The Legislature has recessed for the year and the governor has acted on all bills that were sent to him in the first year of the biennial session. Over 1,000 bills were sent to Gov. Newsom, and he vetoed 16.5 percent of them, which is roughly the same rate as Gov. Brown. To be sure there were some disappointments, but when all is said and done, 2019 was a year of considerable progress beginning with the state budget that was signed into law in late June. In addition to growing the state’s financial reserves in order to weather an economic downturn, the 2019-2020 budget addresses poverty by making overdue investments in early childhood programs, health care coverage, including mental health treatment, and reducing homelessness. The budget also expands the Earned Income Tax Credit and provides additional funding for public education and higher education.

The FCLCA Board of Directors directed the Sacramento staff to prioritize criminal justice reform, economic justice, environmental justice and immigration reform. Staff is afforded discretion to weigh in on other bills in accordance with FCLCA’s policy statements when doing so would be beneficial. What follows are some of the highlights of FCLCA’s advocacy in 2019.

Criminal Justice Reform

SB 136, by Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) was signed into law by Gov. Newsom. Co-sponsored by FCLCA, this bill eliminates the one-year enhancement for each prior felony conviction that resulted in a prison or jail term. Given that there are numerous sentence enhancements on the books that are directly tied to specific offenses, this widely used enhancement is typically applied to people convicted of less serious felonies and who struggle with re-entry. It is also disproportionately applied to people of color.

There is no evidence that longer sentences reduce crime rates, but they are very costly and very hard on families and even entire communities. Though the bill is not retroactive (in some cases persons serving the enhancement may be able to petition for resentencing), the bill will have a significant impact on prison and jail populations going forward. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) estimates that the enhancement currently accounts for 15,000 years of prison time. The impact on local jails is harder to ascertain but is surely significant. The Department of Finance estimates that SB 136’s enactment will save over $130 million in General Fund dollars over the first three years.

SB 136 passed both houses with the bare minimum number of votes. Politically, reducing sentences is never easy, and this year’s success is our second attempt at passing this reform. Moderate Democrats who narrowly won seats last November that had been held by Republicans were reluctant to support the bill and some were opposed. Some favored judicial discretion (the subject of a previous bill that FCLCA co-sponsored last year, which restored judicial discretion for a five-year enhancement for more serious felony convictions) over an outright elimination. However, we were pleased to win the support of some moderate Democrats who would not have supported the bill a few years ago, a sure sign that sustained advocacy and education is winning hearts and minds.

The days when Republicans and Democrats competed to see which party could be tougher on crime are seemingly behind us, though we know that such assurances are tenuous at best.

FCLCA’s other co-sponsored bill, SB 555, by Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles) will reduce the cost of communications and commissary items in local detention facilities and youth correctional facilities. Telephone and video service providers are quite sophisticated and have figured out that they can secure county contracts by negotiating commissions in their bids with local sheriffs. These commissions – or kickbacks – are paid into “Inmate Welfare Funds,” which are controlled by sheriffs and have been used for various expenditures, including police vans, security cameras and employee salaries. (The same also applies to the markup on commissary items.)

At a time when local and long distance calls for people in free society are virtually free, the cost of these com-
missions are passed on to the families of the incarcerated, who accept collect calls from their loved ones, in the form of exorbitantly expensive phone rates (in one county, a 15-minute call from a local jail costs over $17). This creates real economic hardship for families of the incarcerated, who constitute some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in our society. Similarly, the markup on commissary items is typically borne by families of the incarcerated, as people confined in jails are not allowed to work and must rely on deposits from family members into their trust funds in order to purchase commissary items.

Though most people in California jails are awaiting trial and have not been convicted of a crime, under Realignment many persons convicted of nonviolent, non-serious, non-sex felonies are serving lengthy sentences in local jails. Rehabilitation is purportedly a core function of corrections. Therefore, funding for rehabilitation programs in jails should be a core budget item and not financed on the backs of families. Furthermore, maintaining family connections during the period of incarceration is universally recognized as a key component of successful re-entry into free society. Charging families outrageous rates for calls discourages communication. New York City jails recently went to free calls as did San Francisco, which also ended the excessive markup on commissary items.

New York City the volume of calls from jails to social service providers has increased significantly since making calls free.

