**RESEARCH REPORT FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 24, 2017**

We may all enjoy reading the following article from the New Yorker:

[The Trump Resistance: A Progress Report](http://www.newyorker.com/news/john-cassidy/the-trump-resistance-a-progress-report?intcid=mod-latest)

1. **Health Care – New House Republican Plan**

**Summary**

* New House Republican plan: NYT reported that the White House, eager for a victory in Trump’s first 100 days, is pushing to revive the ACA repeal bill with a vote next week. House leadership and the WH have been searching for a version of their repeal bill that would meet the needs of enough moderates and Freedom Caucus conservatives to pass out of the House.
  + [NYT - WH Officials, Craving Progress, Push Revised Health Bill](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/20/us/politics/affordable-care-act-house-republicans-trump.html)
  + [NPR - New GOP Health Proposal Could Ditch Protections For People Who Are Sick](http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/04/20/524881039/new-gop-health-proposal-could-ditch-protections-for-people-who-are-sick)
  + [WaPo - Health insurers asked Trump admin for reassurance on Obamacare. They didn’t get it.](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/04/18/health-insurers-asked-the-trump-administration-for-reassurance-on-obamacare-they-didnt-get-it/?hpid=hp_hp-more-top-stories_insurers-430pm%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.f47a58fb508d)

**Talking Points**

* The latest version of the repeal bill would maintain the ACA’s essential health benefits, required coverage for pre-existing conditions (community rating) and maintaining coverage for youths until they are 26. But it would provide a waiver option for states regarding these provisions if they set up a high-risk pool. States would have to either lower premium costs, increase the number of those covered, “advance the benefit to the public interest” of the state.
* If a state took the option, health plans could charge sick people far more for insurance, making it unaffordable, and offer plans with far less coverage. While such states would have to set up high-risk pools, the bill does not provide the funding support to make them work. Past state pools and the ACA transition pool all ran out of funding so quickly that the pools did not provide promised coverage, leaving those with pre-existing conditions without coverage. Waiver states could also eliminate the essential health benefits included in the ACA.
* House Republicans still appear not to have the votes to move the bill, although they are close. The White House is pushing for a vote Wednesday, April 26.
* New amendment to the previous Republican bill has not been made publicly available as of early Saturday.

**Our Members of Congress**

* All of our MoCs are opposed to repealing the ACA.

**To Do:**

* Kudos to Denny Heck: @RepDennyHeck – Thanks for standing against TrumpCare.

**To Do from the National Indivisible Group**

**Zombie TrumpCare:** Trump just won’t let this one die, as it should. Humiliated by the failure of the House to bring his TrumpCare bill for a vote, Donald Trump is still demanding that Congress pass his ACA repeal bill. But as the White House and congressional Republicans continue to make changes to their TrumpCare bill, they’ve [only managed to make it worse](http://click.actionnetwork.org/mpss/c/6wA/ni0YAA/t.26p/EcklvPm3QMmzcxLbzQflkQ/h15/lCdLfXUvs8BQ5jW7UAH6rh3rerTY7D1m3NDtk7baliZsTYrKIT9UGW5azGqSVMYn6i7vTnn-2BgGF8-2B2sBWFpKAVM-2FjBZ26URuOunYpun363FNqLIx4npKIax9AHH5gsfvyK9zmakwUlMLtodL0DHsK31i9rVKCM5Lg6XjQ-2BJJyf56IOQ9iRl8uGu93q2wOx67PorX9bAKKxmQdvkOZMggJf4XPAWz0Ir0TzA5Oi4VN1Qdr7GMbHDIlW3n2jEsd0zfApBVkLtn7xDU8vh7j9beMBU7kCAzlPgFVEixhdb6CGLA45ecnJVtAhq8pBa7J0tZVusLmciO8sUQ9-2BmrPz-2FaBl23gTefvMABsIhBnKLNfKuebQ2OHiWHkvd7nRBRbjpsgG5zSkbC-2FbQNVfWkkbi0uw-3D-3D). What hasn’t changed is the devastation the bill will cause: at least 24 million Americans would lose their coverage, premiums would increase, and people with pre-existing conditions could face astronomical premiums.

