



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, here's how FCLCA makes a difference:

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. We work 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.

The **FCL Education Fund** publishes *Bring Your Voice: FCLCA's Guide to Grassroots Lobbying and the California Legislature*— a practical, comprehensive guidebook that encapsulates FCLCA's 65 years of expertise in legislative advocacy. **Bring Your Voice** is available online at www.fclca.org. We're also developing an in-person training for advocacy and community groups. Call us to find out more or to order printed copies.

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.

Learn more about FCLCA at www.fclca.org.

Visit our Action Center to see what's new and sign up for our free Action Alerts on important bills.

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

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM RECENT 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 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.

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. FCLCA co-sponsors three bills: Assembly Bill 2590, authored by Assembly Member Shirley Weber and signed by the governor, makes rehabilitation and restorative justice a central tenet of California's penal code. Also signed by the governor, Senate Bill 759 restores eligibility for earning good-time credits for those prisoners in Security Housing Units. Senate Bill 1157, authored by Senator Holly Mitchell, passes the Legislature but is vetoed by Governor Brown. It would have required local correctional facilities to allow in-person visitation for prisoners and their families.

FCLCA 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 in the successful campaign 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 lobbies for a bill requiring clean drinking water in all California schools; for climate change legislation; 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.

2017-2018 Legislative Session

FCLCA's General Committee sets the following priorities for the 2017-18 legislative session. (See our Action Center at www.fclca.org for the latest on the current legislative session.)

Criminal Justice Reform. Support efforts to reduce mass incarceration, reduce recidivism and wrongful conviction. Oppose solitary confinement and the death penalty. Promote restorative justice.

Immigration and Civil Rights. Support state actions and legislation to protect the rights of immigrants and religious minorities. Oppose any efforts to compromise human rights and religious and civil liberties.

Economic Justice. Advocate for legislation that addresses our shameful poverty rate and invests in the well-being of our state's children.

Environmental Justice. Advocate for those affected by pollution, water contamination and climate change.