

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the General Committee of FCNL, we write to ask you to engage your meeting or church in worship and discernment about our legislative priorities for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress that begins in January 2023. 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.

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. A copy is enclosed. This statement serves as a foundational document from which legislative priorities for FCNL staff can be discerned. *The World We Seek* outlines all FCNL's policy positions. Separately, FCNL's legislative priorities are the specific issues on which FCNL staff will focus their lobbying attention for the next two years.

Amid a continued global pandemic, economic uncertainty, attacks on democratic processes, and a desperate need to reckon with historic and ongoing racial injustice, our country faces significant challenges. Your feedback and participation in the legislative priorities process is especially valuable.

As we seek to uphold and advance Friends' 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 118<sup>th</sup> Congress that begins in January 2023. These issues will both guide the work of FCNL's professional lobbyists in Washington, DC, and identify the issues on which we focus our grassroots energy.

**We invite 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](https://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 12, 2022.**

The Policy Committee is ready to support you and offer guidance if you need more information to pursue your discernment. Please reach out to Genie Stowers ([gstowers835@gmail.com](mailto:gstowers835@gmail.com), 510-734-3624) or Michael Fuson ([michael.m.fuson@gmail.com](mailto:michael.m.fuson@gmail.com), 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**

- Ebby Luvaga (clerk) Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
- Connie Crawford Intermountain Yearly Meeting
- Jamie DeMarco Baltimore Yearly Meeting
- Michael Fuson Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
- Tom Gibian Baltimore Yearly Meeting
- Susan Griffin Baltimore Yearly Meeting
- Jondhi Harrell Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
- Noell Krughoff North Pacific Yearly Meeting
- Zoe Laky Baltimore Yearly Meeting
- Sergio Mata-Cisneros Intermountain Yearly Meeting
- Genie Stowers Pacific Yearly Meeting
- Lois Yellowthunder Northern Yearly Meeting

**Enclosed:**

- The World We Seek: Statement of Legislative Policy (2019)
- Priorities Discernment: Resources for Centering
- Guidelines for Participating in the Priorities Process
- FCNL Legislative Priorities for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress (2021-2022)