the training, you can find more information on it here: <https://www.aclu.org/blog/speak-freely/freedom-cities-campaign-resistance-through-progress-local-level>

ACLU action page: <https://www.aclu.org/action>

Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world.  
All things break. And all things can be mended.  
Not with time, as they say, but with intention.  
So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally.  
The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.

L. R. Knost

### From a Brand New Congress volunteer:

I was one of BNC's earliest supporters. I sent my first recurring donation on April 29, 2016 -- just a few days after Brand New Congress launched. I knew well over a year ago that even if we'd managed to get Bernie Sanders elected, the real work would be in reforming Congress. As soon as BNC announced its intention to eject bought-and-paid-for career politicians and replace them with principled, citizen-leaders, I was all in.

The BNC platform speaks to the values I've forged over decades of wildly different experiences. But importantly, this organization has practical solutions and a clear strategy to achieve them. It's a post-partisan platform constructed around issues Americans broadly agree upon. Getting money out of politics. Rebuilding our infrastructure. Jumpstarting our economy by investing in new industries. Leading the world in a clean energy revolution. Fixing our healthcare crisis with Medicare-for-all. Criminal justice reform.

Most of us agree on the path forward. But we're not getting the solutions we need because Congress doesn't work for us. They work for the super rich and giant corporations. So if they won't do the job we've hired them to do, we have to replace them with people who will. It's just that simple.

[www.brandnewcongress.org](http://www.brandnewcongress.org)

Indivisible Meeting 3/18/17 FL22

~Mary Macomber

Ft. Lauderdale Vice-Mayor Dean Trantallis, congratulated the group on their advocacy. He urged folks present to keep up the resistance by staying together as one and never letting up. He generated several great inquiries from those present.

Wendi Lipsich, District Director for Congressman Ted Deutch told the group that it was clear that the resistance effort all over the country is making a dramatic difference.

Mary Manupella gave a short briefing on the different aspects of Trumpcare and how devastating it will be, particularly to Florida, which has the highest number of insureds under the act per state.

Wanda Francis closed with next steps, encouraging those present to call their MOC's this coming week, as Congress will be voting Thursday on the Trumpcare plan. Also Neil Gorsuch's nomination to the SCOTUS will begin next week so we need all hands to make those calls of protest.

The sign-up for voter registration volunteers went very well.

## The Empathy Fix

~Fritzie

When my peace has been interrupted, I remember. It is a shock. I was walking in Sanur Bali at dusk, along a city street lined with shops with little cardboard dishes of flowers set in front of each doorway on the sidewalk to attract the good spirits of the Hindu gods. Three women were sitting on the ground at the storefront watching me pass. One sticks out her leg to trip me. I saw it in slow motion as I was falling flat on my face. Men scrambled from across the street to help me up, but the woman sniggered at me, enjoying my suffering and humiliation. Her two friends looked away as though embarrassed, or perhaps they were sorry they didn't think of it first.

I was walking by the Brooklyn Bridge on the Manhattan side and a black woman walks over to me and slaps my face. I continued walking, but stunned.

The message I took from these incidents was essentially the same. Both attacks were from women, and I felt their pain much more than my own. We have evolved past the fight or flight instinct if we make that choice. Cruelty is learned behavior. Karma is the law, what goes around comes around. Revenge is a vicious cycle of escalating injustice, it never ends.

And how do we move beyond (primitive) instincts? How do we invite others experiences to become ours; to share their hopes, dreams, their pain? We make the conscious choice; we choose empathy: to allow the experiences of another to wash over us.

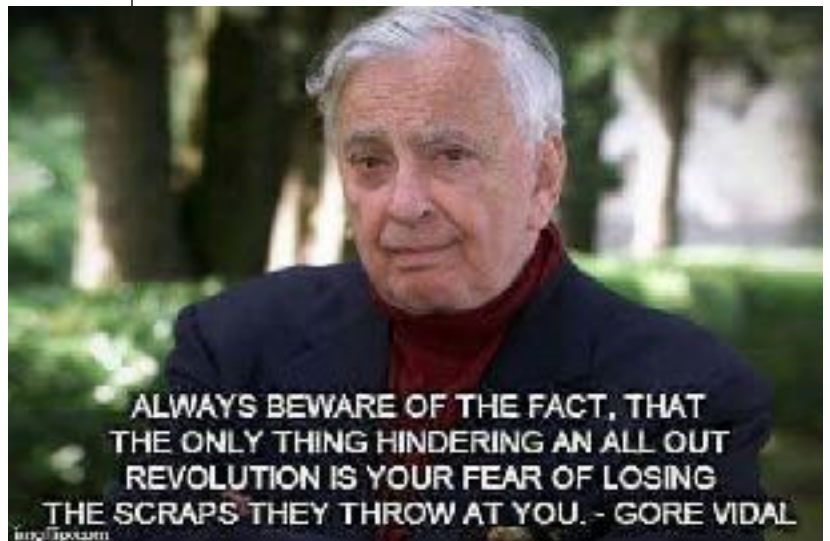
I advise our Congress to take a course in empathy before they steal from the poor and give to the already rich. They are proposing taking the food out of our children's mouths so that the already rich, who are profiting from the tax code, the excessive salaries of CEOs, the fees they have tacked onto everything the 99% do, the legal system which protects them from the dirty business of dealing with the poor...they want MORE from us, they want the food out of our children's mouths. They want us to do without loving care for our families as they age (cutting medicaid and privatizing medicare). They want our poor to do without medical treatment (cutting medicaid) without food (meals on wheels, school food programs).