That’s why it’s critical that your Representative continue to hear from your group. Tell them that you don’t want them wasting any more time on TrumpCare.

For additional resources and talking points, see our “[Obamacare is the law of the land”](http://click.actionnetwork.org/mpss/c/6wA/ni0YAA/t.26p/EcklvPm3QMmzcxLbzQflkQ/h16/JNf0fhVOZMpEUe3Jt5f8HLVP-2BF5uwh97RsRQRYQRHDqSO0fD2E-2BpUM3vsQad481LvC2h0uCv13lhSispvoIo2OU7lKddEbBm3vBDpSFwWPAe1eMjbevfW2cwwgY8Ah6KaIOMDWisgi2XFEPcjcE3qhGS8aaup19V3-2BCBXnF8FOoL8Y4cwoXPLfb8kw04G6uhL8VkICZ68-2BdjHgo9SKH2QfKrJoXK4Yp1jyj6OIHZy1cKg-2BI8SK8wv4t0zbx6V1A8aFbHsbAgKdJaH3Hstg8xuchfwQmFH-2Fkk8zWFFBSt6DO91yJbcX1V-2F8MRmKwriinEvfIYf5ymaa957edE3uRzFS4VYqFu0ZBEpwUxdjSTG2J-2F6TZWhJ5f1DeTEwH4KhkEga59hI3Md4zlGFLfUdX21jZs9p2atF7Cvj4ctx1yxPc-3D) guide:

* I was glad to see that Representative Heck was not willing to cross party lines and vote for TrumpCare.  I’m afraid that Republicans will try to force Democrats to negotiate on coverage and benefits in a future replacement plan, especially in the guise of an ACA “fix.”
  + Can you promise me that you won’t compromise on coverage and benefits for anyone currently eligible for the ACA?
  + Will you commit to pressuring the administration to make the Affordable Care Act work so that I have access to options for coverage next year?
  + Will you commit to appropriating money to fund cost sharing for those who qualify for it?
  + Will you commit to funding education efforts, like advertisements, so that I know when to sign up for a new plan?
  + Can you also assure me that Medicaid will remain an entitlement, and that anyone eligible will be guaranteed coverage?
  + Can you assure me that funding for Medicaid won’t get cut under any replacement plan?

1. **Immigration / Muslim ban 2.0 / Building the Wall**

**Summary and Talking Points**

* Deportation force: The Washington Post reported that the Trump administration is identifying ways to assemble the “deportation force” Trump talked about in his campaign. The paper obtained an internal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) assessment that showed that DHS has already found 33,000 more detention beds to house undocumented immigrants, opened discussions with dozens of local police forces that could be empowered with enforcement authority and identified where construction of the proposed border wall could begin. DHS is considering ways to speed up the hiring of hundreds of new Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) officers.
  + [WaPo - Planning for Trump's deportation force](https://www.washingtonpost.com/apps/g/page/politics/planning-for-trumps-deportation-force/2194/)
* The costs of hiring 5,000 new CBP agents and 10,000 more ICE agents, as Trump has proposed would be over $3 billion. The Border Patrol is moving ahead with construction of a border wall prototype for $20 million that was appropriated in March, with completion of the prototype by July 22.
* CBP also is laying the groundwork to hold immigration-court hearings through video conferences at or near US ports of entry if Mexican government agrees to house third-country immigrants awaiting adjudication in the U.S. legal system. However, the Mexican government has balked at such a procedure, related to significant jurisdictional concerns.

