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WEEKLY UPDATE

March 4 - 8, 2019

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Previous Updates:

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Latest News

- The House and Senate were in session this week, with the House Oversight Committee holding a hearing on the Administration's drug control strategy, ONDCP, and HIDTA. The House Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. The President is expected to release his annual budget next week, which Congress will consider as they begin to work on the annual appropriations bills. House Leadership said this week they intend to pass all twelve appropriations bills on the House floor by the 4th of July.

- **ARTICLES OF INTEREST:**

'Sanctuary' cities are getting their grants despite threats

AP | Wilson Ring

About 18 months after the Trump administration threatened to withhold law enforcement grants from nearly 30 places around the country it felt weren't doing enough to work with federal immigration agents, all but one have received or been cleared to get the money, the Justice Department said. In most cases, courts chipped away at the crackdown that escalated in November 2017 with letters from the Justice Department of former Attorney General Jeff Sessions to 29 cities, metro areas, counties or states it considered as having adopted "sanctuary policies" saying those policies may violate federal law. **Continue reading [here](#).**

Should drug dealers be charged with murder? States ponder

AP | Dave Collins

Having lost his 29-year-old son to a fentanyl overdose, Dean Palozej believes dealers who peddle drugs that kill should be locked up for a very long time — for the rest of their life, in some cases. A state representative who heard the story felt the same way. With a piece of legislation introduced this year, he joined lawmakers around the country who have been pushing for murder or manslaughter charges in a get-tough campaign against people who supply drugs that cause fatal overdoses, in efforts to curb the opioid overdose crisis. **Continue reading [here](#).**

Congress should oppose the UN-SAFE Act

The Hill | Kevin Sabet

Over the past week, many have discussed the recent congressional hearing for the so-called SAFE Act, a bill that supporters say would grant the marijuana industry access to the federal banking system. In reality, this bill should be renamed the UN-SAFE Act. Let me explain why. This proposed bill does not protect community banks or credit unions. Under the Money Laundering Control Act of 1986 ("MLCA"), banks are prohibited from providing financial services to businesses that are engaged in illicit activities. These provisions are enforced, in part, through the Bank Secrecy Act ("BSA"). **Continue reading [here](#).**



Congress is finally going to pot

Roll Call | Jennifer Shutt

An unlikely coalition of lawmakers is plotting how to revise the nation's marijuana laws during the 116th Congress — a mission that's become much more viable in recent years as public support for legalizing cannabis shoots up and members introduce bills in higher numbers than ever before. That legislation languished at the bottom of the hopper during the last Congress as GOP leaders remained steadfast in their opposition. But now advocates are optimistic that Democratic control of the House and mounting pressure to clean up the disparity between state and federal laws could propel some incremental changes through the Republican-controlled Senate — even if it will be a challenge. **Continue reading [here](#).**

Hearings & Markups Happening This Week

House Appropriations Committee - Homeland Subcommittee Hearing

[DHS Office of Inspector General](#)

March 6 @ 9:30 am - 2358-A Rayburn

Senate Judiciary Committee - Full Committee Hearing

[Oversight of Customs and Border Protection's Response to the Smuggling of Persons at the Southern Border](#)

March 6 @ 10:00 am - 226 Dirksen

House Homeland Security Committee - Full Committee Hearing

[The Way Forward on Border Security](#)

March 6 @ 10:00 am - 310 Cannon

House Homeland Security Committee - Full Committee Hearing

[The Way Forward on Border Security](#)

March 6 @ 10:00 am - 310 Cannon

Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee - Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations Hearing

[Examining Private Sector Data Breaches](#)

March 7 @ 10:00 am - 106 Dirksen

House Oversight & Reform Committee - Full Committee Hearing

[Trump Administration's Response to the Drug Crisis](#)

March 7 @ 10:00 am - 2154 Rayburn

House Judiciary Committee - Crime Subcommittee Hearing

[Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act](#)

March 7 @ 10:00 am - 2141 Rayburn

House Appropriations Committee - Labor HHS Subcommittee Hearing

[Addressing the Public Health Emergency of Gun Violence](#)

March 7 @ 10:30 am - 2358-C Rayburn

House Homeland Security Committee - Oversight Subcommittee Hearing

[CBP Workforce Challenges: Exploring Solutions to Address Recruitment and Retention](#)

March 7 @ 2:00 pm - 310 Cannon



Upcoming scheduled hearings/markups:

Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee - [Full Committee Markup](#) - March 11 @ 5:40 pm
[Nomination of Ronald D. Vitiello](#) to be Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Status: To be considered by the Senate Homeland Security Committee on 3/11.

