

Preamble

Friends believe that there is that of God in every person, and that each person is endowed with worth and dignity.

The Friends Committee on Legislation (FCL) is concerned that the social, economic, and political aspects of life be conducted with the utmost concern for the individual according to the tenets of love and justice.

We reject the idea that problems can be solved by violence. The ideals of brotherhood, love, justice, truthfulness, and social concern embodied in Quakerism and other religions are, we believe, realistic guides for human conduct.

Governments make decisions which result in war or peace, justice or injustice. Humanity's religious heritage and continuing revelation should be brought to bear upon these decisions. While morality and goodness cannot be legislated as such, laws and their administration can provide a favorable climate for their development. Since all citizens share responsibility for the actions of their government, Friends work diligently to influence governmental bodies, both as individuals, and through Friends' legislative organizations. At the national and international levels, FCL generally follows Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) policies. However, at the state and local levels, different issues emerge and a further definition of FCL concerns is needed. The following statements have been adopted by the Friends Committee on Legislation as an expression of its concerns in California, and as guidance to staff and FCL supporters in their activities.