

FCNL's Legislative Priorities for the 107th Congress

The Friends Committee on National Legislation seeks to bring spiritual values to bear on public policy decisions. 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 107th Congress, we will promote dialogue and cooperation on the important issues facing our country. We hope that this dialogue will help create a greater sense of responsibility for good government. We will promote Quaker values of mutual respect, integrity, and a spirit of cooperation.

FCNL has selected the following priorities on which to work during the 107th Congress:

- Promote arms control and disarmament initiatives and oppose the expansion of military alliances
- Promote nonviolent dispute resolution and the peaceful prevention of armed conflict and genocide, through the United Nations and appropriate governmental and non-governmental organizations
- Shift budget priorities away from military spending and toward providing for human needs and a healthy environment at home and abroad
- Address economic, social, and racial disparity through such measures as adequate, comprehensive, and universal health care; progressive taxation; affirmative action; educational opportunities; a living wage; affordable housing; and assistance for and empowerment of the most vulnerable of society
- Reform the criminal justice system, emphasizing the principles of restorative justice and crime prevention, and eliminate the death penalty.

FCNL will continue Friends' long-standing witness for the rights of conscience, and our historic commitments to Native American advocacy and to ending institutional racism. FCNL also will respond to Friends' concerns about the environment, as way opens.

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. ■