



California's Children: Crisis and Opportunity FCLCA interviews Ted Lempert, president of Children Now

How are California's children faring? What are the greatest obstacles to their well-being? Where are things moving in the right direction and what more needs to be done? And most importantly, what can we do this year, next year and beyond to support all of California's 9.3 million children in their journey to adulthood?

FCLCA spoke recently with Ted Lempert, president of Children Now, a nonpartisan policy development and advocacy organization dedicated to promoting children's health and education in California. Children Now has published a not-to-be missed 2014 report card on the condition of California's children that grades our state on 27 indicators of child well-being in health, education and social services.

Information is powerful, but as we know, making change requires organized advocacy. Children Now is building the power to make real change happen through a network called the Children's Movement of California. FCLCA has joined the Children's Movement to help push forward a joint policy agenda that prioritizes our children.

Ted, your organization's recent report card shows passing grades on some indicators, but also many D's and F's. How would you assess the overall state of California's children today?

Kids are not faring well in California. On our range of indicators, we see that too many kids don't have access to health care, to early learning opportunities, to quality child care. Half of our kids are living in low-income families that make do on less than \$45,622 a year for a family of four. That includes the 25



percent of our children who live in true poverty – below the federal poverty level of \$22,811 a year.

What is even more frustrating is that there is not really a good reason for the disappointing state of California's children. Even with a high poverty rate among children, there are many things we could be doing to improve their outcomes. We are not a poor state; in fact, California is a relatively high tax state. But our funding for children is below the national average, while our funding for prisons and law enforcement is higher. Without a significant shift in priorities, this could be the first generation of kids that have a shorter life span and lower standard of living than their parents.

(Continued on next page)

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“The Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA), guided by Quaker values, advocates for California state laws that are just, compassionate and respectful of the inherent worth of every person.”

FCLCA Perspective (continued from page 1)

As you say, far from being a state without resources, California is now the eighth-largest economy in the world. Why have children not been a top priority for policymakers?

I do believe that most people, including policymakers, want to do right by kids. But with stronger interest groups advocating for other issues, other things rise higher on the priority list. Also, while there are a lot of groups that advocate for children, they tend to each focus on their own silo, and so their collective impact has been diffused. We're addressing that problem by bringing groups together into the Children's Movement.

There do seem to be some bright spots for children in the budget that was just passed and in education and health care reform; your report card included a few “B” grades in the areas of health and education.

Yes, California is a leader in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and that will help kids a lot. Our priority is to make sure every kid in California gets covered. We also have to recognize that having insurance doesn't necessarily mean access to health care. For example, many kids have unresolved dental issues because of the lack of supply of pediatric dentists. And we really have to improve our system of screenings and referrals when kids are young. We have to take a proactive approach to screening and addressing potential issues – it both helps the child and saves so much money down the road.

At Children Now, we are particularly focused on developmental screenings for children, which are required under the Affordable Care Act – yet we've found that currently three-quarters of children are not getting screened. One of our priorities for next year is to monitor and ensure that providers and health care plans are implementing these screenings.

We had some losses in children's health in the new budget, and many of the cuts from the recession were left in place. The budget maintains the 10 percent cut to Medi-Cal rates, which were already among the lowest in the nation. Several other very effective programs were not restored: the Early Mental Health Initiative, the Children's Dental Disease Prevention Program and school-based health centers.

There are also major changes in place in K-12 education with the Local Control Funding Formula.

Yes, this is an historic reform, made on a bipartisan basis, which recognizes that every child needs access to quality education. It gives more support to students who are English learners, kids living in concentrated poverty areas and kids in foster care by increasing the percentage of funding their school districts receive from the total amount of funding available statewide.

However, California still needs to address the issue of the overall amount of funding available to our schools. Again, there are some obvious disparities: California ranks 11th in the country in state and local taxes, but adjusted for the cost of living, we rank 49th in per pupil funding. Other spending

categories fare far better: for example, we rank 2nd in corrections spending and 2nd in police and fire spending. After Proposition 30 provisions expire, we will need to go back to the taxpayers to ask for an increase in education funding.

