
2022 Report to Yearly Meetings

Dear Friends,

Our Quaker faith and practice call us towards the world we seek. Since 1943, the Friends Committee on National Legislation has carried on this witness of the Spirit through national advocacy. Here are just some of the highlights of this year's work, made possible by your dedicated engagement and financial support.

Advocating for the World We Seek

This continues to be a challenging time to advocate for peace, justice, and environmental sustainability with Congress. Many people know FCNL for its "War Is Not the Answer" message, which has proven more relevant than ever with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We continue to urge Congress to condemn the invasion, press for diplomacy, invest in peacebuilding, and recognize that lasting peace can only be achieved through peaceful means. Yet amid this and other challenges, FCNL's persistent work is changing policy.

In early March 2022, **Congress reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act**, which had lapsed in 2018. This long overdue reauthorization will be especially impactful for Native communities, long under-resourced and under-supported in their pursuit of justice. The bill expands tribal jurisdiction significantly, strengthening tribes' ability to protect their citizens. FCNL has worked in solidarity with tribal nations and tribal organizations for many years for this increase in congressional support for Native communities.

This year we moved closer than ever to **repealing an Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF)**. Legislation to repeal the 2002 legislation authorizing the Iraq war has passed the House and is poised for Senate passage. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Barbara Lee (CA-13), acknowledged FCNL's work in remarks on MSNBC, saying "FCNL is one of the most well-organized and strategic advocacy teams in Washington. Their advocates always speak with detailed knowledge and moral clarity."

FCNL's 126 **Advocacy Teams** have been key to our persistent efforts to end wars. Working across 44 states, these more than 1,500 Quakers and friends are using their power as constituents to make change in Washington. Their success comes from a commitment to building relationships with Congress grounded in mutual respect and listening. In 2021, Teams were instrumental in building support for AUMF repeal. In 2022 they are focusing on ending U.S. support for the Saudi-led war in Yemen. If you aren't already part of this movement, visit fcnl.org/advocacyteams to start or join a team.

We successfully lobbied for the passage of the American Rescue Plan (P.L. 117-2). Passed in March 2021, this bill **helped ease the economic impact of the pandemic**. In November, as part of FCNL's Annual Meeting, hundreds of Friends and supporters lobbied virtually to expand the Child Tax Credit. We continue to work for this expansion, which since its expiration in December has thrust 3.7 million children back into poverty in the United States.

In Washington, our **domestic policy advocacy** prioritizes racial equity and disparity in justice reform, environmental policy, and migration advocacy. In March 2022, we held our first hybrid **Spring Lobby Weekend**, with more than 300 young adults joining in Washington, D.C. and 100 more online, to urge Congress to support a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. With the help of 18 young adult **Advocacy Corps** organizers, FCNL began securing co-sponsorships for the Environmental Justice for All Act (S.872/ H.R. 2021) to return power

to the predominantly Black, brown, Indigenous, and lower income communities that environmental degradation most affects.

Racial justice was also a focus of the project, co-led by FCNL, on **“Dismantling Racism and Militarism in U.S. Foreign Policy.”** The report, developed in consultation with a diverse group of foreign policy thought leaders, analyzes the racism and militarism at the core of U.S. foreign policy, and offers a roadmap for progress toward a more sustainable, just, and peaceful world.

Our Beloved Community

FCNL’s efforts on Capitol Hill and around the country could not happen without the strong community of Quakers and friends. You make our advocacy faithful and effective. We are grateful for the nearly 200 Friends representing 32 Quaker bodies who govern FCNL as General Committee members.

These Friends gather yearly to conduct organizational business, which at the 2021 Annual Meeting included joyful approval of **Bridget Moix as FCNL’s fifth General Secretary.** She began work in January 2022 and brings years of peacebuilding experience as well as a long history of work with FCNL as a program assistant, lobbyist, and clerk of the General Committee. She takes on this role ready to focus on Friends’ role in healing the divides in our country, strengthening democracy, and engaging with communities as leaders of change.

Bridget is also focusing on continuing FCNL’s work around issues of anti-racism, justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. This focus is happening both through the specifics of legislation and in our work within our own community. We continue to work to integrate our faith grounding; commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion; and public policy change—while leading FCNL toward becoming both more anti-racist and more deeply grounded in Quakerism.

FCNL’s travel among Friends is one way we stay grounded, as we listen and connect to Friends’ concerns. Staff visited more than 75 Quaker communities last year and this year are joined by a growing number of volunteer **Visiting Friends** who share their messages of hope and faith-in-action while connecting Friends with FCNL advocacy resources. Learn more: fcnl.org/quakers.

Friends Place on Capitol Hill is open! The former William Penn House began welcoming guests in January 2022 after significant repairs were completed. Friends Place is a Quaker learning center and guesthouse that provides civic education opportunities for young people. As of this writing, more than 50 groups are planning to stay at the House in 2022, with more contacting us every week. Learn more: friendsplacedc.org.

FCNL’s work in the year ahead will be full of challenges and opportunities, both politically and organizationally. We are grateful to have a strong foundation on which to build. Thank you for your prayers, participation, financial support—and, above all, for your faithfulness.

In peace,



Mary Lou Hatcher

Clerk, FCNL General Committee
Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting



Mary Lou Hatcher and Bridget Moix take a moment from Annual Meeting proceedings to stroll to the Capitol.

FCNL photo by Cheriss May.