



October 5, 2018 - Update

Report to Friends Meetings, Southern California Quarterly Meeting and College Park Quarterly Meeting

Thanks to the support of California's Friends Meetings, and our community of donors and activists, FCLCA has completed a 66th year of bringing a "voice of conscience" to California's legislative process.

FCLCA has also published its recommendations on the November ballot propositions. Please see our Fall 2018 *Newsletter*, available online at www.fclca.org.

In addition to weighing in on dozens of bills, FCLCA *co-sponsored* four bills for the 2018 legislative session. Co-sponsoring means that FCLCA is directly involved in originating the bill and in working with the author (the legislator who brings the bill to the Legislature) and in coalition with other advocacy organizations to shepherd the bill through the process to become law.

SB 982 – This bill was aimed at ending childhood deep poverty in the CalWORKs program by bringing families above 50% of the federal poverty line. This bill's goals were incorporated into the state budget (see below.)

SB 1392 – This bill removed a sentencing enhancement that adds an additional year of incarceration for each prior prison term or felony county jail term. This ambitious reform bill was not able to pass the Legislature, perhaps because there were many other criminal justice reform bills in play and due to the pressure of an election year on legislators.

SB 1393 - Signed by Gov. Brown! This was an important sentencing reform bill that will allow judges to exercise discretion, when sentencing for a serious felony, as to whether or not to impose a five-year sentence enhancement for each previous serious felony. Before this bill was signed, this enhancement was mandatory. Now the judge will be able to tailor the sentence more appropriately to the defendant and facts of the case

AB 3131 – This bill would have required local and state law enforcement to develop a "use policy" for military equipment they acquire from the federal government and to have the policy reviewed by their governing bodies at an open public hearing. The bill was passed by the Legislature, but unfortunately, vetoed by Gov. Brown. In his "veto message" the governor stated that he found the list of equipment included in the bill to be "overbroad."

In addition to co-sponsoring these bills, FCLCA played a key role in organizing interfaith support for **SB 100**, a landmark environmental bill that commits California to 100% clean energy by 2045, passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Brown.

In the area of economic justice, FCLCA joined coalitions that helped win two key measures this year to reduce poverty:

Expanding the California Earned Income Tax Credit for working adults. Now young people between 18 and 25 and people over the age of 65 will be able to claim the California Earned Income Tax Credit, one of the most effective ways to reduce poverty among working adults and their families.

Increased funding for the state's poorest children. Children receiving CalWORKs and their families have received a boost to help bring them out of deep poverty - our coalition advocated for and won increases in the state Budget Act - the largest one-year increase in the CalWORKs grant in at least 40 years! The Budget Act also sets out a two-step process to push grants to at least 50 percent of the federal poverty level over the next two budget years. But (with your help) we will need to continue to advocate to make sure the money is appropriated for these children and families who are among the poorest in the state.

Thank you again for your support that makes this work possible.

FCLCA's volunteer Board of Directors and your FCLCA staff - Jim Lindburg, Legislative Director; Dale Richter, Office Administrator; and Kevan Insko, Co-Director - deeply appreciate your support and activism.

Please visit our website, www.fclca.org, and to click on our **Action Center** for more information.

Friends Committee on Legislation of California

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