

Petitions that the JPIC Office has signed in 2009

Names of Petition	Action	Updates on Petition:
Summer 2009		
"Pass the Matthew Shepard Act"	Via on-line	While all violent crimes are heinous, hate crimes are uniquely destructive, casting a pall of terror over an entire community. They don't just target a single victim. They are designed to "send a message" that an individual and "their kind" will not be tolerated, often leaving large numbers of people feeling isolated, vulnerable and unprotected. A law protecting all of our citizens against senseless hate violence is long overdue. The Matthew Shepard Act was adopted as an amendment to S.1390 by a vote of 63-28 on July 15, 2009. Thank you to everyone who helped make this success possible! To read more on this update visit Interfaith Alliance news room @ http://www.interfaithalliance.org/the-news . Update: Interfaith Alliance Statement on the Passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, to read more click this link http://www.interfaithalliance.org/news/332-interfaith-alliance-statement-on-the-passage-of-the-matthew-shepard-local-law-enforcement-hate-crimes-prevention-act
"Help END the #1 genetic killer of young children!	Via on-line	Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), the #1 genetic killer of young children! Some facts about SMA: SMA is the #1 genetic killer of young children, Fewer than 1 in 35 people unknowingly carrying the gene responsible for SMA, 1 in every 6,000 babies is born with SMA; SMA prevalence is comparable to ALS and Cystic Fibrosis, SMA impacts the ability to walk, sit, stand, eat, breathe, and swallow. SMA does not impact the mind and children with SMA are bright and social. For more information and to advocate go to http://www.fightsma.org/
California Employee Free Choice Act	Via on-line	Please take action today and tell them to pass SB789, a bill that will give farm workers the power to protect themselves. This bill will make it easier for farm workers to organize, speak up to improve working conditions and help enforce the laws that CA's government cannot enforce. SB789 passed the CA state senate and will next be heard in the assembly and then go to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. To advocate go to http://www.ufwaction.org/campaign/blueberriesheat/bb5eew9a7x8iib8
More Advocacy Needed to Stop Massive IL State Budget Cuts	Via on-line	Thanks to all of you who contacted their state legislators at the end of May asking them to support a tax increase to pay for human service programs. Unfortunately, because the General Assembly and Governor Quinn failed to agree on revenue increases, the General Assembly passed a budget for the next fiscal year, beginning July 1, that includes devastating cuts. To advocate visit http://housingmatters.net/default.asp Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed the capital budget into law on July 13. It included \$130 million for affordable housing, \$30 million of which is set aside specifically for housing veterans and people with disabilities. This funding, the first ever for affordable housing in an Illinois capital budget, will go to the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA). Also: The public education and advocacy of human service providers and others during the last several weeks has been effective and, as a result, the budget signed into law by Governor Quinn on July 15 overall includes less significant cuts than those proposed at the end of May. * Thanks to those of you who took time to read and respond to our action alerts over the past three months regarding the state budget. On July 31, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn released his plan for the unresolved parts of fiscal year 2010 state budget. Thanks to the advocacy of many, cuts to the budget overall and to housing-related programs specifically were generally not as severe as the 50% reductions recently envisioned under the "doomsday" scenario. However, the cuts to some line items, particularly Homeless Prevention and Homeless Youth, were very large. Total cuts for the following seven programs equal \$12.7 million and average 18.4%. You can get more information about the state budget situation by visiting http://www.housingmatters.net .
Tell Congress: Stand with the late Senator Kennedy to Reform Health Care	Via on-line	On July 23, the Senate seek not vote on health reform before the summer recess which means the House most likely won't act either — putting the votes off until September. We will continue to follow this issue after the summer break. *The Obama Administration has created a new website called Health Insurance Reform Reality Check , we encourage you to visit http://www.whitehouse.gov/realitycheck/ and get the facts on Healthcare Reform.
Tell the Department of Homeland Security to improve the treatment of asylum seekers	Via on-line @ Human Rights First	Each year, thousands of men and women flee persecution in their own countries to seek asylum and protection in the United States. But when they arrive here, many of these asylum seekers find themselves held in jails and jail-like facilities, often without any opportunity to have a judge review the need for their continued detention. Right now, the new leadership of the Department of Homeland Security has an opportunity to make things right, but we need your help to make sure they know the public is demanding change. Please write the Department of Homeland Security today and urge

immediately		them to improve the treatment of asylum seekers immediately! To advocate http://action.humanrightsfirst.org/campaign/asy_prisons/87e887i2v7wtm67j?