The republicans want revenge on us for the crime of existing. They are stealing the food from our mouths, the money from our pockets, the wages from our labor, the cures from our disease, the justice from our laws, the freedom from our streets. They are polluting the air we breathe and polluting the water the same way, hoping we will evolve into some species that drinks oil perhaps so they can profit even more exponentially from our consumption. The republicans do not care about us; they have not evolved past selfishness.

Trump voters may not have known it, but Paul Ryan has been salivating over his Ayn Rand based policies since he started his career in Congress. Now he has the opportunity to press for his regressive political agenda, and to line his pockets and those of his corporate and government fellows. Empathy? For us? He isn't interested, we are disposable. The 99% are on the road to elimination in Ryan-Trump-McConnell world. Ryan-Trump-McConnell are the primitives, without human values or human value.

**We are the majority, we are 99%! ! RESIST!**

**South Florida Progressive Bulletin** is an online newsletter released on the 10th, the 20th and 30th of each month. Occasionally calendar items and other timely notifications will be released at other times to accommodate spontaneity in this age of urgent activism. **SFPB** chronicles and analyzes events and issues relevant to progressives locally, and at the state and national levels. It began about six years ago as a publication of the Progressive Democrats of America Miami chapter. In 2016 it became the **South Florida Progressive Bulletin** and a regular schedule was adopted. The editorial board consists of Fritzie (the editor), Lorenzo Canizares (l.canizares@aol.com), Elizabeth Lee Beck, Victor Nieto, Cathy Gilbert, Sandy Davies, Audrey Bomse, Ed Wujciak, Kevin O'Keefe, and Gayle Martin. We welcome contributions from our community and are attempting to be an umbrella forum for all local progressive organizations: environmental, political, the social, racial and economic justice movements, labor organizers, anti-war and others. Our purpose is to inform, unify and grow local progressive activism, organization and resistance. To submit an idea, photo, and/or article please email [fritziethemusic@gmail.com](mailto:fritziethemusic@gmail.com). We limit articles to six hundred words or less generally with longer pieces to be edited at your approval with a link provided to the longer message. To add your email address to our distribution please email [fritziethemusic@gmail.com](mailto:fritziethemusic@gmail.com) as well. We have a Facebook page to visit for updates as well (**South Florida Progressive Bulletin.**)





## The People's Corner

~Lorenzo Canizares

Bernie Sanders said recently: "In the year 2017, Republicans want to throw 24 million people off health insurance, raise premiums for older people, and at the same time provide \$285 billion in tax breaks for the top 2%. I think that legislation is disgusting, it is immoral, and it should not see the light of day."

There is no doubt that this legislation is another act of unbridled greed by an administration that has no concern for the well-being of the vast majority of the American people. Remember, Trump's promise of providing health care for everyone? Another lie that many bought while enthusiastically voting for the pathological liar. Now, Trump wants this legislation to be passed by hook or crook, in spite of the fact that 24 million Americans will lose their current benefits by 2026. Next year alone will mean the loss of coverage for 14 million people. All of these numbers are coming from the report on the American Health Care Act (ACHA) or Trumpcare by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), a non-partisan entity whose role is to predict the economic effect of proposed legislation.

Lemme get this straight:  
I get to pay for Trump's  
racist wall, his constant  
golf vacations, and  
protecting Melania's  
luxury NYC penthouse.

And all I have to give  
up is my family's  
healthcare plan?

Those of us that watched Chris Hayes' Townhall meeting in West Virginia's "Trump country," saw a Republican State legislator mention what some others Republicans have also been mentioning; that Obamacare can't just be repealed; that it will be devastating for West Virginia if that happens. Here in Florida, the Congressperson with the largest percentage of constituents enrolled in Obamacare in the nation, (R) Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, has come out strongly against Trumpcare. So has the hardliner Senator from Arkansas, Tom Cotton. Sen. Cotton has added that if Trumpcare doesn't get fixed Republicans can kiss their Congressional majority good-bye.



Trumpcare is an insult to the American people. For now it will provide the young slight savings, but for corporations it will be a windfall providing \$600 billion in tax breaks. Our seniors will see their cost rise and low-income Americans will see their coverage drop completely. Trumpcare will slash \$880 billion from Medicaid over the next decade, threatening the health of millions of economically challenged Americans while shifting costs to state and local governments that are already facing major economic problems of their own. Seniors could see their insurance premiums increase up to five times under the new rules, the main purpose of which is to fill the profit coffers of major insurance companies. Federal Medicaid spending by 2026 would be 25 percent lower under the House bill than is projected under Obamacare, and the number of Medicaid beneficiaries would be 17 percent fewer or 14 million people.

