



Friends Committee
on National Legislation
Lobbying with Quakers

January 1, 2024

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 119th Congress that begins in January 2025. 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, D.C., connects our advocacy strongly to the testimonies and values of Friends.

Last year, your meeting may have contributed to participating in the discernment process about FCNL's policy on abortion and reproductive health, which updated a portion of FCNL's policy statement, "The World We Seek." This document is available at fcnl.org/legislativestatement. FCNL's policy 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.

In a time of growing conflict and war in the Middle East, Ukraine, and around the globe, the urgency of the climate crisis, threats to America's democratic processes, and a desperate need to reckon with historic and ongoing racial injustice, our country faces significant challenges. Thus, your feedback and participation in the legislative priorities process are especially valuable this year.

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 invite you and your meeting, church, or other Friends group to take part in this priorities-setting process that will both guide FCNL's professional lobbyists in Washington, D.C., and identify the issues on which we focus our grassroots energy. Enclosed, and on FCNL's website at 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 15, 2024.**

(continued on next page)

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, 510-734-3624) or Lois Yellowthunder (lois@anthrolaw.com, 651-699-7392) 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—and we can't do it without you.

In peace,

The FCNL Policy Committee

Genie Stowers (clerk)	Pacific Yearly Meeting
Gray Cox	New England Yearly Meeting
Scot Drysdale	New England Yearly Meeting
Jamie DeMarco	Baltimore Yearly Meeting
Susan Griffin	Baltimore Yearly Meeting
Noell Krughoff	North Pacific Yearly Meeting
Walter Long	South Central Yearly Meeting
Sergio Mata-Cisneros	Intermountain Yearly Meeting
Pamela Minden	Northern Yearly Meeting
Lois Yellowthunder	Northern Yearly Meeting

Enclosed:

- Priorities Discernment: Resources for Centering
- Guidelines for Participating in the Priorities Process
- FCNL Legislative Priorities for the 118th Congress (2023–2024)
- FCNL Anti-Racism, Anti-Bias, Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (AJEDI) Statement