Support a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East	Via on-line	Recently in Cairo, President Obama said, "It is clear to all concerned that when it comes to nuclear weapons, we have reached a decisive point. This is...about preventing a nuclear arms race in the Middle East that could lead this region and the world down a hugely dangerous path." The good news is that all countries party to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) agreed in 1995 to exert their utmost efforts to establish a "Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems." The bad news is that this agreement was made 14 years ago, and to date there has been no progress. However, most countries in the Middle East see this agreement as linked to the indefinite extension of the NPT. Write to President Obama today and ask him to use the convening power of the United States to begin negotiations on a Middle East Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (NWFZ). Go to http://capwiz.com/wagingpeace/issues/alert/?alertid=13535261
Protect your drinking water from toxic chemicals also The Senate Must Protect Our Drinking Water	Via on-line	Did you know that the oil and gas industry, thanks to Dick Cheney and his old friends at Halliburton, are exempted from the Safe Drinking Water Act? Thankfully, concerned members of Congress in both the House and Senate have recently introduced legislation to close the "Halliburton Loophole" and ensure that Big Oil has to follow the same laws that every other industry does. H.R. 2766, introduced by Diana DeGette (D-CO), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), and Jared Polis (D-CO); and S. 1215 introduced by Bob Casey (D-PA) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) would regulate hydraulic fracturing under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Please contact your congressperson and senators and ask them to cosponsor these important pieces of legislation. Go to http://action.earthjustice.org/campaign/hydrofracturing_0609/i88isds2r77n353w? * Recent Supreme Court rulings have narrowed the scope of protections of the Clean Water Act, putting the drinking water of millions of Americans at risk for contamination. But the Senate has an opportunity to restore the original protections of the Clean Water Act by supporting the Clean Water Restoration Act. To continue to advocate visit http://action.lcv.org/campaign/enews_cleanwater
Send a letter to President Obama, urging him to announce his plan for Sudan NOW.	Via on-line	More than two months ago, President Obama reminded us of his commitment and obligation to end the atrocities in Darfur. Since then, we've been anxiously waiting to see his plan for peace. By publicly releasing his plan, President Obama can rally other nations to do everything they can to support peace as well. We're waiting, the people of Darfur are waiting, and time is running out. Please join us and send a message to President Obama urging him to announce his plan for Sudan NOW. Click below to send your letter to President Obama: http://action.savedarfur.org/campaign/obamarollout , * Earlier today-Monday August 10, the U.S. Special Envoy Scott Gration released the following statement visit http://blogfordarfur.org/category/obama_administration/
American Christians' support of Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking will be clearly heard by the Obama Administration.	Via on-line	Over fifty American Christian leaders and congregants of the Catholic, Evangelical, Protestant, Orthodox and historic African American traditions have joined together to declare their support for robust U.S. peacemaking efforts and to call for meaningful progress to achieve a just and lasting two-state peace. Please add your name to the Christians Support Bold Action for Holy Land Peace campaign today and join your fellow American Christians in supporting strong peace efforts by the Obama Administration. Visit http://action.cmep.org/t/4029/signUp.jsp?key=1013 to add your name.