We also believe that the early learning piece is critical: high-quality infant and toddler care and universal access to pre-school and transitional kindergarten. This year’s budget includes funding to enroll more low-income four-year olds in pre-kindergarten and includes commitments to expand access in the future. We are making progress, but this will remain a key priority, as the need is so great, especially for infant and toddlers.

Let’s get back to the Children’s Movement, what are you asking organizations to do?

Our message to organizations that join the Children’s Movement is “let’s come together on

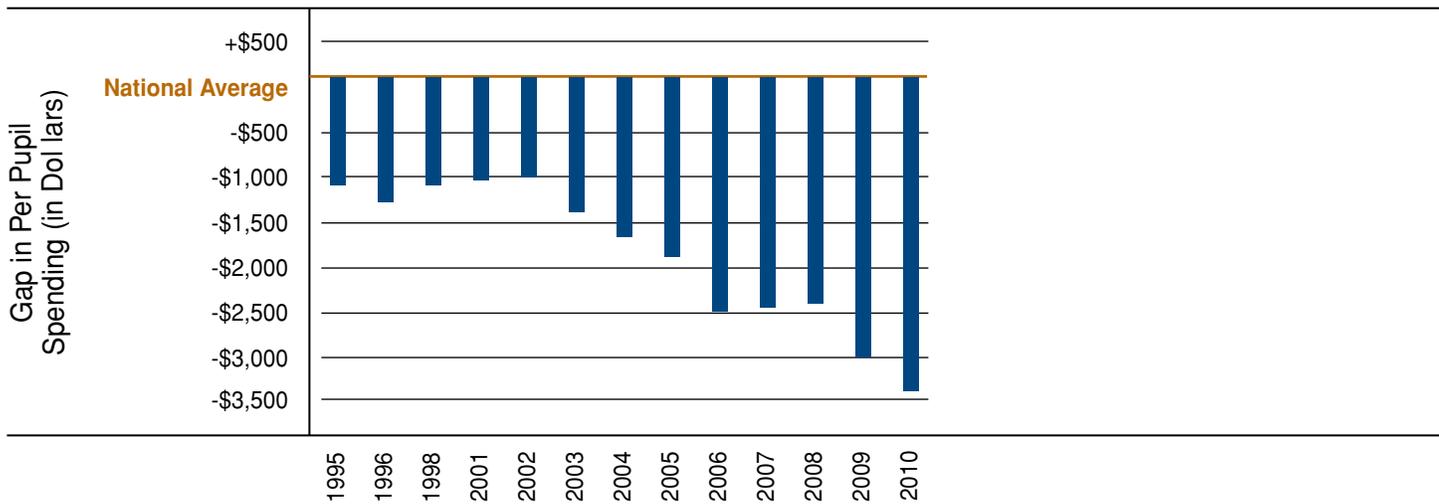
behalf of our kids. Keep doing the good work you are doing in your own area, but at the same time let’s break down these silos that keep us apart, and be willing to support children’s issues beyond our silos. All of us together, in all of our breadth and diversity – businesses, non-profits, faith and community-based organizations, parents’ groups, and direct service providers – can build a strong movement that can be a political force for children.” And we need to be bold in pursuing a multi-pronged agenda for children – it’s okay to take action on 20 or 25 things at the same time – because all of the issues that affect children are intertwined and interdependent. The time is now. [FCLCA](#)

LEARN MORE:

