



# Friends Committee on National Legislation

A Quaker Lobby in the Public Interest

January 1, 2020

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the General Committee of FCNL, we write to ask for your worship and discernment about our legislative priorities for the next Congress that begins in January 2021. Your meeting may have contributed to the updating of FCNL's policy statement, *The World We Seek*, which was approved by General Committee in November 2019. This document serves as a foundational document from which legislative priorities for FCNL staff can be discerned.

This is an important election year, and the consequences for the country will be dramatic, regardless of the outcome. Your feedback and participation in the legislative priorities process is especially valuable. From its inception, the Friends Committee on National Legislation has relied on meetings and churches to ground our work in the concerns of Friends. Our process of asking Friends to consider, every two years, which issues should be the focus of their lobbying organization in Washington, DC connects our advocacy strongly to the testimonies and values of Friends.

As we seek to uphold and advance those values in a challenging political environment, we ask your meeting, church, or Friends group to reflect on these questions again. How are Friends called to influence our government today? What issues should be the priority for our advocacy efforts? Where is the Spirit leading us?

We hope that your community can take part in this nationwide discernment around the issues FCNL should focus on in the next Congress. These issues will both guide the work of FCNL's professional lobbyists in Washington, DC and the issues FCNL focuses our grassroots energy.

**This is an invitation for you and your meeting, church, or other Friends group to take part in this priorities-setting process.** Enclosed, and on FCNL's website at [fcnl.org/priorities](http://fcnl.org/priorities), you will find information and materials to guide you. **Please submit the outcome of your discernment around FCNL's lobbying priorities no later than April 10, 2020.**

The Policy Committee is ready to support you and offer guidance if you need more information to pursue your discernment. Please reach out to Kitty Ufford-Chase ([kitty@stonypointcenter.org](mailto:kitty@stonypointcenter.org), 845-608-3834) or Michael Fuson ([fuson@denison.edu](mailto:fuson@denison.edu), 740-403-9091) if you would like our advice and help.

The participation of Friends in meetings and churches across the country is essential to making this Quaker lobby who and what we are – from the issues we work on to the way we focus on building relationships and looking for that of God in everyone we talk to. In politics today, the kind of approach that FCNL takes is increasingly important – and increasingly rare. We know that it makes a difference – but we can't do it without you.

In peace,

### **The FCNL Policy Committee**

Alex Stark (clerk)	Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Connie Crawford	Intermountain Yearly Meeting
Michael Fuson	Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Tom Gibian	Baltimore Yearly Meeting
Susan Griffin	Baltimore Yearly Meeting
Jondhi Harrell	Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Tom Head	North Pacific Yearly Meeting
Zoe Laky	Baltimore Yearly Meeting
David Leonard	Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Ebby Luvaga	Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Genie Stowers	Pacific Yearly Meeting
Kitty Ufford-Chase	New York Yearly Meeting
Paula VanDusen	Intermountain Yearly Meeting