Talking Points, April 2, 2019 (from 5calls.org)

**SUBPOENA THE MUELLER REPORT AND EVIDENCE**

Tell Stivers (Portman, Brown) to support subpoenaing the Mueller report, along with the evidence Mueller gathered in his investigation, if Barr refuses to release the entire report.

Stivers (Portman, Brown) should also demand both former Special Counsel Robert Mueller and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who oversaw much of the probe, testify before Congress on their findings.

* Currently it is unclear, if, and when Barr will provide more information on Mueller’s findings.
* A 3.5-page summary is an unacceptable replacement for the lengthy report, which contains details on the Trump campaign’s conduct, in regards to Russia and obstruction of justice.

Sample Script:

I'm concerned about potential suppression of the findings of the Mueller investigation. I’m asking Rep. Stivers (Senator Portman, Senator Brown) to support subpoenaing the report, along with the evidence Mueller gathered in his investigation. Furthermore, the public needs to hear from Robert Mueller himself, and I expect Congress to hold hearings with both Mueller and Rod Rosenstein so unanswered questions can be resolved.

**SUPPORT REAUTHORIZING THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT**

**The House is scheduled to vote on the Violence Against Women Act the week of April 1st.**

Tell Stivers to support H.R. 1585, the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

Sample Script:

I’m asking Stivers to support, H.R. 1585, the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, to ensure the continuation of crucial programs protecting people from domestic violence. I also fully support the expansion of the act to include:

**(pick 2-3 reasons important to you):**

* including protections for transgender individuals,
* broadening protections for Native American women,
* helping abuse victims remain in stable housing,
* expanding red-flag laws to block people convicted of dating abuse or stalking.

**PROTECT DREAMERS AND TPS HOLDERS WITH THE DREAM AND PROMISE ACT**

In late 2017 and early 2018 Donald Trump ordered the termination of the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and revocation of hundreds of thousands of immigrants’ [Temporary Protected Status (TPS)](https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/3/12/18262314/tps-honduras-nepal-lawsuit-news-status). Court injunctions have allowed both [DACA](https://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/status-current-daca-litigation/) and [TPS](https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/10/4/17935926/tps-injunction-chen-news) protections to remain in place while lawsuits proceed, keeping DACA and TPS recipients in limbo. Because the Supreme Court leans conservative, reversal of the current lower court injunctions is likely. A permanent legislative fix is needed immediately to protect DACA and TPS recipients.

Demand Stivers support H.R. 6 to protect DACA and TPS recipients.

* [Dream and Promise Act of 2019 (HR 6)](https://www.vox.com/2019/3/12/18261574/dream-act-daca-tps-democrats-bill) would provide permanent legal protections and a pathway to citizenship for DACA and TPS recipients.
* The Dream and Promise Act could help as many as 2.5 million people obtain legal status and put them on a path to citizenship.

Sample Script

I’m writing in support of H.R. 6, the Dream and Promise Act. It is time we permanently protected our DACA and TPS recipients, and I expect Rep. Steve Stivers to support this legislation.

**END THE GENDER PAY GAP: SUPPORT EQUAL WAGES FOR EQUAL WORK - PASSED HOUSE**

**UPDATE (3/27/19):** In a 242-187 vote, the House has passed the Paycheck Fairness Act. The legislation now moves to the Senate for consideration.

More than 50 years ago, Congress passed the [Equal Pay Act](https://nwlc.org/resources/how-the-paycheck-fairness-act-will-strengthen-the-equal-pay-act/) (EPA) making it illegal for employers to pay unequal wages to men and women who perform substantially equal work. Additionally, Congress passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in 2009 allowing women to sue for paycheck disparities. And yet in the decades since the passage of these and several other laws, women still only earn on average [$.80 for every dollar](https://iwpr.org/publications/gender-wage-gap-2017-race-ethnicity/) earned by a man.

To close this gap, the [Paycheck Fairness Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7/text?r=27&s=4) (H.R. 7) has been introduced to amend the Fair Standards and Labor Act of 1934 to substantially help women fight for equal pay and to strengthen the protections ensured by the Fair Pay Act.

Demand that Senator Portman (Brown) support the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 7).

Sample Script

I'm writing today because I believe women deserve to earn the same wages for performing the same work as men. I expect Senator Rob Portman (Brown) to support H.R. 7, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which strengthen current laws to ensure women are paid equal wages.

**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REDUCE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES**

Demand Stivers (Portman, Brown) take immediate action to reduce prescription drug pricing.

