



IndivisibleEB.org

Senator Alex Padilla
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

To: Senator Alex Padilla
From: Indivisible East Bay
Date: May 21, 2021
Subject: Rebuilding our democracy

Tedious Senate Procedure: We were disappointed that Senate Democrats didn't treat the cloture votes on the January 6 Attack National Commission or the bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act as serious efforts to pass that legislation. We thank Sen. Padilla for voting yes on both motions, but we wanted him to at least make a serious effort to challenge the attempted filibusters. Will Tuesday's vote on the For the People Act again be just going through the motions—or will the Democrats raise a point of order if the presiding officer doesn't call a vote when no senator seeks recognition to speak, or appeal the ruling when the presiding officer rules that the minority wins the cloture vote? We understand that holding the caucus together requires delicacy, but we also want to see an approach that demonstrates full commitment, especially when it comes to ensuring fair representation.

Budget Resolution: What parts of the next budget resolution[1] will Sen. Padilla be working on? Will it set the stage for a large reconciliation bill that includes all the major provisions Democrats have proposed so far? How does the surface transportation authorization bill the House is working on play into all this?

American Jobs Plan: We want Sen. Padilla to make sure that any big "infrastructure"/"recovery" reconciliation bill includes environmental and climate provisions[2] at least as strong as the ones proposed in President Biden's Jobs Plan.

American Families Plan: We are glad to see Congressional Democrats looking at closing the Medicaid coverage gap [3] including Rep. Doggett's proposal to let local municipalities and other entities expand Medicaid if the state they are in fails to do so [4]. Does Sen. Padilla support including something like this in the bill?

Federal Judiciary: We would like to know who is on the senator's vetting/selection committee for appointments to the federal judiciary and DOJ.

DC Statehood: We thank Sen. Padilla for his support and want him to push for a vote in the Senate on the bill that passed the House.

Education and economic competitiveness: We're glad that he introduced legislation[5] to provide for students' basic needs at institutions of higher learning--this will drastically reduce student loan burdens for many lower-income students. Are there plans for getting it passed as part of either the American Jobs Plan or American Families Plan?

Inspectors General Access Act: We're concerned about the politicization of the DOJ and would like to see more safeguards in place. Although we have confidence in AG Garland, we would like to see the special carve-out of DOJ attorneys repealed and would like the Senator to support and co-sponsor the Inspector General Access Act[6].

No first use of nuclear weapons: We'd like the Senator to support the Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act[7].

AUMFs Repeal: The House recently passed the repeal of the 2002 Iraq AUMF, the Senate must take it up and pass repeal. A forever war that was started with a justification based on lies and confessions made under torture needs to end. Biden has already said that he will sign the repeal of the authorizations. Will the Senator commit to repeal of both 2001 and 2002 AUMFs?

Immigration: We thank Sen. Padilla for his HOPE for Afghan SIVs Act[8] bill. Is there a plan to hold a vote? How can we help?

References:

1. Treene A. Schumer to begin budget reconciliation process on Wednesday [Internet]. 2021 [cited 2021 Jun 19]. Available from: <https://www.axios.com/schumer-budget-reconciliation-infrastructure-c46929a7-7f26-4292-8237-9b8c49e483d2.html>
2. Adragna A. Biden pitched a bold climate vision. He may be watching it die in Congress. POLITICO [Internet]. POLITICO; 2021 Jun 10 [cited 2021 Jun 12]; Available from: <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/06/10/biden-climate-agenda-492726>
3. Congressional Tri-Caucus Leaders Call for Biden Administration to Address Medicaid Coverage Gap with American Families Plan [Internet]. 2021 [cited 2021 Jun 20]. Available from: <https://robinkelly.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/congressional-tri-caucus-leaders-call-for-biden-administration-to>
4. COVER Now Act: Empowering Local Governments to Overcome Obstruction to Medicaid Expansion [Internet]. 2021 [cited 2021 Jun 20]. Available from: <https://doggett.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/cover-now-act-empowering-local-governments-overcome-obstruction-medicaid>
5. Padilla A. A bill to provide for the basic needs of students at institutions of higher education [Internet]. 2004 Jun 10, 2021. Available from: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2004>
6. Durbin RJ. Inspector General Access Act of 2021 [Internet]. 426 Feb 24, 2021. Available from: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/426>
7. Markey EJ. A bill to restrict the first-use strike of nuclear weapons [Internet]. 1148 Apr 15, 2021. Available from: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1148>
8. Padilla, Cornyn Introduce Bill to Speed Up Immigration Process for Afghan Interpreters Who Assisted US Forces [Internet]. 2021 [cited 2021 Jun 20]. Available from: <https://www.padilla.senate.gov/press-releases/padilla-cornyn-introduce-bill-to-speed-up-immigration-process-for-afghan-interpreters-who-assisted-us-forces/>