



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, FCLCA makes a difference in three primary ways:

Lobbying with your values in mind, 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 legislative process to become law. 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.

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 42,000 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. We also offer 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. Be sure to visit our Action Center to see what's new and sign up for our free Action Alerts on important bills.

For more information

Check out our website at www.fclca.org or contact us at (916) 443-3734 or fcladmin@fclca.org

FCLCA, 1225 8th Street, Suite 220

Sacramento, CA 95814

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



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, was signed into law. SB 9 allowed 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-sponsored AB 1270, a bill to allow media access to prisons using prolonged solitary confinement. It passed the Legislature and was vetoed by Gov. Brown.

2013-2014 Legislative Session

FCLCA co-sponsored SB 260, signed into law by Gov. Brown. The bill created 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 were offered the opportunity to demonstrate rehabilitation and earn parole in a Youth Offender Parole Hearing

FCLCA co-sponsored SB 1010, which equalized the penalties for possessing cocaine base and powder cocaine. The new law corrected a previous racial bias in sentencing which resulted in much longer sentences for African-Americans.

2015-2016 Legislative Session

FCLCA co-sponsored three bills:

Assembly Bill 2590, authored by Assembly Member Shirley Weber and signed by the governor, made rehabilitation and restorative justice a central tenet of California's penal code.

Senate Bill 759 restored eligibility for earning good-time credits for those prisoners in Security Housing Units.

Senate Bill 1157, authored by Senator Holly Mitchell, passed the Legislature but was vetoed by Gov. Brown. It would have required local correctional facilities to allow in-person visitation for prisoners and their families.

FCLCA played a key role in organizing an interfaith coalition in the successful campaign to repeal the "Maximum Family Grant rule," which penalized poor children by denying benefits to infants whose families already received CalWORKs aid.

2017-2018 Legislative Session

In 2017, FCLCA co-sponsored successful and historic sentencing reform, the RISE Act, SB 180, which repealed mandatory sentencing enhancement for previous nonviolent drug convictions, a relic of the "War on Drugs."

In 2017, FCLCA advocated at the Capitol and mobilized interfaith support around the state for Senate Bill 54, the California Values Act, a crucial law that helps protect immigrants in California from the federal deportation machine.

This year, 2018, FCLCA is co-sponsoring four bills:

SB 982 aims to end childhood deep poverty by raising CalWORKs grants to at least 50% of the federal poverty line.

SB 1392 removes a sentencing enhancement that adds an additional year of incarceration for each prior prison term or felony county jail term.

SB 1393 restores the court's discretion, in the interest of justice and at the time of sentencing, to strike sentence enhancements for prior serious felony convictions, when a person is currently charged with a serious felony.

AB 3131 will require law enforcement agencies to obtain approval from their governing bodies before acquiring military equipment.