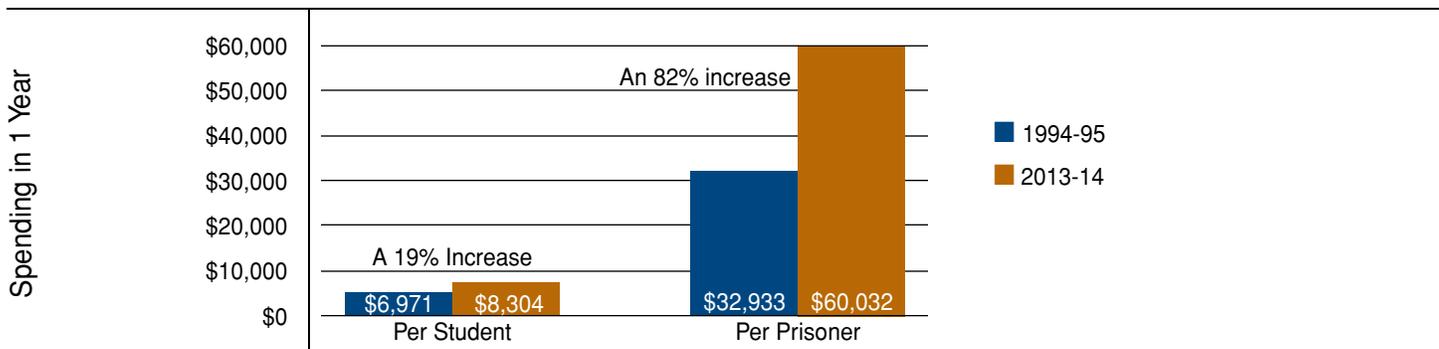
Visit www.childrennow.org

- PDFs available for download
 - 2014 California Children’s Report Card
 - Pro-Kid Policy Agenda

California has chronically underfunded K-12 education with per pupil expenditures that are well below the national average



California’s spending per prisoner has increased roughly 4 times faster than spending on K-12 students since 1995



Source: 2014 CA Children’s Report Card, p.14

Lobby Day 2014: FCLCA activists bring their voice of conscience to Sacramento

When staff approached the FCLCA board with the idea of holding a 2014 FCLCA Lobby Day, the first in more than a dozen years, I was excited about the possibilities. It would give our activists a first-hand glimpse of the work our lobbyist and legislative director, Jim Lindburg, does year round to advance our legislative agenda. It would also give them an opportunity to speak directly to legislators and their staff about the issues and the bills we are co-sponsoring. And, since constituent involvement is so important in moving legislators to vote for or against a specific bill, it would help us advance important legislation.

I did have some concerns that not enough of our supporters would make the trip to Sacramento, but those fears were allayed when 30 activists from all over California showed up on May 12 to participate directly in our legislative process.

Putting together a successful lobby day is a complex affair. As the day approached, our staff had to set up appointments for legislative visits, taking into account the districts that attendees would represent, and then prepare materials, both for our cohort of grassroots lobbyists to study and for them to leave with legislators and staff.

In the end, we had a thrilling day. It was wonderful to walk into the room our staff had borrowed for the day and see so many of you there. We had a visit from Assembly Member Quirk, whose important bill on telephone access for people in county detention, AB 1876, we are co-sponsoring. The bill was headed for a floor vote and he thanked us for our past work on the bill,

and also for coming out to lobby in person for its passage.

We made 16 scheduled legislative visits, advocating for AB 1876 and other bills we support with members of the legislators' staff.

We hear (and talk) a lot about the power of people, about the difference that concerned, informed people can make in our political process – it was wonderful to see that power in action on a beautiful day in May at our state Capitol.

Laurel Gord, FCLCA Clerk

Lessons from Lobby Day

I came away with a tremendous appreciation for the care taken by California legislators and aides to welcome every constituent and to listen attentively to their points of view.

With my Senator, I understood that there are thousands of bills introduced and that our particular bill wouldn't necessarily be focused upon until it arrived on the floor. Careful friendly follow up to keep the bill in their field of vision is the work of our faithful lobbyists.

In visiting with the Appropriations Committee analyst, I understood what a key role he plays in determining the financial ramifications of each bill. I perceived that the conclusion can go either way depending on how wide in the entire system and how far into the future the bill's influence is gauged.

Communicating closely with the Appropriations Committee and learning their point of view is so important to our lobbyists and to the survival of the bills FCLCA supports.

– Carol Mosher, Berkeley Friends Meeting

I know our efforts contributed to the telephone access bill sailing through its vote on the Assembly floor.

Between visits, many of us watched the swearing in of new Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins. We found out that she is the first openly lesbian Assembly Speaker, and that she grew up desperately poor in Appalachia before moving to California. It was very moving to see her openly thank and acknowledge her wife from the podium, and it left me hopeful about the future of California.

