

CALPIRG

Standing Up To Powerful Interests

California Public Interest Research Group
Citizen Agenda: An Update For Members Of CALPIRG

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Find links to resources and actions at www.calpirg.org

Stop The Overuse Of Antibiotics

More Progress On Antibiotics

This fall in New York City, we came together to urge the United Nations (U.N.) to take strong action to stop the overuse of antibiotics on factory farms.

The U.N. held high-level meetings at their New York headquarters, where they called the growing antibiotics problem a “fundamental threat” to global health and safety.

Experts estimate that more than 700,000 people worldwide die from antibiotic-resistant infections each year—a number that could grow to 10 million globally by 2050.

Your Voices Heard In NYC

Volunteers, members and staff drew attention to the topic by handing out educational information outside U.N. headquarters. Then, CALPIRG delivered a letter to the U.S. Delegation to the U.N., signed by leaders in the medical community and members of the public, pushing them to take international action.

Later that week, the U.N. General Assembly passed a declaration requiring countries to create action plans to address the global public health crisis of antibiotic resistance.

Members like you have already helped restaurants like McDonald’s, Subway and Wendy’s to stop serving meat raised on antibiotics. Now, after more than 350,000 of you

made your voices heard by urging KFC to stop overusing our life-saving medicines, we’re hopeful that KFC and other companies will hear your call to action.

CALPIRG is also calling on Olive Garden to join the others who have committed to stop the overuse of antibiotics in their supply chains. We’ve made some significant progress, and we’re looking forward to what we can achieve in the upcoming year. ■

Pledge To Be Toxic-Free

Protecting Our Families From Harmful Chemicals

More and more consumers, like you, are demanding safe, non-toxic products. And CALPIRG is right beside you working to convince major personal care companies to remove these toxic chemicals from their products. We’re exposed to dangerous chemicals in products we use daily, from shampoo to hand soap. These chemicals can disrupt developmental growth and hormones. But with your help we can phase these toxins out.

The Breast Cancer Fund published a new report in October that



Austin Donohue

DISHING OUT A NEW FUTURE—Antibiotics Program Field Director Matt Wellington handed out educational information to hundreds of people outside the United Nations headquarters in New York City. A high-level meeting brought together experts to discuss the growing threat of the overuse of antibiotics on factory farms.

Member Resources

HELP SAVE OUR ANTIBIOTICS
Sign our petition calling on KFC to stop serving meat raised on routine antibiotics.
www.calpirg.org

highlighted the harmful chemicals directly marketed to our kids. CALPIRG Public Health Advocate Jason Pfeifle joined together with advocates, parents and supporters to release the report at a news conference in San Francisco.

The report also found that out of 48 Halloween face paints tested for the presence of heavy metals, 21 items had trace amounts of at least one. With your help we can unmask the harmful chemicals in these products and create a safer, healthier environment for our children. ■



Trouble In Toyland

Thirty Years And Counting, Toy Safety A Top Concern

We should know if the toys we buy for our children and our families are safe—whether we buy them at stores or online. That’s why, for 31 years, CALPIRG Education Fund has released the “Trouble in Toyland” report, looking at safety hazards including toxic toys, choking hazards and more to make sure your family has the resources they need to avoid dangerous toys.

Emma Brower



SAFETY FIRST FOR TOYS—Doctors and hospital staff joined CALPIRG Education Fund at the Children’s Hospital in Los Angeles, Calif., to release the report “Trouble in Toyland” while children played with safe toys.

We’ve seen more than 150 regulatory actions as a result of our reports. This year, our report included information about toys that have recently been recalled and toys that were recalled but are still available on popular shopping sites. With supporters like you by our side, CALPIRG Education Fund looks forward to another 30 years of important work to keep toys safe for our families. ■

Democracy

You Won: Transparency In The Legislature

Our state legislature works for the people and represents us. So why wouldn’t you have access to their hearings and votes and be

able to follow along in the political process?

Too often, last minute amendments and backroom deals at the end of legislative sessions benefit corporate special interests over the public.

But in this year’s election, members like you voted yes on implementing significant changes to how proposed laws are approved by the legislature.

In Prop 54, Californians voted in favor of requiring bills to be posted online for 72 hours before lawmakers can take a final vote in each house. As a result, Californians can look forward to a better and more transparent political process. ■

Consumer Protection

Calling For An End To Deceiving Debt Traps

Payday loans can seem like a quick fix to cover costs, but too often they leave borrowers in a debt trap. These short-term loans create a cycle of debt with high interest rates and fees, often forcing them to choose between not paying for basic needs like food and medical expenses or taking out more loans.

This fall, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) proposed a rule to end payday debt traps. Alongside our national federation, CALPIRG organized more than 11,000 people, including members

like you, to call on the CFPB to make the rule even stronger, and truly end the debt trap. ■

Consumer Protection

Top Grassroots Lobbyist, Seventh Year Running

For 35 years, CALPIRG Consumer Program Director Ed Mierzwinski has been a tireless advocate for consumers like you, having a hand in many consumer advocacy projects from the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to giving people access to free annual credit reports.

This fall, Ed was recognized for his efforts when he was named one of the top grassroots lobbyists in the country by *The Hill* for the seventh year in a row.