**From the National Indivisible Group**

* **Take Action for Immigrants**
  + **This Thursday, join Indivisible and the National Immigration Law Center on Facebook Live to talk about what you can do to support immigrant families.** On Thursday, April 27 at 9 PM ET/6 PM PT, join Indivisible and the National Immigration Law Center (NILC) for a Facebook Live event where we will discuss the upcoming May 1 [Rise Up](http://click.actionnetwork.org/mpss/c/6wA/ni0YAA/t.26p/EcklvPm3QMmzcxLbzQflkQ/h1/LOmoeKxFfb5runFCWG7GhjDrz-2B1SADEKW5vuO6dniLKNKNWp4vcnJZ8LGnJScrUzzmCBobMnfoGmsXp1otILttuFP7FQ-2BwdSPFujkKOp28gSB4TJsKFspr9ga2oSxmpQMPYvMyxOLJELiwU7ShcVHHRhvEhzw-2BlwKE1tipHCrnLP7-2BuUgEwZrwa5e82lwe0iZOH-2ByMianUX-2BcXJfFeR0fx7Vlc7ADg8NohFcVTOIfaZO30ZKBf-2FB44luNKvJBQkjSf-2BcgbEGfjqExAkiG8jI2yLgVeRA1vmK6s3-2Blfb3SSDqtAOEXyJurTFiqUE1YQOo7fFd1qrNtOpgOP3JVabc7DeuGd4xiY7os7tEynBc6JA0iaKxnZhFusgncgIxdRCE) marches in support of immigrant families. Immigration experts will be on hand to answer your questions about Trump’s efforts to tear families apart, sanctuary cities, and how you can support immigrants. [RSVP to get a reminder and other streaming options now](http://click.actionnetwork.org/mpss/c/6wA/ni0YAA/t.26p/EcklvPm3QMmzcxLbzQflkQ/h2/WQ-2BlIwq7W2eCmkkcwbDiBbbPwUfyzAVeutdE2lG-2FrPeZ3kYXWNxCv2HsVqE1jS7tNiuvn3DG3tUBKDM1-2F5Gg0x0nndC5Gt3e8sZHZ9EIoNQ8QR5-2Bfsiw1AHirt8yUier4T2BxytRh8MdfCbSFio1PQTGmvOO9i6iYX5mhSCPRdtXgUiVBDkRWrlR3D57h5IlbkmthnN-2FzpboyOMzlRpPj1cKbVkYcIqpcv9O0t-2B8qQ-2FDsUSBAeUFdUQT7KZawQgqhGIFVjrlciSlzwKMDLP0JHyg-2F2CnAqED8XOy9X-2FtDMN7yVOTbvjGmDTjFVzmza2E5hY9UcbejveRSxh1dBtT70uPA3E5K-2BQhu1q6GqLw0Ym8aQaU3pHgCAydPV-2FP10Aw). Submit all of your questions [here](http://click.actionnetwork.org/mpss/c/6wA/ni0YAA/t.26p/EcklvPm3QMmzcxLbzQflkQ/h3/JNf0fhVOZMpEUe3Jt5f8HLVP-2BF5uwh97RsRQRYQRHDogck8xsCVyVjtCdbtftM9C4YQhWNg-2BNACn0CmpoTStTVq0xMTcMnuUruLgrQ7ZOt07puzXyl5T8sgmzlpll6lr04KrUsG-2FV5cW-2Fa1gM-2BKvqxD4miXsxHICgVXsbSyxm5Ooi2CvP14JdenNlH4hrBfyaDF0QHlDWvwBAmK8y7b0UBKj4YmC35aa6ea89yWJpLieLkzSrn1bTgQh4z6WXSfdH0QoJkiWfVtru5RiS9ACljUVAzoghfhk8dHKbkZktBToiypzNRsmWb5zbRI4yh8mJFNTImuIyM2JMiyowzjd2wPlP3lyRc1pxmvKmmwq18irES1jYMtSzgqZmCIVYWcx) or