I want to thank our staff and everyone who was involved in making the day such a success. Most of all, I want to thank you, our FCLCA supporters, for showing up in so many different ways. Thank you for showing up for our lobby day. Thank you for responding to email alerts and



writing letters. And thank you for your financial support that makes it all possible. [FCLCA](#)

– Laurel Gord, FCLCA Clerk

Bills You Should Know About

Thanks to your help, two FCLCA co-sponsored bills are wending their way through the legislative process! So far this year, FCLCA activists have sent over 5,150 messages to their legislators and the governor on a wide variety of issues: advocating for reform of solitary confinement and drug sentencing, a budget focused on people not prisons, and an amendment to overturn Citizens United, and opposing mandatory Selective Service registration for driver's license applicants.

AB 1876, by Bill Quirk (D-Hayward), co-sponsored by FCLCA, lowers the exorbitant costs of telephone calls made by persons housed in local detention facilities by eliminating commissions paid by the contract phone vendor to local sheriffs' agencies. Passed the Assembly Floor, Senate Public Safety Committee. Hearing in Senate Appropriations Committee in August.

SB 1010, by Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles), co-sponsored by FCLCA, eliminates sentencing disparities in California law for possessing cocaine base for sale versus possessing powder cocaine. Passed the Senate, Assembly Public Safety Committee and Assembly Appropriations Committee. Moves to full Assembly for a floor vote in early August.

AB 2201, by Rocky Chavez (R-Oceanside), links driver's license registration for young males to automatic registration with the Selective Service System (SSS) for the draft process. While previous versions of this bill have passed through the policy committees, they typically die in the Appropriations Committee due to costs to the State. This year, however, the SSS has agreed to provide the California DMV with funds to help with implementation. Passed the Assembly and Senate Transportation and Housing Committee. Will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee in August. OPPOSE.

AB 1652, by Tom Ammiano (D-San Francisco), prohibits the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) from assigning prisoners to Secure Housing Units (SHUs) indefinitely on the basis of alleged gang connections. Amended by the Assembly Appropriations Committee to strip the language prohibiting SHU assignments but still included a provision restoring eligibility for prisoners serving indeterminate SHU terms to earn goodtime credits. The scaled back bill died on the Assembly Floor. SUPPORT.

(Continued on page 11)

The Legacy of a Boom and Bust Budget

New spending plan bolsters education, embraces fiscal prudence, but leaks in safety net remain

California has a state budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 that was signed into law on June 20, ten days ahead of the State's constitutional deadline. Though there is plenty to like in this new budget, it also reflects the Brown administration's priority for managing state finances prudently over restoring the State's tattered safety net, which has undergone severe cuts since the Great Recession. While California's economy is improving, the gap between rich and poor continues to widen. At 7.8 percent, our state's unemployment rate, though headed downward, remains stubbornly high, well above the national average of 6.1 percent. California has the highest poverty rate in the nation, almost 24 percent, or nine million people.

Despite California's improving fiscal condition, deep structural problems remain.

The budget package – \$108 billion in General Fund spending (\$156 billion in total state spending when including federal funds and special funds) – includes funding increases for education and makes some modest restorations and targeted investments in safety net programs while prioritizing paying down state debt, reducing unfunded pension liabilities and transferring \$1.6 billion into the State's Budget Stabilization Account. California's "wall of debt" stood at nearly \$35 billion when Gov. Brown took office in 2011. It has since declined to \$26 billion as the result of previous budget actions. The debt will be reduced by another \$10.6 billion by the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year as a result of the new budget agreement, which also eliminates the debt entirely by the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

State's revenue picture brightens

In 2012 California voters passed Propositions 30 and 39 which, with the help of a growing economy, have improved the State's fiscal position substantially. With state tax collections exceeding estimates

for the current fiscal year by \$2 billion through April, both Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) and new Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins (D-Chula Vista), called for an alternative approach. They advocated investing more in people by allocating one-third each of the unanticipated revenues towards the safety net and smart investments, paying down debt and saving for a rainy day. If the Legislature had opted to stretch out the paying down of the State's debt over a longer period, there would be additional funding for safety net restorations and smart investments in people. Moreover, the State would still be more ahead of the game in terms of debt reduction than anyone could have imagined a few years ago. Despite California's improving fiscal condition, deep structural problems remain.

