



## Pennsylvania Council of Churches Ministry of Public Advocacy



### News and Action Summary for December 20, 2022

#### Empowering people of faith to make a difference for the common good!

We are in the final days before Christmas, when we who are Christians again celebrate the birth of the Christ child. John the Evangelist wrote of Jesus, "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it." (John 1:3b-5, NRSV) We recognize that not everyone who reads this newsletter is Christian, but we pray that the spirit of this season in the forms of light, love, joy, compassion, generosity, hospitality, and justice may infuse your lives and the lives of all those you love, and all those whom nobody loves, save for God (Ed. Note—the last part is a nod/shout out to my recently retired pastor, Rev. Thomas Sweet). Happy Hanukkah to our Jewish neighbors, Happy Kwanzaa to all who celebrate, and good health, safety, and happiness to all for the coming year.



This is our final News and Action Summary for 2022.

#### SUPPORT US

We hope you will support this ministry with a generous gift, or even better a monthly gift. You can help us by going to <https://pachurches.org/shop/> where you will find our address and links to make your donation. If you want to support advocacy, scroll down the page to find the links for Public Witness Ministry.

Here's some "News You Can Use":

- [Home Energy Assistance Program Opens November 1](#)
- [PA Open Enrollment for Health Insurance Begins Nov. 1](#)—enrollment remains open till January 15

Many actions are available, and you can learn more in the articles below.

If you are interested in any programs that would help you to gain greater understanding and ability to be an effective advocate, contact Sandy Strauss at [s.strauss@pachurches.org](mailto:s.strauss@pachurches.org).

To learn about how to keep informed between these updates, go to <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org>. As usual, we understand that there is a lot of information here and in the links provided for further information. **Please know that you aren't expected to act on everything! Just choose the issues that are most important to you and do something!** Sometimes you will be directed to action pages of other organizations—**don't worry!** These are organizations that we work with regularly and who share a common interest.

Please consider contacting your legislators to thank them when they support your position as well, or to express your disappointment when they don't. We don't follow up with them often enough. They need our feedback to understand how we feel. Go to <https://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5415/getLocal4.jsp> to find a summary of your federal and state legislators with basic contact information.

Our [website](#) is updated regularly. If there is something you would really like to see that isn't there, please contact us at [s.trauss@pachurches.org](mailto:s.trauss@pachurches.org).

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### **URGENT ACTIONS**

If you don't have time for any other actions, please consider taking action on these issues!

Note that there are lots of urgent actions because we are coming to the end of the legislative session and many are tied to funding decisions that are being made now.

[Tell Congress to Expand the Child Tax Credit Now](#)—NEW

[Tell Congress to “Get Their Ducks in a Row” During Lame Duck to Support Families](#)—NEW

[Urge Senate to Reauthorize Trade Adjustment Assistance Before the Year Ends](#)—NEW

[STREAM Act Passed the Senate—Tell the House to Pass It As Well](#)—NEW

[Urge Congress to Curb Overdose Deaths by Passing the MAT Act Before the Holidays](#)

[Tell Congress to Pass the Electoral Count Reform Act Before the Next Congress](#)

[Tell Congress to Invest in Critical Needs Programs Before the End of the Year](#)

[Tell Congress to Include Medicaid and CHIP Funding in End-of-Year Bill](#)

[Act Now to Protect Homelessness and Rental Assistance Funding](#)

[Sign the End of the Year “To-Do” List to Congress](#)

[Tell Congress to Pass Permanent Protections for DACA Recipients by the End of 2022](#)

[Tell Congress to Pass a Robust and Progressive Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill](#)

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### **NEW ACTIONS**

[Tell the President to Demand Release of Women from Berks, Not Transfer](#)—NEW

[Tell Congress to Pass Citizenship Legislation for DREAMers Now](#)—NEW

[Demand That State and Federal Lawmakers End Contracts with Private Prisons](#)—NEW

[Tell Congress to Raise Black Lung Benefits Levels](#)—NEW

[Urge the Biden Administration to Grant Endangered Species Protections for Manatees](#)—NEW

[Tell the USDA to Plant Prairie Habitat for the Bees](#)—NEW

[Tell the President: Don't Give Away Social Security and Medicare in “Grand Bargain”](#)—NEW

