Legislative Priorities for the 120th Congress

Preamble

FCNL's The World We Seek policy statement underpins all its efforts to bring about a more peaceful, just and sustainable world, and it gives FCNL the flexibility to respond to crises and to important legislative opportunities, as Way opens. The 2027-2028 legislative priorities, which provide more specific guidance for this work, were discerned from suggestions offered by hundreds of Friends meetings, churches, and other Quaker groups nationwide, and the FCNL staff and General Committee.

Guided by Spirit and Quaker testimonies, values, and principles, this priorities discernment process revealed deep concern about threats to our multi-racial civil society and to our democracy. Congress, the focus of our lobbying, is essential to our system of checks and balances. It should exercise its power and authority to hold the executive branch accountable, to allocate funds to meet the nation's priorities, and to limit the use of military force. 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.

It is important to consider the implications of Artificial Intelligence for all of FCNL's work. AI's rapid development challenges humanity's ability to monitor, guide, and regulate it. As AI becomes pervasive, its impacts are revolutionary for our lives, the environment, and our democracy.

We are mindful that 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, transphobia, and other forms of oppression. This is foundational to FCNL's work.

Legislative action is one aspect of healing our nation. Quakers and other seekers of justice are powerful advocates in their individual communities for human rights, the environment and peace, shining the Light on what this country can be.

Legislative Priorities for the 120th Congress

The following priorities are equally important and are listed in no particular order.

- End war and military conflicts. Reduce military spending and international military aid. Restrict existing weapons and the development of new weapons. Eliminate nuclear weapons.
- Support diplomacy, humanitarian aid, and nonviolent conflict resolution to build peace at home and abroad.
- Protect and restore the environment with evidence-based laws and policies. Champion climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, greenhouse gas reduction to net zero, and environmental justice.
- Reform immigration policies to protect and advance human rights. Demilitarize and decriminalize immigration enforcement.
- Enact legislation to ensure voting rights, free and fair elections, and campaign finance reform.
- Eliminate poverty and structural barriers to meeting basic human needs. Guarantee access to healthcare and economic opportunity for all. Support a living wage.
- Uphold the community rights and concerns of Indigenous peoples and reform the federal legal and administrative systems to protect tribal and community sovereignty and self-determination.