



# Friends Committee on Legislation of California

UPDATE – May 10, 2022

It's the busy, busy month of May! Many of the bills that Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA) is supporting are now in the Appropriations Committees of the Senate and Assembly, and if they pass out of those committees, they will go to a floor vote in May. We are also in the midst of legislative hearings on the 2022-23 state budget, which will last through May, and we are waiting for the governor to release his revised budget proposal around May 15.

**In the area of economic justice**, your support has allowed us to advocate for both bills and budget requests to address child poverty, homelessness, and racial inequities, including:

- Establishing a child tax credit to help keep children from falling back into poverty now that the federal enhanced credit has not been renewed: this includes a one time payment of \$2,000 per child to California residents who made less than \$30,000.
- Increasing Family Stabilization funds to prevent homelessness.
- Providing supplemental paid sick leave for those affected by COVID-19 (DONE!)
- Waiving childcare fees for low-income families until 2024.
- A \$20m budget request to prevent homelessness among college students.
- Extending the Young Child Tax Credit to families with \$0 earnings and adjusting the amount annually to keep pace with inflation.
- Establishing a Refundable Tax Credit of \$1000 for former foster youth ages 18-25 to help them transition to self-sufficiency.
- Providing guaranteed income support to homeless teens as they transition out of high school.
- Establishing "HOPE trust accounts" for low-income children who have lost a parent to COVID and for children in foster care to provide support for them when they transition to adulthood.

- Expanding full scope Medi-Cal and the California Food Assistance Program to all income-eligible people regardless of immigration status, as well as establishing an unemployment insurance program for those excluded from state unemployment insurance due to immigration status.
- Increasing the wage replacement rates that low-income workers receive for state disability insurance and paid family leave so that they can actually afford to take time off under these programs that they pay into.

Your support is also allowing us to bring your voice to the areas of criminal justice reform and environment. [Read the full report here.](#)

A few highlights:

FCLCA is co-sponsoring AB 2167, by Assembly Member Ash Kalra - it requires judges, when sentencing persons convicted of a crime, to consider alternatives to incarceration and states the Legislature's intent that the disposition of any criminal case shall use the least restrictive means possible.

AB 256, the California Racial Justice Act, also by Ash Kalra, prohibits the state from seeking or obtaining a criminal conviction, or from imposing a sentence, based upon race, ethnicity or national origin.

SB 300, the Sentencing Reform Act of 2021 by Sen. Dave Cortese, will reform California's unjust "felony murder special circumstance" law to ensure that the death penalty and life without the possibility of parole cannot be imposed on those who did not kill, nor intend that a person die, during the commission of a crime. This bill will also restore a judge's discretion to impose a sentence of 25 years-to-life when an opportunity to earn parole would best serve the interest of justice in a case where special circumstances have been charged.

SB 260, the Climate Corporate Accountability Act by Sen. Scott Wiener, would require corporations that do business in California with annual gross revenues of at least \$1 billion to report their greenhouse gas emissions in a way that is accessible and understandable to the public in order to create transparency and hold them accountable for their greenhouse gas emissions.

Bills to address plastic pollution and contamination are moving forward, including AB 2026, by Laura Friedman, which will phase out single-use packaging by online retailers and AB 1690, by Luis Rivas, which would phase out the sale of single-use cigarette filters.

Please visit our website [www.fclca.org](http://www.fclca.org) regularly to learn more and to take action: we've listed a number of action items on [our home page](#) that you can take right now to voice your position on key issues, and we'll be posting more in the weeks ahead.