



MEDIA ADVISORY

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WASHINGTON, D.C.— On October 30th, President Trump announced that he would end birthright citizenship by executive order, an order for which he has no Constitutional authority to effectuate. This is the latest of a series of “false powers.”

The Fourteenth Amendment guarantees citizenship to all persons born on American soil. In order for the President to carry out his ill-advised statement, Article V of the Constitution requires the proposition of an amendment to Congress and a two-thirds majority vote of that amendment in both the House and Senate. Alternatively, two-thirds of the State legislatures would have to call for a constitutional convention, something the states have not done since the Constitutional Convention of 1787 prior to ratifying the Constitution in 1788.

It is clear that President Trump's "executive order" would exceed the scope of his authority, bypassing Article V and The Fourteenth Amendment of our Constitution. But what is he really doing here?

Did he actually think he could end the citizenship protocol that allowed even his own ancestors to claim citizenship to this country? Or was he giving the media their weekly dose of unfounded news intended to take our minds off the real issues affecting our communities? Either way, we cannot add fuel to the fire by continuing to address these statements without spreading the “real” news that this “fake” news obviates from media circulation.

GEORGIA VOTER SUPPRESSION. In Georgia, there are 159 counties which means voter protection efforts are very busy throughout the state. Despite such efforts, presently there are missing voter applications in DeKalb county and missing voter machines in other counties. Furthermore, last year Georgia election officials, overseen by Secretary of State Brian Kemp, now the Republican candidate for governor, removed 665,791 people from voter rolls which can have a broad impact on next week's election.

TRANSGENDER RIGHTS. The Trump Administration plans to change federal civil-rights law to include a definition of sex as “a person's status as male or female based on immutable biological traits identifiable by or before birth.” Such a change would require federal entities and personnel to refrain from recognizing transgender people - people whose sense of personal identity and gender does not correspond with their sex assigned at birth. This attack against the

trans community comes at a time when transgender people - transgender women of color in particular - are facing shockingly high rates of murder, homelessness, and incarceration.

TAXES. Senator Kamala Harris proposed a new tax bill that would provide up to \$6,000 a year per family, in the form of a refundable tax credit to address the rising cost of living. This bill is intended to assist working and middle class families as an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit which provides up to a \$6,431 tax credit for low income families this year. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that Senator Harris' bill, the LIFT the Middle Class Act, would raise 9 million Americans above the poverty line.

Hopefully, issues such as these will rise to the forefront of national news with more regularity. Until then, NBLSA will continue to spread awareness of, and challenge opposition to the issues facing our communities.

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Since our founding in 1968, NBLSA has worked to increase the number of culturally responsible Black and minority attorneys who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community. In so doing, NBLSA is enriched by thousands of brilliant legal thinkers, business leaders, and social justice advocates who have embodied this mission, both during their time as a BLSA member in law school and in their lives as members of the legal profession. This year, NBLSA celebrated 50 years of excellence and we look forward to what the next 50 years will bring.