Defeating SB 555 is a high priority for the California State Sheriffs Association (CSSA) as was a previous effort co-sponsored by FCLCA to reduce the cost of phone calls. AB 1876, by Bill Quirk (D-Hayward) (2014) was identified as CSSA’s number one priority bill to defeat, and was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The CSSA claims that jails will have to cut back on programming if these commissions and markups are eliminated. However, some Inmate Welfare Funds have surplus balances running well into the millions of dollars.

SB 555 is now in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, which did not take the bill up in August. During the interim, FCLCA and coalition partners will be meeting with Committee staff in order to move the bill to the Assembly Floor and to the governor. Because SB 555 has already passed the first house, it likely will not be taken up again until next summer, when the Committee is considering other Senate bills.

Gov. Newsom also signed AB 392, the California Act to Save Lives, by Shirley Weber (D-San Diego). In 2017, 172 people, only half of whom had guns and disproportionately people of color, were killed by law enforcement officers in California with very little accountability. AB 392 is modeled after best practices that are already in effect in some police departments. Under current law, which was enacted in 1872, a police officer may use lethal force when the Committee is considering other Senate bills.

AB 392 gained bipartisan support after amendments were taken that retained the “necessary” requirement while deleting its definition. It will be up to the courts to define what is “necessary.” Language requiring a law enforcement officer to first take steps to de-escalate the situation was also stricken. While the amendments removed law enforcement opposition,
some critics claim that they weakened the bill substantially. Black Lives Matter, a co-sponsor, reluctantly withdrew its support for the bill after the bill was amended. AB 392 is an important first step, and the bill’s sponsors indicate that similar best practices have reduced use of force incidents in Seattle, San Francisco and Chicago without endangering law enforcement officers.

Citing California’s death penalty as a costly failure that discriminates against people of color and people with mental disabilities, in March Gov. Newsom issued a historic moratorium on executions and ordered CDCR to dismantle California’s execution chamber at San Quentin State Prison. The governor’s press release also noted that executions are irreversible in the event of human error. According to the Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC), since 1973, 165 people have been exonerated from death rows nationwide, including five in California.

Since peaking in 1999, executions have declined dramatically in the U.S. and have been largely concentrated in a few southern states. According to the DPIC, 31 states have either abolished the death penalty or have not carried out an execution in at least 10 years. (The federal government has not carried out an execution in nearly two decades, but plans to execute five individuals this December under the direction of Attorney General William Barr.) The state has not carried out an execution since 2006, and there are currently 740 people on death row in California.

The moratorium does not alter a sentence of death and does not stop prosecutors from seeking death sentences or juries from imposing capital punishment, but it ensures that no executions will take place in California while Newsom is governor. In July, 75 law professors and legal scholars signed an open letter to Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey urging her to stop seeking death sentences. About one-third of the people on death row were sentenced from Los Angeles County. The letter notes that in addition to receiving shoddy legal representation, of the 22 death sentences handed down office since Lacey took office 2012, all of the defendants were people of color. (Scholars generally attribute the race of the victim as the more decisive factor when seeking a death sentence.)

Newsom’s bold move demonstrates that he understands how deeply flawed the death penalty is, and he has stated publicly that he would like to ensure that executions do not resume when he leaves office. Barring a court ruling that finds the death penalty unconstitutional, California’s death penalty can only be repealed by the voters.

Environment and Environmental Justice

Landmark legislation to improve drinking water was signed into law by Gov. Newsom. Over one million Californians lack access to safe and affordable drinking water. SB 200, by Senator Bill Monning (D-Santa Cruz) provides $130 million over the next 10 years for cleaning up drinking water systems. Many of the systems are small and located in poorer areas of the state and cannot afford to take on these expensive projects. Fortunately, there was a legislative consensus that the problem could not be put off any longer. As always, there were strong disagreements over who should pay for it.

Drinking water is contaminated by pollution but also by naturally occurring elements. An earlier version of the bill called for a $.95 monthly tax on residential water bills (larger and industrial users would pay more) as well as taxes on polluters. The dairy industry stepped up and was willing to help pay. However, the proposed tax was vigorously opposed by water agencies, which backed a competing measure, SB 669 by Anna Caballero (D-Salinas), that would create a trust fund from General Fund revenues.

The Caballero proposal was attractive to lawmakers for a number of reasons. First, it had the backing of numerous water agencies, and it would allow the Legislature to avoid raising taxes to create the fund. But relying on volatile General Fund revenues is not without problems. When the state’s economy is strong, General Fund revenue collections could provide sufficient revenues. During economic downturns, General Fund revenues drop precipitously as they depend heavily on capital gains by wealthy Californians. That leads to cuts in vital safety net programs when demand for those programs increases. That SB 669 was rejected demonstrates the importance that the Legislature places on establishing a funding source outside of General Fund revenues. Ultimately, to fund SB 200 the Legislature turned to Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds (GGRF), which are generated by the state’s landmark cap and trade program.