by sending an email to [questions@indivisibleguide.com](mailto:questions@indivisibleguide.com?link_id=5&can_id=61d0b2547f4e2f39d1858f266002dc71&source=email-indivisible-leaders-whats-next-after-recess-2&email_referrer=indivisible-leaders-whats-next-after-recess-2&email_subject=indivisible-leaders-whats-next-after-recess).
* **May 1, Rise Up**
  + The attacks against immigrants and refugees have been nonstop, from the Muslim ban to Trump’s mass deportation force. It’s time we rise up and show our support for the immigrants and refugees who are fighting back. That’s why we’ve teamed up with the Fair Immigration Reform Movement for Rise Up, a nation-wide action for immigrants and allies to stand together and resist. [Rise up with us by attending an event near you!](http://click.actionnetwork.org/mpss/c/6wA/ni0YAA/t.26p/EcklvPm3QMmzcxLbzQflkQ/h5/BnvXALwXlpC1x7Ceu8LGdGsnfXzKeBi-2FGdQyF4juoMFn3pkt6Y9ZfK68jb34a3tJKFy7yabFJ3Ek7C-2BVd7YTgt6CsRBefiBAi4p0dpscIoGi3Wn9PMOqgUm5B96ZvxdSox-2FXK8TDK1ouu6VVmvjp9X43weM5XtUET7IeP9HIDz1vllc9vTpiz9tCtRHiMKjG1c6hFKo8tfLDofd1XejROgTxM-2FlcuVxWTlN4C9rkgnLhLGe1q68y0LescuIqvt3Utxcs-2BEw-2BPG5Z9ZUNw5Pd8iA-2B6v7nD9-2FPrdPWV-2FGseDHhq72GUFubSyCJeMJGAI5AiEXPt9-2FOBValMkiva1hNKA-3D-3D) Any attack on immigrants is an attack on all of us. Together we can shine a light on the path to freedom and end the cruelty against immigrants and refugees.
  + If you are interested in joining us to promote the Rise Up events across the country on May 1, [here’s a digital toolkit](http://click.actionnetwork.org/mpss/c/6wA/ni0YAA/t.26p/EcklvPm3QMmzcxLbzQflkQ/h6/TQq8raW4D-2FfUJzgtPOAKaanrcwi88QcpsTzJjjtSaq4XnfKKHKfMQnVqs2eEsfArnxOhSgSsC3Un134NtQanWjbS28GOlMs-2Bv1lKDWXT4hZbe9Rgx8uYfOm2f7E2b1stfg-2FfFZLzhjBSxrryljuH6bAtsJ69Rr9aeYYiWGN8-2FSkiAy-2F5vCdVlmfKJgdJoVTUfwT0Pg0HDYkHxIAAkneJ7-2BJ9SWiHUX7AaNbyIy8pW59mc-2BEo4L9cam8ObiBb-2BbdTzJYmDZ3z5tuD-2Fdw94vrGHnCrD0uMFLAwwiYD9kCWVozdzhPEN9fIholskzZbtumt2AXGjuvNbjGG49MCoVCRECo-2FGYf854JgfhC8SPySAC6qCh759IFV505hNKpltzkaQxw3DhWb1lsYK1NQnVRS8-2BrbhtHCYfPS8oCysMYhH28-3D) to get you started.

