

The **ACLU** News

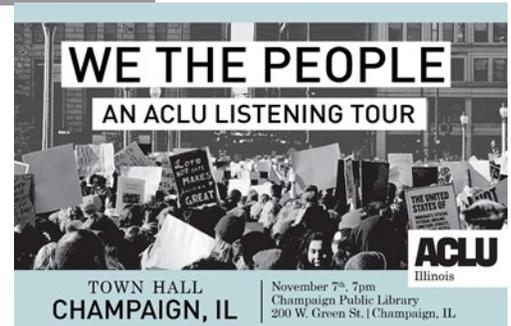
LET THEM DREAM

Trump's EO (Executive Order) rescinding the legal status for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients becomes effective March 6, only weeks away. More than 700,000 DACA recipients in the U.S. have registered with the Department of Homeland Security and been approved to study and work with legal status since the program began. On March 6, over 42,000 Dreamers will be subject to deportation in Illinois and hundreds in Champaign County. Indeed, some Dreamers, blocked from routinely renewing their permits since October, are already being deported.

Nationally, the ACLU is in court to block DACA deportations. Locally, our chapter has joined Bend the Arc C-U, C-U Immigration Forum, CUFAIR (Friends and Allies of Immigrants and Refugees), UIUC I-CAUSE and many faith-based, community and student organizations supporting a clean bill for a pathway to citizenship for the Dreamers. Local ACLU members were among those who marched on Neil Street in support of the Dreamers on February 3rd and attended the Candlelight Vigil held at the campus Alma Mater statue February 7. Between these two demonstrations faith-based groups visited the Champaign office of Rep. Rodney Davis to raise concerns for the Dreamers and their families. A February 9th letter from Davis to one such visitor dated February 9, 2018 stated:

"We have a broken immigration system that includes people who were brought here undocumented, as children through no fault of their own and for many of them, America is the only country they have known. ... I have met with several DACA groups at my district offices in Illinois. Those meetings were incredibly productive and I gained a unique perspective that continues to guide my colleagues and me toward a bipartisan, permanent solution to the DACA issue."

Write Rep. Davis to remind him of this sentiment. (Cont. p. 2)



ACLU Illinois Executive Director Colleen Connell and staff Emmalee Scott, Khadine Bennett, and Ed Yohnka went on the road to conduct Town Hall Listening Tours outside the 294 Beltway last fall with four active downstate chapters: Springfield, Bloomington, Peoria, and Champaign County. On November 7, the main auditorium in Champaign Public Library was packed as Connell answered questions and heard concerns.

Attendees expressed their opinions about important issues facing our community, tables provided information, and UIUC geography student volunteers recruited by the chapter presented in poster form their analysis of recently released data on local racial disparities in so-called Terry Stops, police pedestrian stops. The two-day visit also included two meetings with local ally organizations, one focused on immigration issues, the other on criminal justice reform. These in-depth meetings gave the Chicago staff a chance to meet our allies and learn about local issues, and strengthened our coalition networks.

Thanks to everyone who took part!

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Meeting Sunday April 8, 2018

"Your Right to Say It!" A Panel on the First Amendment and Intellectual Freedom with

Rebecca Glenberg, Senior Staff Attorney, ACLU of Illinois, and

Emily Knox, Assistant Professor, School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Stone Creek Events Center 2560 S Stone Creek Blvd. Urbana
Conversation, hors d'oeuvres and drinks before the program begins at 3:45 p.m.

Suggested donation \$25/person. Any amount welcome.

STEERING COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

The local ACLU Steering Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm, Contact us for the meeting room.

OFFICERS

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Carol Spindel
Shirley Stillinger
Marsha Woodbury
Karl Weingartner
Ruth Wyman

EMERITI

Susan Cohen
Harry Hilton

Dream continued

What to watch for? Senate Majority Leader McConnell created a “shell” for the immigration floor debate from an unrelated bill; any resultant legislation will require at least 60 votes. The bipartisan McCain-Coons immigration reform plan helps set the agenda for the Senate floor debate. It would grant legal status and a path to citizenship for those who arrived illegally in this country before age 18. This bill, which Trump called “a waste of time,” does not fund the Trump border security initiative, limit family-based legal migration or change the diversity lottery program. The Republican RAISE Act on the other hand, looks to cut family based immigration in half.