While we are delighted that the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund will finally be established, we were disappointed that the money will come from Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds (GGRF), which pays for projects and programs that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. People in disadvantaged communities also suffer disproportionately from the effects of climate change and pollution. We need to fund both clean drinking water and greenhouse gas reductions – not one at the expense of the other.

Governor Newsom vetoed legislation that would protect California against federal rollbacks in environmental protection, endangered species and worker safety. SB 1, the California Environmental, Public Health and Workers Defense Act of 2019, by Toni Atkins (D-San Diego), would keep federal baseline protections in place.

(Continued on page 6)
The Champion Campaign – Building a Sustainable Base of Funding for FCLCA

For almost seven decades, Friends Committee on Legislation of California has brought a unique voice of conscience to California policy making. To make sure that effective and principled advocacy continues, we need partners like you – we need Champions.

The Champion Campaign is an ambitious plan to build a community of partners who together will provide $400,000 in contributions each year. That’s what it will take to sustain the impact of FCLCA and the FCL Education Fund and build for the future.

A Blueprint for Sustainability

The pyramid on the facing page illustrates one way that FCLCA can achieve a base of champions who will provide sufficient funding each year to maintain and grow our impact. We need more partners making contributions at each level to reach our goal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Champions who give up to $500/yr.</th>
<th>Champions as of 11/5 in 2019</th>
<th>Champions needed (Can you help?)</th>
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<tr>
<td>410</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>153</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who give $500 - $999/yr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who give $1,000 - $1,999/yr.</td>
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<td>24</td>
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<td>Who give $2,000 - $4,999/yr</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who give $5,000 - $9,999/yr.</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who give $10,000 - $24,999/yr.</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who give $25,000/yr.</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$173,000 contributed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$227,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Here are some ways to be a “Champion” and ensure that our work together continues for many more decades:

- Make a contribution this year toward our goal. If your circumstances permit, consider increasing your gift to the next level. Donations of any size are welcome and gratefully received.
  - Contributions to FCLCA for lobbying are not tax-deductible, but vital to our work.
  - Contributions to FCL Education Fund are tax-deductible.
  - Donate online at www.fclca.org or by mail.

- We particularly need gifts of $1,000 or more per year. These gifts can be pledged semi-annually - $500 in the spring and $500 in the fall or as a monthly sustainer: $85.00 a month, for example.

- Become a monthly sustainer, with a contribution of $10.00 or more per month.
Do you have a required minimum distribution from an IRA? You can make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly to a charity like FCL Education Fund and it will not count as part of your income.

- Transfer stock directly to FCL Education Fund or FCLCA. This can be a very tax-advantaged way to give.
- Consider a planned gift that provides you income during your lifetime, such as a charitable gift annuity.
- Help us meet new supporters by hosting a small gathering or sharing your support on social media.
- Remember FCLCA in your will with a bequest or gift of your IRA.
- Visit www.fclca.org and click on Donate for more information, call us at (916)443-3734 or email kevan@fclca.org.

**OUR GOAL: $400,000**

As an FCLCA Champion, you're making California a more just and compassionate place for all. Let's make history together!

FCLCA/FCL Education Fund   WWW.FCLCA.ORG
Contact us at (916) 443-3734 or fcladmin@fclca.org   FCLCA, 1225 8th Street, Suite 220, Sacramento, CA 95814
in California that were in effect January 1, 2017 despite efforts by the Trump administration to undo them. As recently as last August, the Trump administration announced new rules that will make it easier to remove a species from protection under the Endangered Species Act. The governor’s veto message expressed his administration’s shared commitment to protecting California’s environmental and worker protections while expressing disagreement about the efficacy of SB 1, given the state’s vigorous efforts to counter these rollbacks in the courts. Given his commitment, it’s hard to understand why the governor would reject SB 1, which would provide the state with a powerful tool to resist additional rollbacks.