The perils of boom and bust budgeting

No doubt there is much to be said for not expanding programs on the basis of temporary upswings in state revenue collections, which, if history is a guide, are as certain to decline. California's progressive income tax accounts for nearly two-thirds of its revenue collections, which makes budgeting problematic. While FCLCA supports progressive taxation, personal income tax collections are volatile and largely hinge on the state of the economy. In recessions, they decline substantially, and the reverse is true during good economic times. According to the California Budget Project, the share of corporate income paid in taxes has declined by half since 1981, from 9.7 percent to 4.9 percent. Today corporate income tax revenues account for just over 8 percent of General Fund revenues.

The dotcom boom and the surge in state revenue collections in the late 1990s enabled the Legislature and then-Governor

Gray Davis to expand investments in education and healthcare. In exchange for these increased investments, Republicans succeeded in negotiating tax cuts. When the boom went bust and tax revenues declined, programs were cut, in part because there were not enough votes in the Legislature for restoring revenues in order to cushion the downturn. The California Constitution requires a two-thirds supermajority to increase revenues. Lengthy budget stalemates and budgets that relied on loans from special funds, deferrals of payments to public schools, along with various accounting gimmicks designed to minimize budget cuts, became the norm. This year's budget negotiations went smoothly largely because tax revenues are up and because California voters passed Proposition 25 in 2010 to amend the state constitution, changing the legislative threshold for passing the State's budget to a simple majority (tax and fee increases still require a two-thirds supermajority).

When there are economic downturns, the Legislature should increase spending for the safety net as more people require government services. Perversely, under our state's antiquated tax system, the reverse logic prevails, and government services are slashed when the economy goes bust. Until these structural problems are addressed, a strong safety net, which lacks a powerful lobby like the Chamber of Commerce, is relegated to the status of a luxury when the economy – perhaps more accurately, when the stock market – is strong and state tax coffers are flush due to capital gains.

Gov. Brown and the Legislature are trying to smooth out these revenue swings by putting \$1.6 billion aside in a rainy day fund. (The Legislature has also put a constitutional amendment on the November 2014 ballot – Proposition 44 – that will require that funds be put aside annually in a rainy day fund; FCLCA is analyzing Proposition 44 and will make its voter recommendation in advance of the election). In theory, a sizeable rainy day fund should cushion the state budget against the wild swings in revenue collections.

But for the nine million Californians living in poverty, that rainy day has arrived. How much money does it make sense to set aside for a rainy day when it's pouring rain? Amid the election

year fanfare and despite some notable victories (discussed below) the larger question of how California can generate a sufficient, stable and long-term revenue base that invests in people and communities and makes California a desirable place to live and work remains unanswered. Surely, as the world's eighth largest economy, we can and must do better.

Key features of the 2014-2015 budget

Health and Human Services: The maximum CalWORKS (California's version of the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program which transitions adults from "welfare to work") grant for a family of three will increase by 5 percent on April 1, 2015 (this is on top of a 5 percent increase in this year's budget). For a family of three the maximum grant will increase from \$670 per month to \$704 per month. CalWORKS grants were reduced substantially in recent years, and the Legislature imposed a 24-month time limit on participation in the program.

California's progressive income tax accounts for nearly two-thirds of its revenue collections, which makes budgeting problematic.

The new budget agreement restores 13,000 child care and pre-school slots. However, over 110,000 child care slots have been eliminated since the Great Recession. According to the California Budget Project an estimated 200,000 children are on waiting lists for available slots.

While the State is expanding Medi-Cal coverage to 1.4 million residents through the federal Affordable Care Act, a 10 percent cut in the reimbursement rate to Medi-Cal providers remains in effect, which raises concerns over whether there will be an adequate number of healthcare providers willing to provide for the increased caseload. The new budget does not restore cuts made to the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) grants to program recipients. These grants help fund basic necessities for over one million low-income seniors and people with disabilities. An 8 percent reduction in the total hours for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) remains in effect. The IHSS program saves the State considerable amounts of money by providing care in the home for seniors and people with disabilities which prevents the need for costly care outside the home.