[Tell Congress to Pass Retirement Legislation That Protects the Many, Not Just the Wealthy Few](#)—NEW

[Urge the President to Direct the Social Security Administration to Stop Penalizing Marriage](#)—NEW

[Tell Congress to Strengthen Youth Constitutional Right to Vote](#)—NEW

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### **ONGOING ACTIONS**

[Urge Your US Representative to Co-Sponsor the Environmental Justice for All Act](#)

[Take Action to Support Asylum Seekers](#)

[Sign Now to Help At-Risk Afghans in the US](#)

[Urge Congress to Set 200K Refugee Admissions Goal for FY 2023](#)

[Tell Congress to Expand Insulin Copay to All Americans](#)

[Tell Congress to Save Lives by Capping the Price of Insulin](#)

[Tell Our Senators to Vote for Assault Weapons Ban](#)

[Tell Congress to Fund the RECOMPETE Act](#)

[Tell Congress No More Corporate Tax Breaks](#)

[Sign Now to Tell Congress to Pass the DISCLOSE Act and Overturn Citizens United](#)

[Urge the President to Take Major Action to Protect Voting Rights and Our Democracy](#)

[Tell Congress to Pass the Equality Act](#)

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### **IMPORTANT AND TIME SENSITIVE NEWS!**

[So Much Happening: Here's How You Can Keep Informed Between Updates](#)

[Summary of All News Posts Since Previous Update](#)

[Progressive Lawmakers Demand Fraud Probe Into Medicare Privatization Scheme](#)

[How Medicare Advantage Plans Dodged Auditors and Overcharged Taxpayers by Millions](#)

['Outrageous Betrayal': Pennsylvania Lifts Fracking Ban in Polluted Town of Dimock](#)

[Biden Unveils Plan to Reduce Homelessness 25% by 2025](#)

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### **EVENTS**

**For a full monthly calendar of events**, see the Events page at <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/events/>.

**For a listing with descriptions of events**, go to <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/events/list/>.

**For general information about our calendar, links to ongoing events, and how to submit events**, go to <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/events/about-our-calendar/>.

Ongoing/upcoming events:

[Book Study: Invisible Men](#)—5 sessions, beginning January 12

[Living the Golden Rule: Faith Climate Action Week 2023](#)—April 14-23, 2023

[Caring for Creation with PA IPL](#)—First Fridays, October 2022-June 2023

[Moral Mondays—Sign Up for Notifications](#)

[Freedom Church of the Poor](#)—Sundays 6-7:30

Events in the coming weeks:

[Fix Harrisburg Rally](#)—January 3, Harrisburg

[Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast](#)—January 16, Harrisburg

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### **OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES TO LEARN AND ACT**

For postings since the previous Summary...

[Resources](#)

[Opportunities](#)

[Jobs, internships and fellowships](#)

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### **NEWS POSTS**

Visit our [weblog](#) for the latest news and information. For previous News Summaries, go to <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/news-summary/news-summary-archive/>. Also, check out specific issue-related posts by clicking on links on the right side of the page.

Subscribe to our weblog via e-mail (see link at bottom of [home page](#)).

[Summary of most recent News Posts.](#)

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### **SUPPORT THE COUNCIL'S ADVOCACY WORK**

**Find us on Facebook** at <https://www.facebook.com/PACHurchesAdvocacy>.

**Follow us on Twitter** at <http://twitter.com/pachrchadvocacy>.

**Follow us on Instagram** at <https://www.instagram.com/pachurchadvocacy/>.

**Subscribe to our YouTube channel** at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCunqnFIOcrIn\\_o715zhlTIA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCunqnFIOcrIn_o715zhlTIA).

If you received this message from a friend, **sign up for Pennsylvania Council of Churches Advocacy e-mails** at [http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5415/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup\\_page\\_KEY=531](http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5415/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=531).

**Financial support for the Council's Advocacy Ministry is always welcome!** Go to our online support page at <https://www.pachurches.org/shop/> and look for "Public Advocacy Donation."

And finally...**PLEASE FORWARD THIS E-MAIL!**

**Empowering people of faith to make a difference for the common good!**