



FCNL's Lobbying Impact

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

In April 2019, Congress sent the president bipartisan legislation that would end U.S. support for the Saudi-led war in Yemen. Majorities in both chambers passed this legislation earlier this year. This conflict has killed thousands and put millions of Yemenis on the brink of starvation. FCNL's advocacy paved the way for these historic bipartisan votes: educating members of Congress about U.S. complicity in this massive humanitarian crisis, mobilizing grassroots advocates, and leading faith community lobbying to end this illegal war.

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.

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.

Criminal Justice: First Step Act Becomes Law

President Trump signed this legislation, the most significant criminal justice reform in years, in December 2018. The law reduces sentences for non-violent crimes and improves rehabilitation for those in prison. FCNL is a leader in the faith community advocating for criminal justice reform and, in partnership with our grassroots network, has persistently pushed Congress to end mass incarceration. This bill is an important step.

Gun Violence: House Breaks Barrier on Action

The House's passage of the Bipartisan Background Checks Act in February 2019 is the first crack in the barrier that for decades has prevented any sensible gun legislation from passing Congress. The bill requires universal background checks for all gun sales, closing a significant loophole. Through our leadership in the Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence coalition, FCNL coordinated lobbying of more than 50 faith groups to help ensure this bill's passage.

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.