(Continued on next page)

The new budget contains bill language that ends the prohibition on persons with felony drug convictions from being eligible to apply for CalWORKS and CalFresh (the federal food stamps program) benefits. The Legislature also expanded CalFresh eligibility to households with gross incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level so long as their net income, after deducting for certain expenses such as housing and child care, remains at or under the poverty level.

Corrections: Spending for prisons, which declined slightly following the realignment of persons convicted of low-level felonies, is budgeted for \$10 billion in 2014-2015. As part of a compromise bill (SB 105) worked out between Senate Democrats and Gov. Brown last year to bring the State in compliance with a federal court order to reduce prison overcrowding, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has started contracting for up to 6,000 temporary beds at a private prison and several community correctional facilities around the state. The State was granted a two-year extension by the federal court to reduce the prison population to 137.5 percent of prison capacity. The budget includes \$91 million for the State's new Recidivism Reduction Fund created by SB 105 which includes funding for collaborative courts (mental health courts, drug courts and the like where the court supervises treatment), mental health and drug treatment, re-entry services and workforce training. But absent major sentencing reforms, CDCR is projecting that the prison population is slated to start growing again, and those 6,000 temporary beds risk becoming permanent.

The budget also includes \$500 million from the proceeds from lease-revenue bonds for counties to construct new jail facilities. Given that 64 percent of people held in local jails are awaiting trial and that many counties have been reluctant to implement split sentences, which would require persons convicted of low-level felonies to spend a

portion of their sentence in community supervision, FCLCA opposed this provision. The Senate Budget Committee passed a compromise version that would allow local Boards of Supervisors to use these funds for the construction of jails, substance abuse and mental health treatment facilities, residential live-in facilities and other similar community facilities, but the governor's proposal prevailed with the caveat that the funds would prioritize jails that include treatment space. The budget also includes bill language that creates the presumption that a person convicted of a realigned, low-level felony and subject to county custody will serve a portion of their sentence in

community supervision unless a judge finds that doing so would not be in the interests of justice. This should enable this population to receive re-entry services and relieve population pressures on county jails.

Education K-12: Proposition 98 funding for public schools increases to \$61 billion. (In 1988, California voters passed Proposition 98, which amended the California Constitution to guarantee public schools a certain share of funding. Its funding formulas are tied to growth in General Fund revenues.) According to the Department of Finance, the new budget agreement will provide \$1,954 more per student than the 2011-2012 budget. The budget also provides \$4.7 billion for the second-year implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), which directs more funding to school districts with higher percentages of English language learners, students from low-income families and foster-care youth.

Higher Education: California Community Colleges will receive a \$594 million increase in funding. Both the University of California and California State University systems will receive increases of \$142.2 million with the expectation that they will hold the line on tuition and fee hikes. [FCLCA](#)

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– Jim Lindburg (JimL@fclca.org)



Friends Committee on Legislation of California and the FCL Education Fund have launched **the Legacy Circle Campaign**.

You can join the Legacy Circle by making a gift of any size through your estate plan.

Here is a message from our founding members.

Will you join us in giving a gift to the future?

We've agreed to join the Legacy Circle to help ensure the future of FCLCA and the FCL Education Fund.

And because we believe a strong voice of conscience will always be needed at the Capitol when laws are made.

This is something everyone can do. Please join us.

Here's how to give a gift to the future:

- Provide for a gift to FCLCA or the FCL Education Fund through your will or trust. *Many people leave a percentage of their estate to organizations they support after they have provided for family.*
- Make FCLCA or the FCL Education Fund a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or retirement account.
- Set up a planned gift that pays you income during your lifetime, with the remainder going to the FCL Education Fund. Both offer charitable deductions and other tax advantages:
 - A *charitable gift annuity* makes a fixed payment for life to one or two annuitants.
 - The *FCL Pooled Income Fund* combines donors' gifts into an investment pool and pays out the interest income quarterly to one or two beneficiaries.



