



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, November 27, 2022

### Unfinished Business: A Nudge to Attend to Priorities

Our country's Congress has reconvened after the mid-term elections to close out the final weeks of this legislative session. "The top priority is approving appropriations legislation to fund the federal government. Within that process, there are opportunities to fund programs that assist struggling families and children; beyond that, Congress can also focus on other issues of concern."

This is a good time to [nudge your senators and representative](#) to urge them to keep the following priorities in mind as they consider legislation over the next few weeks.

**"Promote continuous and expanded Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage, increase Medicaid funding to the U.S. territories, and pass the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act (S. 346/H.R. 959) to address the Black maternal health crisis.**

**Expand the Child Tax Credit** for the 19 million children who receive less than the full credit. Temporary expansion under the American Rescue Plan, passed during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, sharply reduced childhood poverty. [Under current law a family's Child Tax Credit amount is tied to their earnings and income tax liability, which denies the full credit to children in households with the lowest incomes. This withholds help from the children who need it most, hurting their long-term health, educational, and economic outcomes while doing virtually nothing to boost parental employment. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 11/15/22]

**Pass Electoral Count Act reform** with voting rights protections to defend our democracy and the sacred right to vote. While modernizing the 135-year-old law governing the counting of electoral votes is important, it is insufficient if we don't also ensure that all eligible Americans get to cast a vote to be counted.

For senators, **pass a bill to ban assault weapons**, as one important step to stemming our society's epidemic of gun violence. The House of Representatives passed this bill in July, but it has been stuck in committee in the Senate." (Sisters of Mercy Justice Team, 11/17/22)

Now is also the time to provide [a path to citizenship for immigrants](#), including DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients and other immigrant youth, TPS (Temporary Protected Status) holders, and agricultural workers.... "Undocumented immigrants, many of whom have been in the United States for decades, continue to live in fear and uncertainty.... We need permanent solutions that respect the human dignity of our immigrant sisters and brothers and recognize the significant contributions they are making to our communities." (Mercy Justice Team, *Immigration Action Alert*, 11/15/22)

"...only when our economic and social system no longer produces even a single victim, a single person cast aside, will we be able to celebrate the feast of universal fraternity." Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*

As Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us, **"Progress is not inevitable. We have to fight for it, every day."**