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**Postcard Party #93 November 2, 2018**

**National**

**DEMAND ACTION AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE**

The United States has more guns per capita than any other peer nation; Americans constitute about 4% of the world's population but own 42% of all civilian firearms. On average, there is a mass shooting almost every day of the year in the United States, and the nation has far higher rates of gun homicides than any other developed nation

* Congress can close legal loopholes that allow people to buy guns without background checks from private sellers, websites, or gun shows; a move that over 80% of gun owners support.
* Congress can institute universal background checks for both gun and ammo purchasers and require gun licenses, all measures supported by the vast majority of Americans.
* Congress can reinstate the assault weapons ban that expired in 2004, or pass new legislation banning the purchase of high-capacity magazines and military-style assault weapons.

**Demand that Senators Burr and Tillis and Congressman Meadows take action to reduce the epidemic of gun violence in the United States.**

**TRUMP’S WORDS HAVE CONSEQUENCES**

Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) says that President Trump does not meet his standard for presidential behavior and language, saying "I think the president needs to be more clear in his rhetoric, and doesn't need to be as caustic in his rhetoric." His comments follow a deadly mass shooting Saturday at a Jewish synagogue in Pittsburgh and the attempted bombing last week of several top Democrats. Lawmakers and others have warned that political rhetoric is likely contributing to an environment that encourages such violence.

Demand that Senators Burr and Tillis and Congressman Meadows join Sen. Lankford in speaking out against Trump’s harmful rhetoric.

**DEMAND THE SENATE BLOCK US-SAUDI ARMS DEALS**

Evidence is growing that a hit squad with ties to the Saudi Arabian government murdered journalist and permanent US resident Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul. Amid the outrage over Khashoggi’s death, Saudi Arabia continues its US-backed bombing campaign in Yemen as part of a proxy war with Iran. Saudi air strikes have killed hundreds of Yemeni civilians, including a school bus full of children, and put up to 14 million people in the country at risk of famine.

Donald Trump has reiterated his support of continued arms deals with Saudi Arabia despite the regime’s atrocities. However, a growing bipartisan coalition in the Senate is demanding the US discontinue arms deals with and other military support for Saudi Arabia.

**Demand that Senators Burr and Tillis oppose any future arms deals with or military support for Saudi Arabia. The regime must be held accountable for its ongoing slaughter of civilians in Yemen and its assassination of journalist and permanent US resident Jamal Khashoggi.**

**State**

**PROTECT THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND PROTECTIONS FOR PREEXISTING CONDITIONS**

The Trump administration has ordered the Department of Justice not to defend the ACA against a frivolous lawsuit from GOP-controlled states. In February of 2018, Texas and 19 other GOP-controlled states filed a suit with a Texas court against the legality of key provisions in the ACA, including consumer protections for non-elderly Americans with preexisting conditions. The suit arose after Republicans repealed the individual tax penalty for being uninsured as part of their package of tax cuts for the wealthy. As a result, the ACA still includes a provision requiring people to buy health insurance, but the tax penalty enforcing this provision will be absent starting in January of 2019. In their suit, the states argue that the ACA’s insurance requirement is unconstitutional in the absence of this tax penalty.

Legal experts from across the political spectrum agreed the red states’ suit was on shaky legal ground. However, on June 7, the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a brief in support of the suit, urging the court to invalidate many of the ACA’s consumer protections.

Sixteen Democratic-led states and DC have filed a countersuit in defense of the ACA. North Carolina is one of them.

**Write Governor Cooper (North Carolina Office of the Governor, 20301 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-0301) to thank the state for joining the countersuit to protect the ACA.**