1. **HR 634 – Election Assistance Commission Termination Act**

**Summary**

* GOP-dominated Committee on House Administration voted to abolish the only "federal agency charged with upgrading our voting systems" and "helping to protect our elections from hacking.”
* During the same session, committee voted to abolish public financing for presidential elections by passing HR 133 Eliminating the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act

**Talking Points**

* Referred to House Committee on House Administration, then ordered to  be reported by the Yeas and Nays 6-3, 2/7/2017
* Bill has no cosponsors
* [Common Dreams - House GOP Quietly Moves to Kill Commission Charged With Securing Elections](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2017/02/07/house-gop-quietly-moves-kill-commission-charged-securing-elections?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=socialnetwork)

**To do**

* Phone or write to Congressman Heck to ask him to vote NO when the bill comes to the floor
  + Script: Congressman Heck, please vote NO on HR 634 and do everything you can to protect our free elections.

1. **The Environment and Climate Change**
2. **Paris Climate Accord**

**Summary**

* There has been significant disagreement in the Trump Administration over whether the US should withdraw from the Paris climate change accords which came into force just before the November election.

**Talking Points**

* The Administration plans to announce its views on the accord by late May, before a G-7 meeting in Italy. One WH faction, including Jared Kushner, Ivanka Trump, Rex Tillerson and others recommend remaining under the accord while another faction, including EPA director Scott Pruitt, Stephen Bannon, Steven Miller and VP Pence recommend exiting.
* Under the terms of the accord, it takes nearly four years for a nation to exit once the accord has gone into force. The actions already taken by the new administration make it unlikely that the US will meet its stated goals under the accord.
* The Trump Administration is likely to continue actions that make meeting its stated Paris accord goal unreachable. The latest are reports that he is likely to cut off contributions the US is making to the Green Climate Fund under the accord, which supports poorer nations efforts to meet their climate goals. Surprisingly, firms including ExxonMobil, support remaining in the accord because they argue that US firms are better positioned to compete globally if the US remains a party to the accord.
* One possibility is that the US could lower the goal it would commit to meeting under the accord. Currently that goal is that the US would lower greenhouse gas emissions 26-28% below their 2005 levels by 2025. Note that the global goals announced as part of the accord would still be far below what would be required to keep the global average temperature from rising less than 2 degrees Centigrade.
* Since those actions were announced, China and Europe have leaders in moving to reduce carbon emissions exceeding their commitments under the accord.

1. **Clean Air Act**

**To do**

* Provide EPA with comments about revising and repealing rules of the Clean Air act
  + The EPA has created a [page on Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OA-2017-0190-0042) where the public can comment on Trump’s March order instructing the EPA to review the rules of the Clean Air act and revise or repeal them. The order says it’s “the policy of the United States to alleviate unnecessary regulatory burdens placed on the American people."  As of April 22, it has already logged 4.642 comments, most of which appear to oppose repealing the air-quality regulations. Comment examples:
    - I am concerned about the rollback of EPA regulations and the negative effect this will have on our earth. We have made such progress in the past decade or two, and I am fearful of how this deregulation will effect all aspects of a clean environment. I am asking that the regulations stay in place. We need to put planet Earth first, ahead of corporate interests.
    - I am vehemently against rolling back any Climate Change regulations at the EPA. The renewables industry employs many more Americans than the fossil fuel industry. Rolling back the regulations as proposed by Donald Trump will hurt American jobs.
* The agency will also hold a teleconference from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. ET on April 24 — members of the public will have the opportunity to weigh in. You can find more information on the EPA's regulatory reform process on [its website](https://www.epa.gov/clean-air-act-overview/oar-regulatory-reform).

1. **Washington ESHB 2200 - Protecting the privacy and security of internet users.**

**Summary**

* The President recently signed a measure dismantling [landmark internet privacy protections](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/28/technology/fcc-tightens-privacy-rules-for-broadband-providers.html) for consumers in the first decisive strike against telecommunications and technology regulations created during the Obama administration. The move means Verizon, Comcast or AT&T can continue tracking and sharing people’s browsing and app activity without permission, with more power to collect data on people and sell sensitive information.
* The Washington state House of Representatives passed ESHB 2200 on April 19, with a vote of 89-10. The bill was read into the Senate on April 21.
  + [Sea Times - WA state lawmakers move to secure internet privacy](http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/state-lawmakers-move-to-secure-internet-privacy-after-changes-to-federal-law/)

**Talking Points**

* ESHB 2200 states the following:
  + Except with the opt-in approval of the customer, a Broadband Internet Access Service provider may not:
    - Sell or transfer customer proprietary information; or
    - Send or display to a customer an advertisement selected to be sent or displayed based on the customer's proprietary information.

**Our Washington State Senator**

* The Washington state Senator for Legislative District 22 is Sam Hunt.