Our chapter will continue to advocate for Dreamers and their families and push for Comprehensive Immigration Reform through and beyond March 6. Over the coming months immigration advocacy organizations are focusing on voter registration drives and getting out the vote for immigrant-friendly candidates in the November elections.

Ben Mueller, Champaign County ACLU Steering Committee nominee, Interim President for CUFAIR and board member of C-U Immigration Forum and Avicenna Community Health Center.

JUDGE’S ACTION MAY EASE JAIL PROBLEM

A Champaign County judge’s order setting aside more than 2,500 low-priority arrest warrants could prevent some low-income people from being jailed simply because they can’t make bail.

That in turn could alleviate some of the damage associated with racial disparity in the jail population.

The Racial Justice Task Force has found that African Americans are jailed far out of proportion to their presence in the community. Jail populations can run 10 to 75 percent African Americans. Their proportion of the population is 17.5 percent.

A 2017 report by the task force found that typically on a given day, two to three dozen people, most of them African-Americans, are in jail for three or more days because they can’t make bail of \$100 to \$2,500.

More than a third are held for bail instead of being released on recognizance because of previous failure to appear in court on city or village ordinance violations. Most such violations are minor and pose little or no threat to the community.

By quashing the outstanding warrants for municipal violations, some of them more than 15 years old, the judge removed a difficulty for people already struggling to make ends meet. People in jail are separated from family and can’t engage in normal everyday activities like work.

There are other, better ways to enforce city and village ordinances that don’t involve arrest and incarceration, the Task Force says.

Every municipality in the county is impacted by the judge’s order, but the City of Champaign has the most cases, the News-Gazette reported.

Difanis told the News-Gazette he quashed the warrants to lighten the workload of staff who have to book people into the jail. He said he was primarily concerned with safety and believes booking people for ordinance violations is a lower priority.

There’s more to be done on racial disparity at the jail, but this is a good step. The Champaign County American Civil Liberties Union played a role in this positive development as a contributing organization to the work of Champaign County’s Racial Justice Task Force.

— John Palen. An expansion of his January 29 letter to the editor, *News Gazette*

John Palen is the newest member of the Champaign County ACLU Steering Committee. John worked for nearly a half-century as a journalist, editor, and journalism professor at Central Michigan University. He is also a published poet, whose eighth book, Distant Music, was published in 2017 by Mayapple Press. He and his wife Lois moved from Michigan to Urbana in 2011.

CIVIL LIBERTIES CONCERNS? WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Our Senators

Senator Dick Durbin
<https://www.durbin.senate.gov/contact/email> 711 Hart Senate Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, Phone 202-224-2152

Senator Tammy Duckworth
<https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/content/contact-senator>
 524 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, Phone

Our Representatives

13th District Rep Rodney Davis
<https://rodneydavis.house.gov/contact>
 Phone 202.225.2371

15th District Rep. John Shimkus <https://shimkus.house.gov/contact/email-me> Phone 202-225-5271

State Representatives
 State Senator Chapin Rose, 51st District,
<http://senchapinrose.com/Contact-District-Map/Contact-Form>

State Senator Scott Bennett, 52nd district
<http://www.senatorbennett.com/contact-us>

State Representative Carol Ammons, 103rd District
Assistance@StateRepCarolAmmons.com

State Representative Bill Mitchell, 101st District
<http://www.ilhousegop.org/contactmitchell>

ILLINOIS END OF LIFE OPTIONS ACT

In January, ACLU and Death with Dignity chapters in Champaign County co-sponsored a film and program about Oregon law that expands end of life choices and the campaign to pass the same law here. The Documentary, "How to Die in Oregon" won the grand jury prize for documentary at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. It is available on line at https://tubitv.com/movies/310499/how_to_die_in_oregon