Sign for Fair Taxes to Invest for the Common Good	Via on-line	To rebuild our economy and expand opportunity and security for all, we need to sustain and strengthen our public investments -- in education, health care, infrastructure, and other vital supports. Adequate revenues are needed to finance these critical investments in our shared economic prosperity and to put our nation on a sustainable fiscal path. To sign this statement go to http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/125/petition.jsp?petition_KEY=1967
Pledge to Fight for Health Care Reform That Meets the Needs of Women & Their Families	Via on-line	Too many women struggle to get the health care they need. The consequences of our broken health care system can greatly damage women's health, work, and financial well-being. Take the pledge to fight for health care reform that meets the needs of women and their families. To pledge and advocate go to http://action.nwlc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=homepage
Why not us? Environment Illinois's Grassroots for a clean energy	Via on-line	Nearly 5,000 of our members and supporters like you have already urged Congress to include green building standards in the legislation being crafted in response to President Obama's call for action on clean energy. Environment Illinois staffs are also sounding the alarm, persuading members of Congress to sign onto a letter of support. But time is running short and we need your help now more than ever. Will you join us

revolution		by clicking here to http://www.environmentillinois.org/action/clean-energy/green-buildings?id4=ES
Tell your senators It's Time to Invest in Agriculture. We can convince the Senate to invest in ending hunger and set an example for the rest of the G8	Via on-line @ ONE Campaign	Please click this link http://www.one.org/us/ag09/ to send an urgent message to your senators. Ask them to make sure the Senate Appropriations Committee fully-funds the president's request for a \$1.36 billion investment in smart, targeted global agricultural investments that will stop hunger in its tracks. Help build global momentum to end hunger by asking the authors of the State-Foreign Operations appropriations bill, Senator Patrick Leahy or Senator Judd Gregg, to support full-funding for the President's request for \$1.36 billion in global agricultural development funding. Update: On June 11, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture approved by voice vote a FY 2010 spending bill that would provide \$22.9 billion in discretionary spending, \$79 million less than the Administration's budget request, but more than FY 2009 spending levels. To view a summary table of the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee recommendations, please click http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/FY2010_Ag_Summary_Table%20SubC-06-11-2009.pdf
Congress calls on Coke-- now it's our turn	Via on-line	Did you hear? Congress just sent letters to Coke and 12 other industry CEO's demanding to know the sites and sources of its bottled water. Now is the time to tell Coke to put this information on its Dasani brand labels. Think Outside the Bottle has compelled Nestlé's Pure Life and Pepsi's Aquafina to print on their labels that the brands come from a public water source. It took hundreds of calls, letters, and an outpouring of public concern to enact such changes. So join hundreds of people across the country in a day of action demanding Coke follow their lead and label where Dasani comes from, to advocate visit http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/2215/t/8971/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=1214
No More F-22s: Call Your Senators Now on Military spending	Via on-line to Senators & Representatives	The Senate Armed Services Committee added \$1.75 billion to the Defense Authorization Bill for Fiscal Year 2010 to purchase seven additional F-22 fighter jets, a weapons program that the president's budget proposed cutting. President Obama, Defense Secretary Gates, and the nation's top military leaders all agree that the U.S. doesn't need any more of this Cold War-era aircraft, which have never been used in combat. To advocate visit http://capwiz.com/fconl/issues/alert/?alertid=13619711 BIG NEWS: the Senate just voted to strip the unneeded F-22 jets out of the Defense Authorization bill! After fighting for a sensible Pentagon budget for 7 years, today common sense finally won out. This big, bipartisan victory came despite the millions of dollars weapons lobbyists have spent waging a war against change, because of your emails, phone calls and signatures. For the first time, the whole country saw Congress say "we're going to stop building that weapon, even though the defense industry says they want it."
119 Members of US Congress urge Secretary Clinton to prioritize ending brutal LRA violence	Via on-line or you can call your Senators	July 14 2009--- 96 members of the US House of Representatives and 23 Members of the Senate have signed onto respective letters urging Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to increase US leadership toward ending violence being committed throughout central Africa by the Lord's Resistance Army - led by indicted warlord Joseph Kony - and protecting civilians currently under attack by his fighters. To read the full press release http://www.resolveuganda.org/node/879 ; after readings please make calls to your Senators and urge them to support Secretary Clinton. Tuesday August 11, Secretary Clinton is in Congo taking action to stop violence against women. In her own words, she said http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/08/127104.htm , to read more about Sec Clinton's comments visit http://blogfordarfur.org/2009/08/11/secretary-clinton-on-gender-based-violence/