**To do**

* Ask Senator Sam Hunt to support ESHB 2200
  + Contact information – Olympia Office - 405 Legislative Building - PO Box 40422 -Olympia, WA 98504 - (360) 786 - 7642
  + [Link to Send an Email to Senator Sam Hunt](https://app.leg.wa.gov/pbc/memberEmail/22/0)

1. **The Budget, Government Shutdown and the Debt Ceiling**

**Summary and Talking Points**

* Short-Term Budget Bill
  + Under pressure from Trump to achieve success before he is in office 100 days, with the short-term bill, the WH has requested $33 billion in new defense and border spending and $18 billion in cuts to other priorities, including over $7 billion in cuts from labor, health and education programs, as well as cuts to the NIH and FEMA.
  + Senate Democrats have said they would not vote for these short-term budget items. A bill must be passed by April 28 to avoid government shut-down. The bill would require 60 votes to come to a final vote. Democrats may support more military spending and possibly new technology for border security, but wall funding or cutting Planned Parenthood are untenable. Congressional leadership does not want a shutdown.
* Debt Limit
  + The current limit on legal borrowing expired March 15. Treasury secretary Mnuchin informed Congress that his is using extraordinary measures to keep the US from exceeding its legal debt limit. These measures will be exhausted in the fall, when a large payment to the military retirement trust fund is due. If tax revenues are lower than projected, that date could come sooner. It is reported that Mnuchin wants a clean debt limit bill to be passed by Congress, but that OMB director Mick Mulvaney wants to use the debt limit to pressure Congress to approve key elements of the Trump budget.

**To do from the National Indivisible Group**

* When your MoCs come back to Washington next week, they will have to pass a stopgap funding bill, known as a “CR” ([Continuing Resolution](http://click.actionnetwork.org/mpss/c/6wA/ni0YAA/t.26p/EcklvPm3QMmzcxLbzQflkQ/h17/JNf0fhVOZMpEUe3Jt5f8HLVP-2BF5uwh97RsRQRYQRHDqF6mkr98pYvb0h-2FHxV2l8iN-2FC2AhtKy47-2BG0y53SjSzfNgZzdPSRpxKk8cWiquqLLP-2BEgDnt1s3DGTMNVsqO197JXWc2-2FNJ-2FTqtB6tOn-2BNvSJm1M8lJ3Rp80YOjif3G4OKTngGRHiCakD56v9LOVv3eJ-2BPlfruPN-2FHj-2FlbVPAyJb1jxLpvuh8GGl-2Bv-2FfTMIB5RgPuNR5P876lJDbAAe61eHYri13DnrybSgaroAhUuuQPY5KRT9Z15CiH9yugxvH2oQY69jYOlWhNnQFv-2FJkeduj9Ah7V9kGFdp7dvBjHqp7U-2B1jhuqWeeaJ4qLv3Mmo5bTrb6eiALF-2FAnIQVM-2F0px-2FTX3rEvlIUhEiW-2Fo5kkkeEf-2F2TESU2enWjBpamhwK9WaWqBqPqDW3yVbPSLESrgz)), to fund the government past April 28. But with his 100-day report card looming on that same day, Trump is desperate for any legislative win he can get—so much so that his cronies in Congress may be willing to risk a government shutdown by including unpopular [policy riders](http://click.actionnetwork.org/mpss/c/6wA/ni0YAA/t.26p/EcklvPm3QMmzcxLbzQflkQ/h18/JNf0fhVOZMpEUe3Jt5f8HLVP-2BF5uwh97RsRQRYQRHDqF6mkr98pYvb0h-2FHxV2l8iN-2FC2AhtKy47-2BG0y53SjSzWHJHiuKL3YuVWxodInV1rkXB2cWtOYZTPSQUA-2F0QkkF4TXVTyJJjOFEXK-2FaRCVSHX-2Bb0YzSfgh-2FzP9xVa-2BfNYI8rzFyuLeJrJLCMLZM57aqhJcle-2FZwRKhkjXt398phss8zqr-2Fy1-2FZEDga78aSVfOGscE0HA-2B74JwFb6fAlSiW-2BPkDbdJGMsNT2edKTE0zsNGivEV2-2BO5iThaejq22Wv8h1aOt9WGjv44uI1l-2B-2Fv7Ehk8arWgcr8KCSbcP41qrlAlBm4xcZ7eX7awssWgGONclf-2F1Y-2F8EV8eW8rYOVIYOD-2FNLkwoFWLDtM90-2F3-2BNd5XVOnIpVw80uTPe333-2BA-2F0Muc-3D) in the funding bill, such as:
  + Defunding of ACA subsidies that millions of Americans rely on
  + Defunding Planned Parenthood and other family planning initiatives
  + Additional funding for Trump’s mass deportation force, including his border wall, detention facilities, and more ICE agents
  + Restricting federal funding for cities that take up sanctuary policies
  + Defunding the EPA and other climate protection programs
* Ask your MoC not to risk a shutdown and to [oppose policy riders in any CR.](http://click.actionnetwork.org/mpss/c/6wA/ni0YAA/t.26p/EcklvPm3QMmzcxLbzQflkQ/h19/JNf0fhVOZMpEUe3Jt5f8HLVP-2BF5uwh97RsRQRYQRHDqF6mkr98pYvb0h-2FHxV2l8iN-2FC2AhtKy47-2BG0y53SjSzfNgZzdPSRpxKk8cWiquqLLP-2BEgDnt1s3DGTMNVsqO19Uvso4e8iXazp7DiRqvR-2BtFi46)
* The other big thing out there is the need to pass a bill extending government spending by April 28, only 3 days after members return. Democrats are using the leverage they have on this to set conditions for their cooperation, because Freedom Caucus likely won’t cooperate.