[Nomination of Joseph V. Cuffari, Ph.D.](#), to be Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Status: To be considered by the Senate Homeland Security Committee on 3/11.

Senate Judiciary Committee - Full Committee Hearing
[GDPR & CCPA: Opt-ins, Consumer Control, and the Impact on Competition and Innovation](#)
March 12 @ 10:00 am - 226 Dirksen

House Appropriations Committee - CJS Subcommittee Hearing
[Oversight Hearing: DOJ Civil Rights Division](#)
March 12 @ 10:00 am - H-309 Capitol

House Appropriations Committee - CJS Subcommittee Hearing
[Gun Violence Prevention and Enforcement](#)
March 13 @ 10:30 am - H-309 Capitol

House Appropriations Committee - Homeland Security Subcommittee Hearing
[Securing Federal Networks and State Election Systems](#)
March 13 @ 2:00 pm - 2008 Rayburn

House Oversight & Reform Committee - Subcommittee on Civil Rights Hearing
[The Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act \(H.R. 1076\)](#)
March 13 @ 2:00 pm - 2154 Rayburn

Legislation on the Floor This Week

House:

Nothing affecting the law enforcement or homeland security communities.

Senate:

Note: Due to Senate scheduling and rules, additional items not listed may be added to the calendar for consideration.

Nothing affecting the law enforcement or homeland security communities.



Recap of Last Week's Hearings & Markups

Note: For more details on any of the following hearings, we can provide access to hearing transcripts upon request.

House Judiciary Committee - Full Committee Hearing - February 26

[Oversight of the Trump Administration's Family Separation Policy](#)

Summary: This hearing examined the Administration's policy on separating children from their parents when they enter the country illegally. Members of the committee asked witnesses about the ability to keep track of those who have been separated. Additionally, members of the committee asked about the impact separation has on children. Witnesses stated that they failed to share concerns raised by some with superiors. Officials also discussed the influx of family apprehensions, the separation policy, and the efforts to reunite families.

House Energy & Commerce Committee - Consumer Protection Subcommittee Hearing - February 26

[Protecting Consumer Privacy in the Era of Big Data](#)

Summary: This hearing examined concerns with protecting a persons data, with members of the committee expressing a need for legislation to set a national standard for data protection. Some members of the committee however also expressed some concerns that an overly strict standard could negatively affect small businesses. Those members pointed to Europe's GDPR as an example. While others on the committee had concerns with not a strong enough of a standard.

Senate Commerce Committee - Full Committee Hearing - February 27

[Policy Principles for a Federal Data Privacy Framework in the United States](#)

Summary: This hearing examined data privacy legislation, with bipartisan support for the need to have strong, comprehensive legislation. There was disagreement however on whether federal legislation should override state efforts, with some concerned with a patchwork of state legislation, while others not willing to override more restrictive measures passed by a state. Additionally, members expressed a need for whatever legislation that is ultimately passed to be compatible with international standards as well.

House Appropriations Committee - Labor HHS Subcommittee Hearing - February 27

[Reviewing the Administration's Unaccompanied Children Program: State-Sanctioned Child Abuse](#)

Summary: This hearing examined the Administration's policy to separate children from their parents when they have entered the country illegally. The hearing focused extensively on the treatment of the children, and looked at reports of sexual abuse. Witnesses testified about their concerns with the conditions and treatment of the children in some of the detention facilities, as well as their belief that they are being held in these facilities longer than is necessary.

House Appropriations Committee - Financial Services Subcommittee Hearing - February 27

[Election Security: Ensuring the Integrity of U.S. Election Systems](#)

Summary: This hearing examined the security of our election systems across the country, and potential vulnerabilities that may continue to exist. Concerns were raised that while great progress has been made, states have been slow to replace older, paperless voting machines. Part of the reason for this is the cost associated with replacing these older machines. Additionally, while newer machines provide greater protections to ensure the security and legitimacy of the election results, there is will always be some vulnerabilities that exist.

Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Reform Committee - Full Committee Roundtable Hearing - February 27

[Perspectives on Protecting the Electric Grid from an Electromagnetic Pulse or Geomagnetic Disturbance](#)

Summary: This hearing examined the vulnerability of our electric grid. Concerns were raised about the vulnerability of the grid to a electromagnetic pulse attack or a solar-triggered geomagnetic disturbance. Witnesses testified that solar triggered geomagnetic disturbances are already costing us approximately \$10 billion a year. While some precautions are already underway in some areas, more attention needs to be made to this threat, according to witnesses and Senators.

Senate Appropriations Committee - Labor HHS Subcommittee Hearing - February 28

[Review of the Opioid Epidemic in America](#)

Summary: This hearing discussed the current opioid crisis, and the programs in place to tackle the crisis. Members dis-



cussed the flexibility of grants to states to allow them to target funds where it is needed, as well as discussed what does and does not work with regards to treatment. Witnesses were also asked about efforts to put limits on the quantity of opioids prescribed. Witnesses stated that that is a tough question because every individual is different, and that there needs to be balance between too much and too little.

Legislation Considered Last Week

House:

[H.J.Res. 46](#) - Relating to a national emergency declared by the President on February 15, 2019.

Status: Approved by the House on 2/26.

Summary: This joint resolution terminates the national emergency related to the U.S.-Mexico border, declared by the President on February 15, 2019.

[H.R. 8](#) - Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019

Status: Approved by the House on 2/27.

Summary: To require a background check for every firearm sale.

[H.R. 1112](#) - Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019

Status: Approved by the House on 2/28.

Summary: To amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the background check procedures to be followed before a Federal firearms licensee may transfer a firearm to a person who is not such a licensee.

Senate:

Nothing affecting the law enforcement or homeland security communities.



Legislation Introduced Last Week

Date Introduced	Bill Number	Sponsor	Description
2/28/2019	HR 1474	Abigail Spanberger (D-VA-7)	To require the Director of National Intelligence to submit a pre-election threat assessment prior to each regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, and for other purposes.
2/28/2019	HR 1468	Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA-40)	To promote the economic security and safety of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and for other purposes.
2/28/2019	HR 1459	Mark Meadows (R-NC-11)	To support security and law enforcement training and cooperation between the United States and Israel.
2/28/2019	HR 1456	Barbara Lee (D-CA-13)	To amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for a new rule regarding the application of the Act to marihuana, and for other purposes.
2/28/2019	HR 1455	Barbara Lee (D-CA-13)	To protect States and individuals in States that have laws which permit the use of cannabis, and for other purposes.
2/28/2019	HR 1454	Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL-8)	To provide for a 3-day waiting period before a person may receive a handgun, with exceptions.
2/28/2019	HR 1437	Luis Correa (D-CA-46)	To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to achieve security of sensitive assets among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.
2/28/2019	HR 1427	Chris Smith (R-NJ-4)	To amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for priority for making payments for lodging expenses for Federal employees that are booked in places with policies to protect individuals from severe forms of human trafficking, and for other purposes.
2/28/2019	S 627	Patty Murray (D-WA)	A bill to promote the economic security and safety of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and for other purposes.
2/28/2019	S 602	Cory Gardner (R-CO)	A bill to address state-sponsored cyber activities against the United States, and for other purposes.
2/28/2019	S 599	Tom Cotton (R-AR)	A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to aliens associated with criminal gangs, and for other purposes.
2/28/2019	S 597	Cory Booker (D-NJ)	A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for a new rule regarding the application of the Act to marihuana, and for other purposes.
2/27/2019	HR 1416	Don Young (R-AK-AL)	To protect the legal production, purchase, and possession of marijuana by Indian tribes, and for other purposes.
2/27/2019	HR 1414	Jennifer Wexton (D-VA-10)	To amend the duties of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) to ensure FinCEN works with Tribal law enforcement agencies, protects against all forms of terrorism, and focuses on virtual currencies.
2/27/2019	HR 1412	Greg Steube (R-FL-17)	To require the national instant criminal background check system to notify U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the relevant State and local law enforcement agencies whenever the information available to the system indicates that a person illegally or unlawfully in the United States may be attempting to receive a firearm.
2/27/2019	HR 1410	Tom Reed (R-NY-23)	To prohibit the continuation of an executive emergency declaration under the National Emergencies Act absent approval by Congress.