If you would like more information or to request our Legacy Circle packet:

- Please contact Kevan Insko at Kevan@fclca.org or (916) 443-3734 or visit <http://www.fclca.org/donate-now/planned-giving.html>.

We hope to see you in the Circle!

Legacy Circle Founding Committee

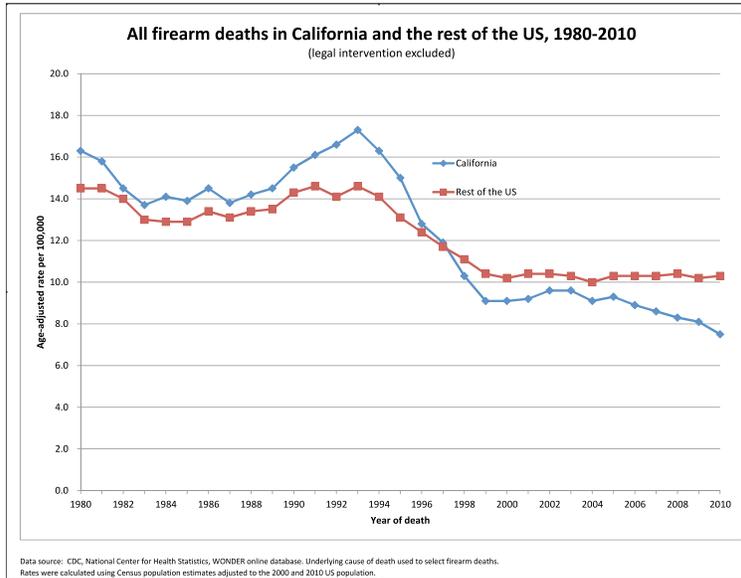
Laurel Gord

Steve Birdlebough and Sally Davis

Elizabeth Ralston

Reducing Gun Violence: California leads the nation, but gaps remain

FCLCA spoke recently with Amanda Wilcox, Legislation and Policy Chair of the California Chapters of the Brady Campaign, about California's legislative efforts to reduce gun violence. Amanda provided us with an update on bills currently in process in the California legislature.



California has the strongest gun laws in the nation. Data shows that our laws are making a difference in saving Californians from injury and death by gun violence. Homicides and suicides by gun, while still unacceptably high, have dropped steeply compared to other states after reaching a peak in 1993.

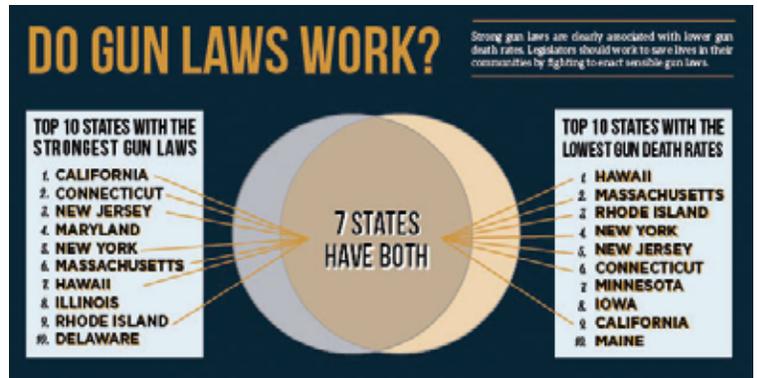
California received the highest score, an A-, in the 2013 State Scorecard: Why Gun Laws Matter, a joint project of the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence and the Brady Campaign. (See the criteria and rankings for

all 50 states at bradycampaign.org/2013-state-scorecard.)

The Scorecard notes:

Gun laws can make a real difference to public safety.

Seven states with the highest grades also have the lowest gun death rates nationwide. Conversely, many states with the weakest gun laws have the highest gun death rates. While more research is needed to determine the precise relationship, it is clear that the data supports the conclusion that state gun laws and the rate of gun deaths are closely tied.



We need to do more. Several current bills in the state legislature will help bridge significant gaps in our gun laws.

