

on Newsletter, January

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Legislative Priorities for the 105th Congress

(approved November 9, 1996)

The Friends Committee on National Legislation works to bring spiritual values to bear on public policy decisions. In an economic environment that has widened the gap between rich and poor, and in a political atmosphere that is often harsh and judgmental, we challenge ourselves to bring a witness of love to those we encounter in our political work. During the 105th Congress we will work to increase open dialog and cooperation among those with varied viewpoints. We hope that this dialog will help to restore greater trust and involvement in government. In our political activities, we will work to promote Quaker values of mutual respect, integrity, and a spirit of cooperation.

FCNL staff will work with the General Committee, Friends, volunteers, and like-minded people on the following legislative priorities:

- Shift budget priorities to promote economic justice and meet human needs at home and abroad in ways that respect human dignity and that of God in everyone;
- Reduce military spending and promote disarmament; stop production, testing, and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and end military aid and trade in weapons of all kinds;
- Promote institutions and processes for international cooperation, peaceful conflict resolution, and the prevention of violent conflict; advocate full payment of U.S. obligations to the United Nations.

FCNL staff and Policy Committee have the flexibility, within the Statement of Legislative Policy, to respond to crises and important legislative opportunities. FCNL will continue its long-standing work for the rights of conscience, for the abolition of the death penalty, and with Native peoples. In addition to the issues which FCNL has the resources to address, many other deep concerns will continue to receive attention from individual Friends, Monthly Meetings, Churches, and Yearly Meetings.

As we work to find solutions to complex problems, Friends seek divine guidance and ask for renewed strength and hope.

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