Laws in Oregon, Washington, Colorado, California and D.C. allow a physician to provide a terminally ill patient who is expected to live no more than 6 months a prescription for a lethal dose of a sedative. The law also provides that the terminal illness, not "suicide" will be listed on the death certificate as the cause of death. The terminally ill person must be able to take the drug him/herself. Assisted suicide would still be unlawful. Two physicians must certify the person is terminally ill and mentally competent and the person receiving the prescription must give consent 3 times with 15 day intervals. In Oregon, the majority of people who obtain the prescription do not use it; but say having it available relieves some of the stress of the terminal illness.

ACLU of Illinois has partnered with Final Options Illinois and Compassion and Choices to educate the public this year and introduce the Illinois End of Life Options Act in 2019. See <http://finaloptionsillinois.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/IL-EOLC-LegislationFactSheet.pdf>

MARCH WITH US NEXT JULY 4

In recent years, we have included visiting international fellows in our Fourth of July Freedom Celebration parade contingent. This year, appropriately given the parade's "Salute to Education" slogan, two visiting cohorts marched with us and had lunch and conversation afterwards. We hosted the University of Illinois Global Institute participants--a State Department program that brings 20 secondary school teachers from other countries to campus for 6 weeks of programming on American culture and society. At the suggestion of Susan Schnuer, former Associate Director of the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, twelve Moldovan librarians, in CU for training, also joined us. At a panel session preceding the parade, topics included

- Civil liberties embedded in the US Constitution, the role of the ACLU, and current civil liberty issues (ACLU-CU President Carol Spindel)
- Current censorship and intellectual freedom issues concerning libraries (Barbara Jones, former Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association, and previously Rare Book and Special Collections Librarian and Associate Professor of Library Administration)
- History of parades in the US, and how the CU July 4th Parade exemplified civil liberties in the US (Steering Committee Co-Secretary Richard Schnuer).

Inspired by this type of parade, uncommon in Moldova, the librarians went home and organized a parade on library issues last fall!

**American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois
Champaign County Chapter**

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Champaign, IL 61825-2651

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**Annual Meeting
Sunday April 8
First Amendment**
"Your Right to Say It!"

Pending ACLU Issues In Illinois and Champaign-Urbana

REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE: HOUSE BILL 40

Our chapter actively participated in ACLU's lobbying Governor Rauner to sign House Bill 40 which he did on September 28, 2017. Thanks to all of you who signed a post card or called the Governor's office. This important reproductive choice victory restores coverage for abortion services under the state employees' insurance plan and Illinois' Medicaid program. Passage of the bill has also repealed a provision of state law that would have made abortion and some birth control illegal if the Supreme Court modified or reversed the 1973 landmark Roe v. Wade decision.

This victory has already been challenged by two new bills introduced this spring: House Bill 4108 which would repeal House Bill 40 in its entirety; and Senate Bill 2241 would also repeal HB 40 and impose new restrictions on abortion and birth control. PLEASE ASK YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS TO OPPOSE HB 4108 & HB 2241.

HB 4469 JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO LET PEOPLE VOTE IN ILLINOIS "The call to action is to support an organized effort to pass a bill in the Illinois state legislature that would require access to the ballot in jails for eligible individuals, and that Illinois jails and prisons provide eligible individuals with a voter registration form and information about voting upon their release. Studies have found that civic engagement is key to reducing recidivism, and affirmative action to encourage individuals to involve themselves in the electorate will not only strengthen our democracy but also improve public welfare." ACLU Illinois is part of a broad coalition supporting the bill, which was introduced in February 7, 2018. To learn more: <https://www.aclu-il.org/en/press-releases/aclu-illinois-joins-statewide-coalition-introduce-hb-4469-expand-voter-access-and> To support this legislation, write your state representatives: <https://ssl.capwiz.com/aclu/issues/alert/?alertid=79791626&type=ST>

Contact information for state and national politicians for our area on page 3 inside