Daniel Jimenez lost his father to cancer and he started this petition which has gone viral. Please sign and share: Petition to take healthcare from Congress: <https://www.change.org/p/remove-health-care-subsidies-for-members-of-congress-and-their-families?platform=hootsuite>  
(This link takes you to [change.org](https://www.change.org) on FB, Scroll until you find Daniel Jimenez)

Republicans are touting that the mandates to purchase insurance are over. Fine. But they also whisper that if you fail to renew your insurance for two months you get a hefty 30 percent surcharge. There is no way to spin this that the people benefit; all the pluses go to the corporate health insurance companies. Remember, the hate of Obamacare is a direct result of the 1% tax added to the top 2% income. Helping other human beings is not on the Republicans' radar screen. Even though they have benefited unjustly at the expense of ordinary Americans due to rigging of the economy by their greedy corporate lawyers and with Congressional assistance, they can not let go of any bit of their self interested, ill gotten gains.

Those of you that watched the Townhall meeting with Bernie witnessed in very red West Virginia, when asked if healthcare is a human right almost everybody raised their hand stating a firm yes. The time is ripe to place the issue of "Healthcare for All" on the table, and fight for it like if we mean it. Trumpcare is a bad joke that belongs in the trashcan of history.

## Anti-Boycott Bills and the Crackdown on Protest

-Audrey Bomse

Two developments threatening our First Amendment rights are happening across the country. First, Republican lawmakers are pushing for bills that criminalize protests. At the same time, numerous state legislatures have passed, often at the impetus of Democratic lawmakers, bills aimed at silencing the movement for Palestinian human rights by targeting boycotts of Israel. These trends should not be viewed separately. The bills aimed at silencing supporters for Palestinian human rights are anti-protest bills. Together, the two developments amount to a bi-partisan attack on the First Amendment.

Florida state senator George Gainer, a Republican from Panama City, has introduced Senate Bill 1096, which would prohibit the obstruction of traffic during protests or demonstrations. Protesters would be required to obtain public assembly permits and those in violation would face misdemeanor charges. But the bill goes much further. Drivers who 'unintentionally' cause injury or death to someone interfering with traffic during a protest would not be held liable. Instead, the person hit by the vehicle would have to prove that s/he was not violating the law by blocking the flow of traffic.

Florida is among the 16 states to have already passed bills aimed at silencing Palestinian human rights advocacy by explicitly attacking the right to boycott. Many more states have considered or are currently considering anti-boycott bills. One Florida anti-boycott bill, SB 86/HB527, signed into law in 2016, requires Florida to create an online blacklist of companies and for-profit organizations that boycott Israel and prohibits Florida public entities from entering into contracts worth \$1 million or more with blacklisted entities. It also prohibits state pension funds from investing in companies engaged in politically motivated boycotts of Israel. That same year a non-binding resolution condemning the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) was also passed by the legislature.

Boycotts have a long history of being used in the US as a tool for change. The abolitionist movement boycotted slave goods. The labor and civil rights movement have frequently used boycotts. Calls by the African National Congress and the Worker's United Center of Chile for boycotts of apartheid South Africa and the Pinochet military junta in Chile led to solidarity boycotts around the world. They allow activists to challenge their government's own complicity in crimes against humanity. Boycotts are a form of protest, like picketing. They are a way for activists to challenge their own government's complicity in crimes against humanity. Attacking the right to boycott is an attack on the right to protest. Legislation limiting boycotts seek to rob social movements of one of their most successful tools for social change.

Whereas some have seen the criminalization of protest bills as a response to the anti-Trump protests, this trend predates Trump. North Dakota's bill protecting drivers who run over protesters was a clear response to the resistance against the Dakota Access Pipeline by Standing Rock Water Protectors, while Minnesota's bill giving cities the right to sue protesters to recover the cost of policing demonstrations was a response to the protests after Philando Castile, a black man, was killed by police.

These bills target the groups that have been challenging white supremacy, which tolerates police killing African-Americans with impunity and as well as a pipeline considered too dangerous for a predominantly white community, to be considered safe enough for a Sioux reservation's water supply. Activists have been drawing connections between the ways the Black Lives Matter and the Palestinian liberation movement both challenge the role of systemic racism that permits state violence and how both the Standing Rock Water Protectors and the Palestinian liberation movement are confronting colonial legacies.]

All these anti-protest bills are aimed at chilling dissent. Fewer people would be willing to protest if they thought they could be easily arrested, fined, jailed and even killed. Similarly, the anti-boycott bills could cause people and organizations to think twice before getting involved in the struggle for Palestinian rights. The chilling effect in both cases is intentional. These bills are designed to silence social movements by sowing confusion and spreading fear. Activists need to fight them.

