FCLCA Champion Campaign

Help ensure a voice of conscience for the 21st century
Making History

Over sixty-five years ago, in the darkest days of the McCarthy era, a small group of Quakers (Friends) met at a Chinese restaurant in San Francisco. They were there to form the Friends Committee on Legislation of California, an advocacy group that would bring a voice of conscience to the California state legislature.

Then, as now, a voice based on the values of Friends – simplicity, integrity, peace, community, equality and stewardship. Open to all who share these values and want to work actively to make a difference in our state’s public policy.

Organizing FCLCA was a bold move in 1952 – distrust and fear pervaded national and state politics. It was an era of loyalty oaths, racial segregation and the Cold War.

Courage inspires others, and FCLCA quickly attracted supporters. From the beginning, FCLCA focused on grassroots advocacy as well as direct lobbying at the Capitol.

Its activists and lobbyists went on to help create California’s history of social progress in the 20th century.
In the early decades FCLCA was one of a handful of social justice groups lobbying in Sacramento – a leader in civil rights advocacy, supporting historic bills for fair housing and employment, and introducing the first legislation to provide protections for farmworkers.

In the 60s and 70s, FCLCA served as a mentor and partner when those who were oppressed by injustice organized new groups to advocate for their rights.

In 1969, responding to the need for action on tenants’ rights and low-income housing, FCLCA and AFSC organized the CA Housing Coalition. That same year, FCLCA drafted a successful bill providing free and reduced price lunches to 500,000 low-income children.

Always a strong voice for prison reform and abolition of the death penalty, in the 1980s, 90s, and early 2000s, FCLCA was an unrelenting bulwark of opposition to the War on Drugs’ legislation, mass incarceration and rapid prison expansion that devastated communities and swelled our state’s prison population.
SB 260 finally gave me hope. I worked hard to rehabilitate myself.

After I was paroled I wanted to prove that I was worth my second chance. Now I have a good job and a good salary. I’m working, paying my taxes and contributing to a better city every day.

Mike, imprisoned at age 16 and paroled under Senate Bill 260.

Assembly Bill 2590 changed the CA Penal Code to make rehabilitation and restorative justice a central tenet of California’s justice system.

Senate Bill 987 aimed to end deep childhood poverty for families receiving state assistance.

Senate Bill 180 helped dismantle the War on Drugs with historic sentencing reform, eliminating three-year enhancements for prior nonviolent drug convictions.

In the 2015-16, 2017-18 and 2019-2020 legislative sessions, FCLCA advocated for bills to address our state’s alarming poverty rate, promote environmental justice and strengthen California’s response to climate change.

FCLCA joined with coalitions of faith groups and community organizations to repeal the Maximum Family Grant rule that had penalized poor children for 20 years and to pass Senate Bill 54 to protect immigrants and counter mass deportations.

FCLCA’s reach has grown to thousands of Action Network members, civic activists who weigh in with their legislators online, at the Capitol and in their own districts.

A Voice of Conscience for the 21st Century

Since 2010, FCLCA has co-sponsored groundbreaking legislation in criminal justice reform.

Senate Bill 9 allowed young people sentenced to life without parole to apply for a new sentence and the opportunity to earn parole.

Senate Bill 260 created a new parole process for people sentenced as minors to extremely long prison terms, benefiting over 2,700 prisoners.

Senate Bill 1010 equalized the penalties for possessing cocaine base and powder cocaine, correcting a racial bias that resulted in much longer sentences for African-Americans.

Addressing poverty, protecting the environment, supporting immigrants.

Co-sponsoring social justice bills.

Growing a network of activists.
An enduring voice of conscience.

Now more than ever.

Decades after FCLCA’s founding, our country again faces a crisis of conscience. The national climate is ominous.

This time, however, California is a beacon of hope.

Now more than ever California’s politics matter. Now more than ever we must speak truth to power.

What we do here affects our nation and the world.

Your voice must be heard.

To make a difference, we need Champions. We need you. Can you help?

Over the last decade, contributions from people like you, supplemented by generous bequests, have helped FCLCA grow to keep pace with changes in advocacy, organizing and technology.

To continue as a strong and effective voice of conscience, FCLCA must build its circle of supporters and activists and increase the amount of money we raise each year.

The next two years will be critical to our sustainable future.

To sustain our growth and increase our impact, we are reaching out to find FCLCA Champions.

Contributions of any size are greatly appreciated, but we particularly need partners who will invest in our work with annual contributions of $1,000; $5,000; $10,000 or more each year.

Because the need for a voice of conscience will never go away.

For our legislative system to work as it should requires an aware and involved citizenry.

Our mission goes beyond any one issue.

When you become an FCLCA champion, you help ensure that your voice is heard in our state’s democratic process now and in the future – that legislators will hear your values and your commitment to a more just and compassionate California.
As we celebrate the past, we look to the future.

We invite you to be a part of that future by becoming an FCLCA Champion today.

Your gift of $15, $30, or $50 a month provides a steady source of support.

Our monthly sustainers contribute from $10 to $400 a month, allowing us to plan ahead for maximum impact.

Your gift of $1,000 sponsors a Day of Conscience.

FCLCA’s total budget is approximately $365,000 per year. Your gift of $1,000 supports a day of your voice in the California legislature and the activities – lobbying, advocacy, and education – that change people’s lives for the better.

Your gift of $2,500 brings news and information for social change.

Your gift of $2,500 will bring one issue of our FCLCA newsletter to a statewide audience, including community activists, all of California’s 120 legislators, Quaker meetings, and over 1,000 prisoners who receive it free of charge.

Your gift of $5,000 gives people a voice for justice.

Your gift of $5,000 will sponsor our Action Alert system, giving people the ability to send thousands of messages to legislators each year on important bills.

Your gift of $10,000 helps get good bills passed and keeps California shining as a beacon of hope.

Your contribution of $10,000 sponsors two weeks of what it takes to get good bills passed: working with coalition partners to draft co-sponsored bills; maintaining a lobbyist on site at the Capitol to shepherd the bill through the Legislature; training and organizing grassroots lobbyists to contact their legislators.

How to give

Contribute to FCLCA (for lobbying, not tax-deductible) or the FCL Education Fund (tax-deductible):

- Checks can be mailed in your envelope or our remittance envelope to FCLCA’s address below.
- Via credit card – your credit card information can be sent in our remittance envelope or called in to our office (916) 443-3734.
- Some types of charitable gifts to FCL Education Fund can offer tax advantages. For information on making gifts of stock or a gift of a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA, please call us at (916) 443-3734 or email kevan@fclca.org.

FCLCA 1225 8th Street, Suite 220, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 443-3734  www.fclca.org  fcladmin@fclca.org