Lieberman-Warner climate bill:	Via on-line @ the ONE Campaign	The Senate is beginning work on a major climate change bill. But there's no guarantee that their legislation will do enough to help people in the developing world confront climate-driven devastation, including increased droughts, floods and storms, eroded coastlines, falling crop yields, and the spread of waterborne and insect-driven diseases. It's up to us to make sure the climate bill currently being written in the Senate directs 5% of any revenue to helping the world's poorest people meet this dire new challenge. To advocate by urging the senators go to http://www.one.org/us/climatefive/
Enough is enough: Tell Secretary Napolitano that it's time for real reform on Immigration raids	Via on-line	Imagine waking up to pounding on your front door, you and your kids forced to the floor in your pajamas, heavily armed agents rifling their way through your home as the kids scream out in terror. Now, imagine armed federal agents barging into your home without legal consent ; to take action go to http://americasvoiceonline.org/page/content/enough?source=RI4A * August may be recess for Congress , but that doesn't mean we're taking a break in the fight for comprehensive immigration reform. We wanted to give you a quick update on the movement so far, and what we need to do this month to keep our momentum going into Labor Day. First, I wanted to let you know that you and our fellow activists made a big impact by signing the petition to the Department of Homeland Security to tell them

		<p>to hold off on home raids and to focus on reform instead. Thousands of us signed the petition, and thousands more called Homeland Security to demand that they take action! People are outraged about the kind of broken enforcement policies that the New York Times recently discussed, and Homeland Security announced yesterday that changes are coming to their detention policies. Thank you for your hard work! It's a step in the right direction, but we know that so much more change is needed at the Department of Homeland Security and across our immigration system.</p> <p>Second, I know that you're interested in what we'll be doing this month to gear up for a possible Congressional debate in September. All across the country, coalition groups are holding rallies, town hall meetings, and other events to convince their Member of Congress that the time is now for comprehensive immigration reform. To find an event near you, check out this interactive map - new events are being added every day, so make sure you stop by frequently.</p>
Support H.R. 3200 Health Care Bill	Via on-line	<p>Join tens of thousands of health care advocates telling Congress that health reform can't wait. Ask your Representative to support the House health care bill (H.R. 3200) today! To advocate and learn more visit https://secure2.convio.net/nwlc/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=373</p>
Let's all send a thank you note to all peacekeepers	Via on-line	<p>61 Years of UN Peacekeeping: Send a Letter Thanking Peacekeepers for Their Service. To view a video from George Clooney and send a thank you note visit http://www.globalproblems-globalsolutions.org/site/PageServer?pagename=BWC_Peacekeeping_Thankyou_2009</p>
Stop VULTURE Funds Act (HR 2932) in the House of Representatives	Via on-line @ JubileeUSA	<p>Since Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Spencer Bachus (R-AL) re-introduced the bill in June, 15 representatives have signed on as cosponsors. We need many more cosponsors to demonstrate the political will to move forward with this important piece of legislation! Your organization's support will help us to build the support in Congress we need to pass this important legislation. Please consider signing on your organization to the following letter calling for members of Congress to co-sponsor the "Stop VULTURE Funds" Act. The deadline for organizational sign-ons was Friday, August 7 at 12pm. Thanks in advance for your support as Jubilee USA works to get this important piece of legislation passed so that countries won't lose the benefits from debt cancellation to vulture funds in the future. To sign on go to http://salsa.democracyninaction.org/o/863/petition.jsp?petition_KEY=1288</p>
End the discriminatory HIV travel ban	Via on-line	<p>The Obama Administration is poised to lift a decades-old discriminatory ban that prohibits HIV+ people from entering the US. Please join us and Physicians for Human Rights in showing your support for this historic policy change and recognition of human rights for all people. To advocate visit http://actnow-phr.org/campaign/end_HIV_travel_ban/</p>
Urge IL Governor Quinn to Veto HB 182	Via on-line	<p>Urge IL Gov Quinn to veto HB 182. This bill would change Illinois law governing the concealed carrying of handguns and threaten public safety. Since 1961, Illinois has prohibited the carrying of concealed firearms outside of an individual's land, abode, or fixed place of business. HB 182 will allow a person to carry a concealed handgun into another person's home. To advocate visit http://capwiz.com/icpgv/issues/alert/?alertid=13480711&PROCESS=Take+Action</p>
Delivered a message to the leaders of the G20 nations during the Pittsburgh G20 Summit,	Via on-line @ the One Campaign	<p>Presidents and Prime Ministers will fly to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on September 24 for the G20 Summit—the latest in a series of high-level talks on the global economy, covering everything from international trade to the rules governing financial markets. But it's not only what these world leaders talk about that matters. Where they meet is important, too. If an African country is picked next to host an upcoming G20 summit, it would bring new attention to the role Africa can and must play in any successful global economic recovery. Click the link below to add your name to our petition asking the G20 to host an upcoming summit in Africa and put that continent's potential on the political map: http://www.one.org/us/g20toafrika/o.pl?id=1164-2026411-fQMdUvx&t=2</p>