Big banks and Wall Street may have their lobbyists in the halls of power, but we have Ed. This was true when he had a front row seat to Congressional hearings on Wells Fargo’s fraud accounts scandal, and when he was quoted in multiple stories about the scandal.

Consumers are also reaping the rewards of his work to help create the CFPB—the agency has returned nearly \$12 billion in relief and refunds to consumers. Having a director like Ed Mierzwinski on our team at CALPIRG ensures that we’ll have the right people on the ground and in the room, ready to stand up for consumers like you. ■

An advertisement for Green Century Funds. It features a photograph of an older man with a white beard and a young girl with her arms raised in the air, sitting on his shoulders. The background is a bright, outdoor setting. The text is overlaid on the image.

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Your Voices Heard In California Elections

Last year, Californians came out in strong support for important ballot measures, like upholding California's bag ban and getting big money out of politics.

We were excited to see our members step up to the plate in the 2016 elections and protect the 2014 law that got rid of wasteful, single-use plastic grocery bags. Voters also said yes on Prop 59 in support of overturning Citizens United on Election Day.

CALPIRG Students Turn Out Voters For Bag Ban

Our CALPIRG student chapters collected more than 12,000 "Vote Yes On Prop 67" pledges before Election Day and educated an estimated 22,800 students on the importance of protecting the bag ban.

Their efforts reached people across California and helped voters understand the importance of protecting our environment with this legislation.

Across eight University of California campuses, students, interns and volunteers made presentations, held meetings and brainstormed how to get out the vote on their campuses. And their hard work paid off with a win for Prop 67.

A Victory Against Big Money In Politics

In our political system, far too much influence comes from the wealthy interests and Super PACs. For example, in the recent election, just 10 mega-donors gave more than 1 billion dollars to super PACs by the end of August 2016. This is not how our elections should be funded and not the way our voices should be heard.

We need big money out of politics, now more than ever. Thankfully, Californians voted Yes on Prop 59, instructing our members of Con-

gress to support a constitutional amendment to overturn *Citizens United*.

The path to a constitutional amendment won't be easy, but you're helping to make our message loud and clear: California wants big money out of politics.

While a new administration settles in the White House, CALPIRG will continue to work to protect consumers, the environment and families across California. We made great progress on ballot measures like Prop 59 and Prop 67, and look forward to working with our members as we continue to fight for the voices of Californians like you. ■



VICTORY IN CALIFORNIA—Chapter Chair for the UCLA student chapter, Jamie Kennerk, launched the "Yes on 59" campaign at a press conference in California to pass a ballot measure on Citizen's United. She was joined by supporters from California Common Cause, California Clean Money Campaign, Money Out, Voters In, Senator Ben Allen and CALPIRG Director Emily Rusch.

Thanks To You



Dear CALPIRG member,

A safe, healthy environment, effective consumer protections in our financial lives, a strong voice for citizens in our democracy—these aren't controversial ideas. They're the hallmarks of a great country.

But from consumer protection to a democracy of, by and for the people, many of our proudest achievements may soon be at risk.

We're ready to defend them. But we can only do that if we stand together.

That's why your support is so important. And in the weeks and months ahead, we'll face some of our toughest challenges yet.

How well we meet these challenges will decide whether the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau stays strong or exists at all, whether more companies agree to get antibiotics out of our food supply, and whether less of America's most popular herbicide, Roundup, shows up in our land, water and food.

Our work is only possible because of you. I'm looking forward to what we can achieve with members like you and all your support.

Thanks for standing with us,

Emily Rusch, Executive Director
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Protecting Public Health

It's Time To Ban Roundup

We shouldn't be worried that the grass our children play on or the food we eat is full of harmful chemicals. But as the use of the weed killer Roundup increases, the safety of our health and environment face an uncertain future. New research, including some done by the World Health Organization (WHO), has found that Monsanto's Roundup and other glyphosate-based herbicides could pose significant risks to human health in California and across the country.

One study by the WHO linked glyphosate—the main chemical ingredient in Roundup—to cancer at high levels of exposure. However, Roundup is not just glyphosate, it's a cocktail of different chemicals and there's mounting evidence that this cocktail could be a dangerous one for our health. On top of that, Roundup has become the most widely-used agricultural



Mike Mozart via Flickr/CC BY 2.0

BAN ROUNDUP NOW—We're calling on the EPA to ban Roundup, to protect public health and the environment.

chemical in U.S. history, and it is showing up in our rivers and in our food supply. This is a staggering reality we need to change. But with members like you we can protect our families from Monsanto's dangerous herbicide. We're calling on the Environmental Protection Agency to ban Roundup unless and until it's proven safe. Visit www.BanRoundupNow.org to learn more, and sign our petition to get the EPA to ban Roundup. ■

CALPIRG

CALPIRG's Mission

When consumers are cheated or the voices of ordinary citizens are drowned out by special interest lobbyists, CALPIRG speaks up and takes action. We uncover threats to public health and well-being and fight to end them, using the time-tested tools of investigative research, media exposés, grassroots organizing, advocacy and litigation. CALPIRG's mission is to deliver persistent, result-oriented public interest activism that protects consumers, encourages a fair, sustainable economy, and fosters responsive, democratic government.

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