Democrats in the House and Senate have introduced a [number of bills](https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/1/14/18176707/prescription-drug-prices-bills-bernie-sanders-elizabeth-warren) designed to meaningfully decrease prescription costs, some of which have bipartisan support from Republicans. A few key proposals from these bills include:

* Accelerating the process to bring generic drugs to market
* Limiting consumers’ out-of-pocket spending
* Allowing consumers to buy lower-priced medications from Canada, in turn driving down prices for US drugs due to increased competition
* Allowing Medicare to negotiate directly with drug makers to increase transparency and lower prices
* Requiring brand name drugs to lower excessive prices or face direct competition from generic drugs

Sample Script

I’m writing, because I am very concerned about high prescription drug costs. I urge Rep. Steve Stivers to support and vote for **[Senate: S.62 and S.102; House: H.R.465]**, and other drug cost control bills. I am particularly interested in bills that...

**PICK ONE OR TWO PRIORITIES:**

* Allow importing of drugs from Canada
* Cap out-of-pocket drug spending
* Require branded drugs sold in the US to cost the same as those sold abroad
* Bring generic drugs to market faster
* Allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices directly

**PROTECT WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE CLINICS FROM TRUMP'S "DOMESTIC GAG RULE"**

Tell Stivers (Portman, Brown) to publicly condemn Trump’s “Domestic Gag Rule”, to be implemented by Executive Order.

* The rule is expected to redirect millions of dollars from the federal family planning program, such as Planned Parenthood, to faith-based providers.
* This "domestic gag rule" policy would make any health clinic in the United States providing abortion services or education ineligible for Title X Family Planning funds.
* The Hyde Amendment (passed as part of the budget every year since the 1970s) already bans federal money from going towards abortion services.
* Cutting off funds to women’s health clinics because they educate patients of their full reproductive option is reckless.
* It would also threaten access to cancer screenings, birth control, and STD testing for millions of women across the country.

Sample Script

I'm writing to express my opposition to the Trump administration's "Domestic Gag Rule" and ask that Rep. Steve Stivers (Senator Portman, Senator Brown) publicly condemn such a policy. Cutting off funds to women's health clinics because they educate patients of their full reproductive options is reckless, and would also threaten access to cancer screenings, birth control, and STD testing for millions of women across the country.

**OPPOSE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN VENEZUELA**

On January 23, 2019, Venezuelan National Assembly leader Juan Guaidó declared himself Venezuela’s lawful head of state, and the United States [immediately announced its support](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/01/profile-juan-guaido-venezuela-declared-interim-leader-190124052507068.html). Guaidó’s announcement came just weeks after [Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro began his second term in office](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-36319877). Maduro, who has been in office since 2013 and was reelected last year in what many analysts called a “[sham election](https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/venezuela-s-sham-election),” has faced mounting opposition in Venezuela due to the country’s [ongoing economic crisis and famine](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/17/world/americas/venezuela-children-starving.html). A week after endorsing Guidó, National Security Advisor John Bolton appeared to [disclose](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/01/29/troops-photo-john-boltons-notes-raise-questions-about-military-role-venezuela-crisis/?utm_term=.13a9963ef16b) plans to send 5,000 troops to Colombia during a White House press conference to announce stiff oil [sanctions](https://www.democracynow.org/2019/1/29/headlines/us_imposes_sanctions_on_venezuela_in_latest_challenge_to_maduro) against Venezuela.

The United States’ quick declaration of support for Guaidó, sanctions of the Maduro regime, and threats of military intervention against Maduro will do nothing to help the thousands of Venezuelans who are suffering from hunger and economic instability. Indeed, some analysts fear sanctions against Maduro will [only worsen](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/29/world/americas/venezuela-juan-guaido-oil-assets.html) the nation’s hyperinflation and fuel and food shortages. Despite Trump’s rhetoric about defending democracy in Venezuela, Bolton himself has framed intervening in the oil-rich nation’s affairs as a [business opportunity](https://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/venezuela-regime-change-big-business-opportunity). Rather than escalating tensions with military action and harsh sanctions, the US should employ diplomatic channels to convince Maduro to allow a [new election](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/30/world/americas/maduro-venezuela-talks-opposition.html) while increasing [humanitarian aid to suffering Venezuelans](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2019/01/30/four-ways-crisis-venezuela-affects-americans-and-foreign-policy/2709432002/).

Tell Stivers to support H.R. 1004, legislation to oppose military intervention in Venezuela. Also demand that the US focuses its efforts on calling for new elections and increasing humanitarian aid to Venezuelan civilians.

Sample Script

I'm writing to demand that Rep. Steve Stivers support H.R. 1004 to oppose military intervention in Venezuela. I also urge Rep. Steve Stivers to call for an increase in humanitarian assistance to the country during this fast moving and unstable political situation.