



Advocacy Update

Sent June 27, 2012

Supreme Court Issues Critical Rulings

Several important Supreme Court rulings have been released this week. As of this writing, we expect the ruling on the Health Care law to be released on Thursday, June 28th – please be sure to check the [Religious Action Center](#) for late-breaking news on that. Here is what the Religious Action Center had to say about the rulings so far:

Supreme Court ruling overturned most provisions of Arizona's draconian immigration law, yet kept intact other provisions that could undermine the civil rights of immigrants.

Supreme Court rejected efforts to repair campaign finance laws: "The Court has sent a clear message today that it is blind to the disturbing realities of how we elect political leaders in a post-Citizens United world - one that prioritizes money over policy, passion, and intellect."

Supreme Court protected the rights of children in the criminal justice system, ruling that life imprisonment without parole for minors is 'cruel and unusual' punishment.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Stalled

The 1994 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) acknowledged that domestic violence and sexual assault are crimes under the law and provided federal resources for community-coordinated responses to violence against women. VAWA was due for reauthorization in 2011 but has stalled since the House passed a dramatically weaker bill than the Senate version. Both houses must now conference to agree upon a final version of the bill, which we hope will be a strong VAWA that protects all victims.

Violence against women has been a priority issue for the WRJ for thirty years both within the Jewish family and through public policy initiatives, beginning with the 1983 resolution "[Children and the Family](#)."

Urge your Members of Congress to support a quick conference on VAWA and to support protections for immigrant, LGBT, and Native American victims.

One Minute Campaign in Memory of the Murdered Israeli Athletes

As many people around the world prepare to celebrate the upcoming summer Olympics, others are seeking to honor and memorialize the 11 Israeli athletes murdered 40 years ago during the 1972 Munich Olympic Games. A petition is circulating asking that the International Olympic Committee observe a minute of silence in their memory. Please consider joining this effort in the following ways:

Go online to [sign the petition](#) link and sign the petition.

If you have a Facebook page, post the petition to your page. Send an email blast to your friends and colleagues.

The Rockland Jewish Community Center along with students of the Catholic University of America in

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Washington DC produced a video for the “One Minute” campaign. Consider viewing it and passing it along.