

Friends Committee on Legislation of Northern California

purpose

The Friends Committee on Legislation of Northern California is an affiliate of the Friends Committee on National Legislation. The purpose is to assist members of the Religious Society of Friends and like-minded citizens to contribute effectively toward the formation of important decisions by Congress, the State Legislature, local governing bodies, and other agencies of federal, state and local government.

The work is undertaken with the conviction that Friends have a responsibility to help in shaping wise legislation, especially in the areas of peace and human dignity. We are moved not by political allegiance to party or platform, but by religious faith which teaches that love of God and love of neighbor are inseparable.

Scope of Interest

The Friends Committee on Legislation will help focus concerned interest where the need is the most urgent. Areas of legislation which illustrate the scope of the Committee's interests include: rights of conscience; religious and civil liberties; conscription; legislation bearing upon the attainment of enduring peace and world community; matters pertaining to racial antagonism or discrimination; and matters dealing with the dignity and welfare of man, such as physical and mental health, crime and corrections, public education, conservation,

housing and urban redevelopment, and child and aged welfare.

Several issues will be selected for special emphasis each year by examining critical areas in legislative fields and weighing the need for active support or opposition. Equal emphasis will be given to national and state or local issues. Regular information service will be maintained about all issues agreed to be of importance, in addition to those which receive special attention.

The Committee Hopes To Be of Service In Several Different Ways

Information and Action

Provision of current and accurate information to interested individuals and groups to assist them in reaching judgments about issues and to help them to make an effective presentation of their concerns.

Intervisitation

Aiding Friends and others to establish friendly contact with officials and elected representatives so they may confer on matters of national, state and local policy.

National and State Representation

Support of the Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington, D. C., and when finances permit, establishment of an office in Sacramento during legislative sessions. These offices will aid in

presenting concerns to national and state legislators and officials and will furnish up-to-date information about legislative happenings.

Community Education

Conducting a grass roots education program on national, state, and local issues through the medium of newsletters, special bulletins, meetings and personal contacts.

Local Services

Assistance to individuals and groups in developing effective methods of presenting concerns when problems arise in a locality.

Cooperation

Cooperation with like-minded organizations when interest in issues coincides, and consultation in order to prevent duplication of effort.