Powerful water agencies and agricultural interests lobbied hard against SB 1 because they are supportive of the Trump administration’s desire to ship more water to southern California, which could involve weakening protections for the Bay-Delta ecosystem. Should SB 1 become law these interests threatened to abandon the collaborative process for negotiating voluntary agreements on how much water will bypass the California Delta. Environmentalists, including Defenders of Wildlife, which has been participating in the collaborative process, assert that the ensuing voluntary agreements do not offer adequate protection for the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

Comprehensive legislation to reduce plastic contamination stalled temporarily this year. SB 54, by Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) and AB 1080, by Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego), would enact the California Circular Economy and Pollution Reduction Act, with the goal of reducing single-use plastic packaging products by 75 percent by the year 2030. Manufacturers of single-use products would be required to source-reduce the products to the maximum extent feasible and to ensure that products manufactured on or after January 1, 2030 are recyclable or compostable. By 2024, California’s Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery would be required to develop regulations for implementation in consultation with state and local agencies responsible for waste reduction.

Plastic pollution begins with fossil fuel extraction. Oil refineries, plastic manufacturers and incinerators tend to be located in disadvantaged communities whose residents bear the brunt of the health impacts. Plastic is very slow to decompose, but when it degrades it breaks down into micro-plastics containing toxic chemicals that contaminate food and drinking water sources and work their way into the food chain.

Plastic production has increased by 20 times since 1964 and is expected to increase 40 percent over the next decade. A 2016 report by the World Economic Forum warns that by 2050 the oceans will contain more plastic than fish if current trends continue. Only 9 percent of plastic is recycled, and the market for recyclable plastic will further decline since China and other countries have begun restricting the amount of waste imported from other countries. As a result, plastic waste is either being incinerated, stored in warehouses or accumulated in landfills.

The evidence is quite clear. However well intentioned, it is not enough to recycle. The production of single-use plastic packaging must be significantly reduced at the source. AB 1080/SB 54 is an ambitious undertaking and is strongly opposed by a coalition of manufacturers, retailers and business interests. Late amendments to these bills were enough to create additional discomfort with moderate Democrats. The authors opted to bring the bills up early next year, which provides time to shore up additional votes.

**Immigration**

AB 32, by Rob Bonta (D-Fremont), which will phase out the use of private prisons and private immigration detention centers in California by 2028, passed both houses and was signed by Gov. Newsom. Most Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) detainees in California are held in private facilities. CDCR has also utilized private prisons in order to comply with court-ordered population caps to reduce prison overcrowding. AB 32 enjoyed a broad coalition of support from immigration, criminal justice and faith-based advocates as well as the California Correctional Peace Officers Association and Service Employees International Union, which represent employees of state prisons.

Citing concerns that it would hinder the transfer of incarcerated persons between facilities for a myriad of situations such as health care and court appearances, Gov. Newsom vetoed AB 1282. This bill would have prohibited CDCR from facilitating the transfer by private security companies of persons to ICE upon their release from prison.

The use of private security forces by the federal government has come under increased scrutiny as the Trump administration seeks to compel state and local law enforcement agencies to enforce federal immigration law. Requiring state and local law enforcement to enforce immigration law has long been a contentious issue in California. It results in fewer crimes being reported and conflicts with state law and federal law. The Trump administration has increasingly sought to employ private security companies as part of its mass detention and deportation strategy.
While campaigning in 2018, then-candidate for governor Gavin Newsom called child poverty in California a “moral outrage.”

“Close to half of the children (are) at or near poverty,” Newsom said in Los Angeles in September 2018. “How can that be, in this place, this extraordinary place, in the world’s fifth-largest economy? We must do more and we must do better."

Are we doing better – over one year later? Have the Legislature and the governor shown the will to change the bleak ranking of California as the state with the highest child poverty rate in the nation? Yes, judging by significant measures, including a state budget for 2019-20 that includes unprecedented investments- almost $5 billion – in low income children and families. But there is much more to be done.

Many of the items in this year’s budget reflect priorities set out in roadmap developed by California’s Lifting Children and Families Out of Poverty Task Force, established by the Legislature in 2017. At the end of 2018, the Task Force issued a set of comprehensive recommendations called the End Child Poverty Plan. If fully implemented, the Plan would eliminate deep childhood poverty (in families earning less than $12,500 a year) in four years and reduce overall child poverty in California by 50 percent in 10 years.

A key focus for FCLCA in 2019 was joining the End Child Poverty in California Campaign to advocate for these measures both through the budget process and through bills aimed at alleviating income inequality in our state. Support from our donors and activists allowed FCLCA to help mobilize the faith-based advocacy groups in Sacramento. Organized as the California Interfaith Coalition, we advocated with legislators and educated constituents about the problem of child poverty and viable solutions.

