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WASHINGTON



NEWSLETTER

NO. 628

JANUARY 1999

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

## *Legislative Priorities during the 106th Congress*

The Friends Committee on National Legislation works to bring spiritual values to bear on public policy decisions. In an economic environment that has widened the gap between rich and poor and in a political atmosphere that has become increasingly partisan, we challenge ourselves to bring a witness of love to those we encounter in our political work. During the 106th Congress, we will work to focus dialog and cooperation on the important issues facing our country. We hope that this dialog will help restore greater trust and involvement in government. We will work to promote Quaker values of mutual respect, integrity, and a spirit of cooperation.

FCNL has selected the following priorities to work on during the 106th Congress.

- Promote global security through arms control and disarmament initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers, a ban on landmines, and environmentally-responsible destruction of weapons.
- Resume full payment of United Nations dues, and fulfill past obligations.
- Shift budget priorities away from military spending and toward meeting human needs.
- Reduce the disparity between rich and poor through such measures as adequate health care, progressive taxation, educational opportunities, an increase in the minimum wage, and assistance for the most vulnerable of society.

FCNL will continue Friends' long-standing work for the rights of conscience, criminal justice reform, and the abolition of the death penalty. FCNL will maintain its historic commitment to Native American advocacy.

FCNL staff will work on these issues based on legislative opportunity, specific expertise and leadings, and time available. FCNL staff and Policy Committee have the flexibility, within the Statement of Legislative Policy, to respond to crises and important legislative opportunities.

The General Committee calls upon its members, other Friends, and like-minded people to work on these issues. In addition to the issues which FCNL has the resources to address, many other deeply-held concerns will continue to receive attention from individual Friends, Monthly Meetings and Churches, Yearly Meetings, and other Quaker organizations.

As we work to find solutions to complex problems, Friends seek divine guidance and ask for renewed strength and hope.