1. **Russia**

**Summary**

* Connections between the Trump campaign and Russian interference in our election continue to be unearthed. Links to Russia have included Carter Page, Paul Manafort, Roger Stone, Michael Flynn, Michael Cohen, Jared Kushner, and Jeff Sessions, among others.
  + [ABC - Russia tried to use advisers to infiltrate Trump campaign, report says](http://www.abc15.com/news/national/russia-tried-to-use-advisers-to-infilitrate-trump-campaign-report-says)

**Talking Points**

* Mike Conaway (TX), who is leading the House Intelligence Committee inquiry into Russian interference in the election, said he doubts that Trump associates colluded with the Russians, though he has seen little evidence of any kind yet. Also, House Intelligence Committee members and staff have said that the information reviewed by Nunes does not reveal any misconduct by Susan Rice, former NSA under President Obama. They said there is no evidence that any unmasking of Americans in intercepted communications with Russians or others was inappropriate or was misused. This was in sharp contrast to the story Nunes told in a number of separate press conferences.
* The NYT reported that it was Carter Page’s visit to Moscow in the summer of 2016 that led the FBI to investigate possible Russian involvement in the election campaign.
  + [NYT - Trump Adviser’s Visit to Moscow Got the FBI's Attention](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/19/us/politics/carter-page-russia-trump.html)
* Rachel Maddow reported that Mike Quigley, Democratic member of the House Intelligence committee, went to Cyprus to talk to their banking officials about Paul Manafort, the Bank of Cyprus and the alleged money-laundering in which he was involved.
* There have been press reports stating that the FBI now has a 40-person group working in DC on the Russian election hacking investigation.
* Kremlin think tank report: Reuters reported that a Russian government think tank, the Russian Institute for Strategic Studies, controlled by Putin developed a plan to swing the US presidential election to Trump and to undermine voters’ faith in the US electoral system.
  + [Reuters - Putin-linked think tank drew up plan to sway 2016 US election](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-russia-election-exclusive-idUSKBN17L2N3)
  + The first document (June 2016) recommended a propaganda campaign on social media and Russian news outlets. The second document (October 2016) argued that it was better to focus on messaging on voter fraud and work to undermine the legitimacy of the US electoral system to undermine a Clinton presidency.
  + The officials said that hacking of Democratic Party emails was a covert intelligence operation run separately out of the Kremlin. Meanwhile, the documents describe efforts that resulted in planted stories on social media using bots, Russian hackers and hired US hackers.

