

ClassACT



Achieving Change Together

ClassACT HR79 (CA79) seeks to nourish relationships among HR79 classmates to create and support positive change by addressing local, national, and international problems.

Issue 4: July 2021 Newsletter

Even as we prepared to send this newsletter featuring our recent panel on COVID-19, the Delta variant has increased hospitalizations in several areas and mask mandates are being reinstated. We hope that you, your family, and your friends continue to be safe and healthy and take measures to limit the spread.

In This Newsletter

- Our recent expert alumni panel on COVID-19
- CA79 Spotlight Project
- Get involved with CA79



ClassACT HR79 recently held a thought-provoking panel conversation featuring leading experts on COVID-19 from the class of HR79.

Click to view the video here:

CA79 Covid Panel

Our panelists agreed the pandemic is not over: they discussed how low vaccination rates have helped the Delta variant spread and could lead to more, and deadlier, variants emerging. The conversation also ranged across the importance of worldwide vaccination, the value of working with employers and using social media to reach people, the effect of the pandemic on children, and the importance of communicating health information through trusted local sources.

The panelists also found reason for optimism, noting that current vaccines are quite effective in preventing serious illness from the Delta variant, and that we have opportunities to turn this around.

One classmate sent CA79 a note after watching the panel, writing, "My primary takeaway for what we can do is to have conversations with people who trust us in our community who are reluctant to get vaccinated." Our classmate's husband approached an acquaintance, "asked about her reservations, and urged her to get vaccinated. She left our house, made an appointment, and got her first shot later that day."

That's what we call Achieving Change Together.

Toward the end of the conversation, our panelists also offered calls to action for each of us; we urge you to watch the video to learn more. Heidi Larson echoed the idea of trusted sources who can get the message out and not relying solely on political solutions. James Hildreth urged us to resist letting politics supplant science and reminded us that "none of us are safe until all of us are safe." And Rachel Levine said because we're all interconnected, what one person does influences and affects others. She urged us to "speak up and speak out" about the safety, effectiveness, and importance of getting vaccines in your community, and reminded us that we must advocate for sustainable funding for public health.

Spotlight On...

An essential goal of CA79 is to spotlight projects of HR79 members. In fact, we aim not just to highlight cool stuff classmates are doing (and there's some very cool stuff), but also share what you can do to help—where you can donate, volunteer, help with outreach, fundraise, and so on.

Recently we've featured [Metrowest Women's Fund](#) (Rachel Sagan) and [HowShouldIVote](#) (Andy Calkins). This month's spotlight is on The Steve Fund, a project launched by Stephanie Bell-Rose and her family to support the mental health and emotional well-being of young people of color.

Once you [log in](#) to the CA79 website, you'll be able to access [Spotlight content just for our class](#) including a video of Gwill York and Stephanie discussing The Steve Fund on our YouTube channel and links to additional video interviews that the Steve Fund staff chose for us.

In the next few months we'll be reaching out to people who have already shared their projects with us. If you also have ideas for content we should spotlight, please write classacthr79@gmail.com and Jules Chatelain will reply with information on the next steps.

Jump In, Get Involved

We invite all HR79 classmates to [sign up on our website](#) and participate in CA79 in the coming months. At this writing, **CA79 is nearly 200 members strong**, and we continue to expand our outreach and projects. When you join your classmates, you'll be able to see the CA79 member directory and other member-only content we're working on.

For more about us—and how to get more involved—[check out our FAQ page](#).

In the short term, **we're looking for volunteers who can help us put together future brief Spotlight videos and volunteers to help us ramp up work on voter protection and access issues.** (ClassACT HR73, our sister organization, has done significant work on voter engagement and gerrymandering, among other things. You can [view more here](#).)

Most important, **we'd like to hear from you.** **Please email us** if you want to work with us on online events in any capacity—or have a great idea of your own.

Feel free to **share this newsletter with classmates, and then, if you haven't already, log on today and invite others to join CA79.**

CA79 Initial Leadership

Jules Chatelain, Elena (Nini) N. Cohen, Alan Drummer, David Frutkoff,

Rachel Kemp, Dorien Nunez, Gwill York

The work CA79 engages in will be a process that evolves and is determined based on how you, the members, want us to move forward together.

Contact Us

If you prefer, leave us a message at (617) 299-6411.

We look forward to working with you.



ClassACTHR79.org
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