



FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION OF CALIFORNIA

A Voice of Conscience at the Capitol

Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA) is a public interest advocacy organization founded by Quakers in 1952 at the height of the McCarthy era. Now in our seventh decade, we have built a solid reputation of respectful dialogue and effective lobbying at the state Capitol.

We are open to all, and our supporters include people of all faiths and backgrounds. FCLCA follows in a tradition of political engagement based on the strong humanitarian values held by Quakers (or Friends, as they are also known) who helped to found organizations such as Greenpeace, Amnesty International, Oxfam and the American Friends Service Committee, winner of the 1947 Nobel Peace Prize.

What can we do for you?

Would you like to see more compassionate, just and equitable policies in California? Would you like to see reform in our criminal justice system, with less reliance on incarceration and more money spent on treating addictions and addressing the root causes of crime? Would you like to see action to deal with California's income inequality and shameful rate of child poverty? Would you like to support strong legislation to deal with our environmental crisis? Then join us!

With the support of people like you, FCLCA makes a difference in three primary ways:

Our **registered lobbyist** is on the scene at the state Capitol: closely following legislation, testifying on specific bills in committee hearings, and meeting with legislators and their staff to advocate for FCLCA's positions. He works with our partner organizations (such as ACLU, Human Rights Watch, California Immigrant Policy Center, the Women's Policy Institute) to write new bills, co-sponsoring and shepherding key pieces of legislation through the process to become law.

Our **grassroots lobbying program** engages constituents in directly contacting legislators to support and oppose bills. **We make it easy for you to weigh in online through our Action Network.** Over the last few years, FCLCA supporters have sent over 33,000 messages directly to lawmakers. Signing up is easy and free at www.fclca.org.

This year **the FCL Education Fund** is publishing ***Bring Your Voice*** – a practical, comprehensive guidebook to grassroots lobbying that encapsulates FCLCA's 65 years of expertise in affecting legislation. We're also developing an in-person training for community groups and other nonprofit organizations based on the guidebook.

Our **program of education and information** lets you know about key bills and the best time to weigh in on them. Through our website and the ***FCLCA Newsletter***, we give you background on the issues and interviews with people who are making a difference. In election years, FCLCA publishes its **very popular guide to ballot initiatives**, which analyzes and makes recommendations on each ballot measure.

For more information
Check out our website at www.fclca.org or contact us at (916) 443-3734
FCLCA, 1225 8th Street, Suite 220
Sacramento, CA 95814

For an interesting look back at FCLCA and California politics, see our 60th Anniversary issue [now online here](#).
You can read more about our recent and current work on the reverse of this page.

Support our work by donating online at www.fclca.org

FCLCA – contributions are not tax-deductible because they support lobbying.

FCL Education Fund – donations are used for educational activities and are tax-deductible.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST THREE LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

2011-2012 Legislative Session

After six years of hard work by FCLCA, Human Rights Watch and other partners, a groundbreaking sentencing reform bill - Senate Bill 9 - is signed into law. SB 9 allows individuals who were sentenced to life without parole as juveniles -- young people essentially sentenced to die in prison -- to apply for a new sentence of 25 years to life and the opportunity to earn parole.

FCLCA co-sponsors a bill to allow media access to prisons using prolonged solitary confinement. FCLCA's lobbyist and supporters weigh in on dozens of bills including successful legislation to keep immigrant families together, to end the use of restraints on pregnant women in correctional facilities, and to decrease wrongful convictions by restricting the use of uncorroborated jailhouse informant testimony.

2013-2014 Legislative Session

FCLCA co-sponsors SB 260, signed into law by Gov. Brown. The bill creates a new parole process for people serving adult prison terms of greater than 15 years who were under 18 at the time of their offense. An estimated 2,700 people are now offered the opportunity to demonstrate rehabilitation and earn parole in a Youth Offender Parole Hearing. FCLCA co-sponsors SB 1010, which equalizes the penalties for possessing cocaine base and powder cocaine. The new law corrects a previous racial bias in sentencing which resulted in much longer sentences for African-Americans. Among dozens of bills that FCLCA's lobbyist and supporters advocate for are bills requiring paid sick leave and more effective gun control and bills to protect our environment through bans on fracking and plastic bags.

2015-2016 Legislative Session

FCLCA's governing body sets our legislative priorities as three areas: criminal justice reform, economic justice, and environmental justice. In 2015, FCLCA advocates for bills to increase transparency in officer-involved shootings; to track and analyze racial profiling by law enforcement and co-sponsors a bill to collect data on the use of solitary confinement in California's prisons. FCLCA also supports legislation to expand health care to undocumented children and to create a state earned income tax credit for low-income Californians. We play a key role in organizing an interfaith coalition to repeal the "Maximum Family Grant rule," which penalizes poor children by denying additional benefits to infants born into families already receiving CalWORKs aid. FCLCA supports environmental bills that address climate change and lobbies for a bill requiring clean drinking water in all California schools.

In 2016, we are co-sponsoring three bills: Senate Bill 1157, authored by Senator Holly Mitchell, would ensure that local correctional facilities must allow people who are incarcerated (including immigrants in detention) to have in-person visitation. Assembly Bill 2590, authored by Assembly Member Shirley Weber, promotes the concept of restorative justice in sentencing. Senate Bill 759 restores eligibility for earning good-time credits for those prisoners in Security Housing Units. We're also speaking out in support of Sen. Mark Leno's bill SB 1286, which will allow the public to access records of sustained police misconduct, as well as records relating to the use of force that results in death or serious injury.

FCLCA continues to organize and lobby to repeal the Maximum Family Grant rule and supports legislation to benefit families and address income inequality, including equal pay and job opportunities, significant investments in the state's childcare and early education programs, family-friendly workplaces that provide job-protected family leave and protections for domestic workers.

In the area of protecting our environment, we are lobbying for a moratorium on injections of natural gas into wells serving the Aliso Canyon facility (site of the unprecedented methane gas leak); for Senate Bill 1000, which requires every city and county to incorporate an environmental justice element into their new or amended general plans; and for legislation to stop proposed huge shipments of coal near densely populated areas of Oakland.