2/27/2019	HR 1397	Ben Cline (R-VA-6)	To require the national instant criminal background check system to notify U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement of firearm transfer denials by reason of illegal or unlawful presence in the United States.
2/27/2019	HR 1392	Will Hurd (R-TX-23)	To amend title 5, United States Code, to modify the authority for pay and work schedules of border patrol agents, and for other purposes.
2/27/2019	HR 1389	James Langevin (D-RI-2)	To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to include an act of unregulated custody transfer in the definition of child abuse and neglect, and for other purposes.
2/27/2019	HR 1387	David Kustoff (R-TN-8)	To require the President to develop a national strategy to combat the financial networks of transnational organized criminals, and for other purposes.
2/27/2019	S 591	Susan Collins (R-ME)	A bill to assist States in improving guardianship oversight and data collection.
2/27/2019	S 583	Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)	A bill to provide for digital accountability and transparency.
2/27/2019	S 582	Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)	A bill to ensure that the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network works with Tribal law enforcement agencies, protects against all forms of terrorism, and focuses on virtual currencies.
2/27/2019	S 575	Kamala Harris (D-CA)	A bill to deter, prevent, reduce, and respond to harassment in the workplace, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and harassment based on protected categories.
2/26/2019	S 557	Kamala Harris (D-CA)	A bill to reunite families separated at or near ports of entry.
2/25/2019	HR 1351	Tom O'Halleran (D-AZ-1)	To amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to secure urgent resources vital to Indian victims of crime, and for other purposes.
2/25/2019	HR 1350	Gwen Moore (D-WI-4)	Corey Adams Searchlight Act - To encourage, enhance, and integrate Green Alert plans throughout the United States, and for other purposes.
2/25/2019	HR 1339	Doug Collins (R-GA-9)	MVP Act of 2019 - The MVP Act would codify a fusion center at DOJ to help local, state and federal law enforcement share and process intelligence so they can swiftly and appropriately respond to potential instances of mass violence.
2/25/2019	S 546	Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)	A bill to extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2090, and for other purposes.
2/25/2019	S 542	Mike Enzi (R-WY)	A bill to protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of local and State prohibitions.
2/22/2019	HR 1325	John Rutherford (R-FL-4)	Protect and Serve Act of 2019 - To amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.
2/22/2019	HR 1324	Tom Rice (R-SC-7)	FAST NICS Act - To improve the national instant criminal background check system in order to search the National Data Exchange database when conducting criminal background checks.
2/22/2019	HJRes 46	Joaquin Castro (D-TX-20)	Relating to a national emergency declared by the President on February 15, 2019. - This joint resolution terminates the national emergency related to the U.S.-Mexico border, declared by the President on February 15, 2019.



2/19/2019	HR 1313	Peter King (R-NY-2)	Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act - To amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to clarify certain allowable uses of funds for public transportation security assistance grants and establish periods of performance for such grants, and for other purposes.
2/19/2019	HR 1310	Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX-15)	VAWA Protections for Rural Women Act of 2019 - To amend the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 to include the rural development voucher program as a covered housing program, and for other purposes.



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Upcoming Events/Conferences

[Mid-Atlantic Regional Gang Investigators Network - 13th Annual Gang Training Conference](#)
March 3-6—Hanover, MD

[4th Annual 21st Century Drug & Violence Prevention Training Conference and Marijuana Symposium](#)
March 17-19—Atlantic City, NJ

[Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies 2019 Spring Conference](#)
May 5-8—Gulf Shores, AL

[Major County Sheriffs of America 2019 Summer Conference](#)
June 12-14—Louisville, KY

March 2019

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April 2019

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

Senate in Session

House & Senate in Session

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