



FCNL's Lobbying Impact

House Votes to End Endless War, Prevent War with Iran

Amid continued tensions with Iran, the House took a critical step to reassert congressional oversight over U.S. military action in late January 2020. FCNL was instrumental in securing the bipartisan votes for passage of the No War with Iran Act and a repeal of the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force, which the Trump administration used to justify the assassination of Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani. These successes build on nearly two decades of work to oppose war as the answer to acts of terror and insist that Congress pursue policies to build peace. In 2019, FCNL put the grassroots muscle of more than 1,500 Advocacy Team members behind this effort, which has helped prime members of Congress to act this year.

U.S. Takes New Steps to Address Root Causes of Violence

In December 2019, the U.S. government committed to its first comprehensive strategy to address the causes of violence worldwide when Congress passed the Global Fragility Act into law. FCNL worked with its peacebuilding colleagues to develop this bipartisan legislation and was a force in lobbying for its passage.

Senators Seek to Reset Climate Conversation

With FCNL's backing, Sens. Chris Coons (D-DE) and Mike Braun (R-IN) formed a Senate Climate Solutions Caucus to address what Sen. Coons calls "the most pressing issue of our time." The bipartisan caucus, modeled on the House group that FCNL was instrumental in convening, is a forum to educate and organize members around climate issues. As this caucus forms, FCNL prepares to host 500 young adults to advocate for setting a price on carbon as a first step to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and prevent climate injustices.

Help for Native American Crime Victims

Congress set aside a record amount – five percent, or \$132 million – from the Crime Victims Fund for tribal use. This funding, part of appropriations legislation passed in December 2019, will help improve services for victims of crime in Native American communities. FCNL advocated for this funding throughout 2019.

Research on Gun Violence Epidemic Resumes

Reversing years of prohibitions, in late 2019 Congress approved \$25 million for the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health to conduct vital research on gun violence as a public health crisis. FCNL advocated for this funding, bolstered by the 20 members of our Advocacy Corps. These young adults are organizing in their communities around gun violence prevention and have already helped bring 135 new people into lobby in communities from Fayetteville, Arkansas to Orem, Utah.

Criminal Justice Initiatives Funded

As part of its year-end appropriations, Congress provided \$75 million to implement the First Step Act and \$90 million to reauthorize the Second Chance Act. The former addresses mass incarceration by reducing mandatory minimum sentencing and assisting prisoners being released with their transition. The latter supports grants to community-based organizations working to help the formerly incarcerated. FCNL lobbied and helped organize faith community colleagues to support these initiatives.

Immigration: Changing the Conversation on Enforcement Spending

Working over several years, FCNL has helped build congressional resistance to unchecked funding for immigration's punitive machinery. Our advocacy has led a more diverse set of legislators to speak out for cuts in detention and deportation funding and helped make these issues a significant negotiating point in FY20 budget bills. Although we have not yet brought about funding cuts, we are creating the conditions for more members of Congress to make this issue a priority.

What Others Are Saying

"We never would have gotten those repeals [of the 2001 and 2002 Authorizations for the Use of Military Force] through the House if it weren't for you."

~ Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA), addressing advocates at FCNL's Quaker Public Policy Institute, November 2019

"I'm thrilled to be part of the amazing work that the Friends Committee on National Legislation has done to promote peace across our world."

~ Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO), speaking at FCNL's Annual Meeting, November 2019

"Your passion and activism is making a critical difference in shifting the dialogue on climate change."

~ Former Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL), addressing FCNL's Annual Meeting, November 2017

"I couldn't have imagined 6 years ago when I started to learn about deep advocacy from FCNL how natural and easy all of this communication could feel with offices. ... I've learned that [congressional staff] really do appreciate polite, persistent, well-informed, respectful advocacy, and even that they rely on hearing from us once they come to know us in this way."

~ Sara Avery, Boulder (CO) Advocacy Team member