



FCNL's Lobbying Impact

House Votes to End Endless War

In June 2019, the House for the first time in 18 years voted to repeal the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force. The law has enabled three administrations to wage war without congressional approval. This year, FCNL worked with Rep. Barbara Lee (CA) to put the grassroots muscle of the more than 1,500 Advocacy Team members behind repeal. This powerful push built on nearly two decades of dedicated work to oppose war as the answer to acts of terror and insist that Congress pursue policies to build peace.

Violence Against Women Act Protects Native Women

The House voted to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act in April 2019, including FCNL-backed provisions to strengthen protection for Native women and children. The legislation expands the jurisdiction of tribal law enforcement and takes steps to address the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women. The bill includes provisions from Savanna's Act, which helps close the information gap preventing Native women from receiving justice. FCNL will continue to advocate for these provisions as the bill moves to the Senate.

Yemen: Congress Votes to End Illegal U.S. War

Majorities in both chambers of Congress approved legislation this year that would end U.S. support for the Saudi-led war in Yemen that has killed thousands and put millions on the brink of starvation. Although the president vetoed this legislation, a bipartisan Senate majority voted in mid-June to block new arms sales to Saudi Arabia. FCNL educated members of Congress about U.S. complicity in this massive humanitarian crisis, mobilized grassroots advocates, and led faith community lobbying to end this illegal war.

House, Senate Move to Help Incarcerated People Access Education

Both chambers of Congress have introduced the bipartisan REAL Act, which would restore incarcerated people's eligibility for Pell grants to pay for college classes, increasing their employability and reducing recidivism. FCNL has led lobbying in the faith community to advance this legislation and encourage Congress to include it in the Higher Education Act.

New Law to Prevent Violent Conflict

The Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act became law with President Trump's signature in January 2019. This legislation equips the U.S. government with constructive and cost-effective tools to address the root causes of violent conflict. FCNL led the strategy and lobbying that resulted in the bill's passage in the House and Senate. This success comes after more than a decade of FCNL's leadership to build a strong, bipartisan consensus in Congress for proactive peacebuilding investment.

What Others Are Saying

Members of Congress Speak about FCNL

"You changed my mind," a member of Congress told members of an FCNL Advocacy Team in November 2018. He praised them for their persistence, their letters to the editor, and their respectful engagement with his office.

"You all do advocacy just right." ~ Staff for a Republican senator, speaking to another Advocacy Team in 2018

"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 2017 Annual Meeting

"When I was the only member to oppose the 2001 authorization to use military force, I was honored to have FCNL and the Quakers by my side standing up to war without end. And every year when I work to end reckless and unchecked Pentagon spending, I know that FCNL will join me in this effort.... Thank you, FCNL, for bringing compassion and common sense to Capitol Hill." ~ Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA), in a message recognizing FCNL's 75th anniversary in 2018

"It's really up to those groups out there like the Friends Committee that are pressing for diplomatic, peaceful solutions to big problems to step up and raise their voice, because in their absence, the military solution will win all the time." ~ Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT), in an interview with FCNL

The Power of FCNL's Grassroots Advocacy

"Experts don't carry that many votes. You needed to have strong, disciplined, grassroots groups out there demonstrating support for the [2015 Iran nuclear] deal. And that's where FCNL was so essential...There are very few organizations in town with this kind of advocacy machinery." ~ Joe Cirincione, Ploughshares Fund President. In a 2019 meeting with an FCNL Advocacy Team, a Senate staffer volunteered that the team's lobbying had been instrumental in the senator's decision to vote for the deal.

"I always loved meeting with the groups you would bring in and just your overall approach to advocacy. You do it right." ~ Congressional aide to former Rep. Patrick Meehan (R-PA)

"I agree [with the need to repeal the 2001 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force] and wanted to share some information on what I've been working on...Congress continues to avoid a real debate on this issue, because war votes aren't easy." ~ Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA), in a letter to the editor published in the Charlottesville, VA *Daily Progress*, January 2019. This statement was a direct response to a letter written by an FCNL Advocacy Team member calling on Virginia officials to repeal these laws.