One major gap is that there is currently no regulation on the sale of ammunition. Amanda notes "it can be sold out of the trunk of your car." The Brady Campaign supports Senate Bill 53 to address the gap.

Senate Bill 53 (De Leon) will allow authorities to know who is selling ammunition and ensure they are licensed by the State. Ammunition sales would have specific requirements to improve safety: requiring sales be made face to face and requiring retail storage be secured so that access to ammunition is controlled by the shopkeeper and it cannot be easily shoplifted. Buyers would undergo a one-time background check and be placed on a state Department of Justice approved list. Sales information would be provided to the State to crosscheck buyers with a list of those prohibited from owning guns, which would increase enforcement of exist-

RESOURCES

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
<http://www.bradycampaign.org/california-chapters>

The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence
www.smartgunlaws.org

Everytown for Gun Safety
www.everytown.org

ing gun laws. This information is valuable as an investigative tool to see who is illegally in possession of a firearm and who may be stockpiling ammunition.

Assembly Bill 1014 (Skinner) will address the issue of “dangerousness” as it relates to gun

ownership. Based on recommendations from a 2013 gun violence and mental health panel convened by Johns Hopkins University, AB 1014 was introduced this spring after the killings at U.C. Santa Barbara. Under current California law there are several categories of persons prohibited from owning guns, including those convicted of felonies and certain violent misdemeanors, domestic abusers, and those involuntarily hospitalized for mental illness. AB 1014 will allow family members, therapists, physicians, and law enforcement to request a hearing before a judge for a gun violence restraining order if a person exhibits risk behaviors for violence but does not fall into one of the existing categories. Under the order, a person would be prohibited from buying or possessing firearms. As of July 2014, the bill is in the Senate. [FCLCA](#)

Bills You Should Know About *(continued from page 5)*

SB 892, by Loni Hancock (D-Berkeley), creates some oversight of CDCR’s gang validation process, requires evidence-based programming for prisoners in the step-down program and cuts the time it takes to complete the program in half and makes other changes. Passed full Senate and Assembly Public Safety Committee. Assembly Appropriations Committee hearing in August. SUPPORT.

SB 899, by Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles), repeals the prohibition on parents’ receiving additional assistance for a child born while any member of the household is receiving aid. Died in the Senate Appropriations Committee. SUPPORT.

SB 935, by Senator Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), increases California’s minimum wage to \$13 per hour in 2016, after which the minimum wage would be indexed to the rate of inflation. Died in the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee. SUPPORT.

SB 391, by Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord), creates a permanent funding source for affordable housing by assessing new fees for recording real estate documents. Died in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. SUPPORT.

SB 1132, by Leno and Mitchell, for a moratorium on fracking died on the Senate Floor. SUPPORT.

SB 270, by Alex Padilla (D-Los Angeles), mandates the use of reusable and recyclable shopping bags. Currently on the Assembly Appropriations Committee’s Suspense File. The bill has until August 15 to pass out of committee. SUPPORT.

SB 27, by Lou Correa (D-Santa Ana), requires nonprofit organizations that make political contributions to provide more information about the source of their funding. Signed into law by Gov. Brown. SUPPORT.

SB 52, by Leno and Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo), requires that political ads clearly identify their three largest funders. In the Assembly Appropriations Committee. SUPPORT.

SB 1272, by Ted Lieu (D-Torrance), places a proposition on the November ballot advising Congress to propose amending the U.S. Constitution to overturn Citizens United and proposing that the California Legislature ratify the amendment. On Gov. Brown’s desk awaiting signature. SUPPORT. [FCLCA](#)

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More info at quakerharvestfestival.org

The Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA) includes Friends and like-minded persons, a majority of whom are appointed by Monthly Meetings of the Religious Society of Friends in California.

Expressions of views in this newsletter are guided by Statements of Policy prepared and approved by the FCLCA Committees. Seeking to follow the leadings of the Spirit, the FCLCA speaks for itself and for like-minded Friends. No organization can speak officially for the Religious Society of Friends.

While we strive above all for correctness and probity, we are quick to recognize that to err is human. We therefore solicit and welcome comments and corrections from our readers.