

Social Justice Action

“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.”

— H. Jackson Brown Jr.

If you have something YOU are passionate about, please tell us so we can spread the word.

Social Justice Survey coming October 15th

The very small Committee that works to keep issues before you, wants to know what you do and what you care about with regard to Social Justice. Please fill out this short survey when it comes to you. We will be getting your input on that day, and also sending the survey via email.

Criminal Justice Reform Bill

A big step happened last week: The state joint Judiciary Committee reported out a comprehensive **criminal justice reform bill** to the State Senate.

This bill includes most of the changes that activists have called for, and it runs to 115 pages. While there are a few things could be different (most notably to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction from 18 to 21, rather than just 18 to 19), politics always involves some level of compromise and this bill would be a huge step forward if it were enacted into law.

The Senate will probably vote on this bill sometime in October. In the meanwhile, the House side of the Judiciary Committee is still deliberating on what to include in the House's omnibus criminal justice bill, and the House might pass its own bill by the end of November.

The two bills won't be identical, so the next step will be sending them to a conference committee. We need YOUR calls to generate the political momentum to pass a combined bill by December.

This is all good news. **If you want to help make comprehensive criminal justice reform a reality, please do this:**

Read Sen. Will Brownsberger's summary of the Senate bill at <https://tinyurl.com/ycu44lbt> and comment positively in the comments section. The more people indicate that they support this bill, the more political momentum it gets. Sen. Brownsberger reads the comments.

See other side for more information

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The Supreme Court will hear the “Muslim ban” case related to President Trump's Executive Order 13,780 on October 10th. The Executive Order blocked citizens from 6 primarily Muslim nations (Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen) from entering the US, and has put sharp limits on the US refugee program, among other draconian provisions. Both the UUA and UUSC have signed onto a faith community amicus brief which will be part of the legal documents discussed in those proceedings.

Visit: uua.org/loversists to find the resource provided by the UU Love Resists Campaign which processes info on how you can take action to support Muslim Rights

Habitat for Humanity Build in Northborough

We, as a congregation, will work on Saturday October 21st, to rehab a house for two families. Come be a part of this Social Justice effort. You don't need to be a carpentry whiz to do this – no tools required, only enthusiasm. Morning and afternoon shifts available.

MA Against Solitary Confinement

The MA Against Solitary Confinement Coalition (MASC) is working to end the practice of locking people into solitary confinement for up to 10 years. This occurs in the DDU (Department Disciplinary Units) in MA. People imprisoned in this manner are often released directly to the street. We are one of just a few states that treat people in this manner and it needs to end. For more on this, visit <http://jobsnotjails.org/>.

ACLU - Worcester Organizing

Come join our planning group for a local-level advocacy campaign in Worcester. We are looking at two primary options for potential campaigns, both related to police accountability. Come find out more, help us choose a campaign and plan it, and learn how to get involved in the campaign itself! Wednesday, October 11 6:30 PM Stone Soup, 4 King Street. Worcester **RSVP to Chris Robarge at crobarge@aclum.org**

**Jerry Breecher is the editor of this Social Justice Action sheet. I welcome any and all notices you would like to place here. Inherent in any such listing as this is a point of view – your point of view may differ from mine, but I would be truly delighted to express your social action agenda here.

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