1. **Help Elect Manka Dinghra for Washington State Senate District 45**

**Summary**

* Denny Heck suggested that we can make a difference by channeling progressive resources to winnable races in several state and federal elections. One is helping to elect Manka Dinghra for the Washington State Senate District 45. A win would mean that the Democrats would have a true majority in the WA State Senate.
  + [SDP Dossier for Manka Dhingra](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_Kv5PXjzP2bam14QTdTS2dKMW5JZU13RUVla2Z3SzFxV05v/view)
  + [Manka's Election Website](Manka's%20Election%20Website)

**To Do (from the Sister District team)**

* [**Sign up here**](https://www.sisterdistrict.com/wass45)**to volunteer for SDP activities in support of Manka**, and let us know which activities you’re interested in: phone-banking, fundraising, postcard writing, and canvassing/traveling to the district.
* **Join the**[**Sister District Facebook group**](https://www.facebook.com/groups/167847760405526/)**for your Sister Race.**
* We’re also coordinating closely with **Manka’s campaign team**, which will also reach out to you for next steps on phone-bank parties and canvassing, if you indicate your interest in those activities. We’ve prepared a [Sister Race Orientation Guide](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KZvNHdkRGS4dQLOyoseOcD4VkaG5lygQ5RthJCUv4RU/edit?usp=sharing) for you that explains this information in more detail.
* Let us know you’re in.
  + **Donate** to kick start Sister District’s support of Manka’s campaign. We suggest $20.17, but no amount is too small. Please follow [this link](https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/sd_wa45) to donate, and we’ll keep you updated on the progress of building this early war chest! All of your donations will go directly to the candidate, not to us at SDP.
  + **Commit**to volunteering at least once before November. Fill out this [quick form](https://www.sisterdistrict.com/wass45) to let us know what you’re interested in doing (e.g. phone-banking, canvassing, postcards, etc.), and we’ll reach out to you soon with more details.
  + **Mark your calendar** to meet Manka and attend the Sister District volunteer orientation training on Saturday, May 13 from 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm at [Phinney Neighborhood Association](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Phinney+Neighborhood+Association/@47.676458,-122.3553356,16.5z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x54901439e6698893:0xf1c816bd5e6a1243!8m2!3d47.6771685!4d-122.3540473) in Seattle. And if you’re not local, this will be recorded so you can watch it later!
* **Boost the signal.**
  + **Follow**Manka on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/electmanka/) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/dhingrama?lang=en).
  + **Show** your support of Manka by sharing [**this announcement**](http://us14.campaign-archive2.com/?e=c3f0436bd5&u=95c1790c069f4caeb12695a3d&id=8ce2e16a1c) on your social media. Tag Manka to let her know that Sister District has her back, and to help spread the word!
  + **Join** the [Sister District for Manka Facebook group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/167847760405526/).
  + **Forward** this email to friends and family who might still be looking for their place in the resistance. And if you know anyone in or near the Sister Race community, reach out to let them know that you are supporting Manka, and ask them whether they’d like to learn more.
* Learn the issues.
  + **Review** the [*SDP Dossier for Manka Dhingra*](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_Kv5PXjzP2bam14QTdTS2dKMW5JZU13RUVla2Z3SzFxV05v/view) that we’ve prepared as a brief introduction to your Sister Race.
  + **Research**your Sister Race’s community in and near WA-45, and share it with your other team members. You may want to set up a [Google alert](https://www.google.com/alerts) about Manka (and her opponents), and start checking out local periodicals.
* After you’ve taken care of the action items on the above list, mark your calendar for Tuesday, May 2 at 5:30 pm PT for a Facebook Live Town Hall with SDP HQ. We’re excited to provide updates on what we’ve been up to, and we’re looking forward to answering questions.