

Preamble

FCNL's The World We Seek policy statement provides the fundamental vision underpinning all its efforts to bring about a more peaceful, just and sustainable world. The 2027-2028 legislative priorities, which provide more specific guidance for this work, were discerned from suggestions offered by hundreds of Friends meetings, churches, other Quaker groups, and FCNL staff and governors. Implementing the priorities is contingent on legislative opportunities, specific expertise, leadings, and available organizational resources used strategically to allow for the greatest success.

The priorities discernment process revealed deep concern around the country about threats to our democracy. Congress, the focus of our lobbying, is essential to our system of checks and balances. It has the power and authority to hold the executive branch accountable, to allocate funds to meet the nation's priorities, and to declare war. Always, we hold up the importance of maintaining free and fair elections, which are key to a Congress that represents the will of the people.

The rapid development of Artificial Intelligence is challenging our ability to monitor, guide, and regulate it. As AI becomes pervasive, its impacts are revolutionary for our lives, the environment, and our democracy. We recognize the need to consider implications for AI in all of FCNL's work and to address these concerns as they apply across the full spectrum of The World We Seek.

The following legislative priorities, guided by the Spirit, reflect Quaker Testimonies, values, and principles. Legislative action alone cannot heal our nation. FCNL, Quakers, and other seekers of justice serve as powerful advocates in their individual communities for justice, human rights, the environment and peace, shining the Light on what this country can be.

Legislative Priorities for the 120th Congress

Our nation has a special responsibility to recognize and repair the societal impact of our history of colonialism, slavery, genocide, and race-based and gender-based discrimination, ableism, homophobia, and oppression. This is foundational to FCNL's work.

- Champion climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, including supporting renewable energy and reducing support for fossil fuels. Protect and restore the environment with evidence-based laws, policies, and justice.
- Support diplomacy, humanitarian aid, and non-violent approaches to conflict to build peace at home and abroad.
- Address Congress' role in decisions around military engagements and the development of newly emerging weapons. Reduce military spending, end international military aid, and eliminate nuclear weapons.
- Protect human rights, and demilitarize and decriminalize immigration policies and enforcement.
- Enact legislation to ensure voting rights, free and fair elections, and campaign finance reform.

- Invest in universal access to basic human needs and services. Support living wages and pathways to meaningful work.
- Uphold the community rights and concerns of Indigenous peoples and reform the federal legal and administrative systems to protect tribal sovereignty and self-determination.