The $215 billion state budget passed in 2019 included significant new investments in childcare, CalWORKs, preschool programs, health care and home visiting, paid family leave, and services and housing for young people. One of the most important developments was the expansion of the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC), including a new $1,000 refundable tax credit for families with a child under 6 who meet income eligibility.

An earned income tax credit provided by the federal or state government puts funds back in the hands of lower-income working people and has been shown to be one of the most effective anti-poverty measures there is. The 2019-20 state budget more than doubled funding for the CalEITC – increasing the amount filers receive and extending eligibility to people making up to $30,000 (the future fulltime minimum wage).

There was one significant disappointment, however, in this year’s budget. FCLCA had joined with the CalEITC Coalition and the California Interfaith Coalition to advocate for people who pay taxes with Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs), mostly undocumented immigrant workers, to be included in CalEITC eligibility. These families typically work in the most laborious, low-paid work: as farmworkers, cleaners, and gardeners. In the final budget negotiated between the Legislature and the governor, these workers were not included. Their numbers are significant: we estimate that up to 750,000 people would benefit from being included – 250,000 of them children. Most of these children – an estimated 84 percent – are U.S. citizens, who are excluded if their taxpayer parent does not use a Social Security number. With your support, FCLCA will continue to work with our coalition partners to press for their inclusion in 2020.

We could not discuss the topic of poverty in California without addressing one of its key drivers: the extraordinary cost of housing. The Public Policy Institute of California found that a typical family with young children in California must have on hand nearly $6,000 more annually than a typical family elsewhere to have enough resources for basic needs, including shelter. Housing costs in California are among the highest in the nation, with rent averaging 50 percent higher than other states. Low and moderate income families must therefore spend much more than an optimal amount of their monthly income on housing.

We note two bills signed into law that addressed the housing crisis: Senate Bill 329, authored by state Sen. Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles, makes it unlawful to discriminate against rental applicants with Section 8 vouchers and prohibits a landlord from advertising “No Section 8” on rental postings. Sen. Mitchell, noted that 70 percent of voucher holders are not able to use them before they expire. Gov. Newsom also signed what he called “the nation’s strongest statewide renter protections.” Assembly Bill 1482 limits rent increases to 5 percent over inflation, and places new restrictions on eviction.

– Kevan Insko
It was a good year.

Because of your activism and contributions, FCLCA was able to co-sponsor two bills in 2019, play a significant role in the campaign to end child poverty in California and advocate for a record number of bills – **over 100** - in the areas of economic justice, criminal justice reform, gun violence, health, immigrant rights and environmental justice. Your partnership helped keep California moving forward – a beacon of progress to the nation and the world. In the current national climate, our state’s policies take on even more importance – and people like you made the difference!

**Promoting fairness in the criminal justice system through sentencing reform.**

You helped criminal justice reform move forward again this year with the passage of FCLCA’s co-sponsored sentencing reform bill SB 136, which dismantled an ineffective and costly one-year sentence enhancement added to an individual’s base sentence for each prior prison or felony jail term they already served.

**Passing bills and a budget that benefits California’s kids who live in poverty.**

California has the highest rate of poverty in the nation. In 2019, FCLCA continued to work for an end to child poverty and lobbied for expansion of the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) to immigrants who work and pay taxes with Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers. (Research shows that the EITC is one of the most effective anti-poverty measures there is.)

Many organizations, including FCLCA, successfully advocated for the current state budget, which vastly expands benefits to low-income children and families. Your support meant FCLCA could actively organize interfaith advocacy efforts that will now benefit 800,000 of our state’s poorest children. We made progress in 2019, but there’s still lots to do in 2020!
Thanks to you!

Protecting our environment

FCLCA advocated at the Capitol and helped mobilize interfaith support around the state for Senate Bill 1 to ensure California maintains environmental standards in the face of federal rollbacks.

FCLCA also lobbied for SB 54 and AB 1080, groundbreaking bills to address plastic waste and pollution, which will be taken up again in 2020. With your support, we’ll be there again in January to protect our environment.

Your contributions supported grassroots organizing and education:

Thirty-six activists attended our Lobby Day here in Sacramento in Sacramento, visiting 29 legislative offices to lobby on three key bills. FCLCA supporters also brought their voice by participating in interfaith lobbying visits, the Green California Lobby Day and the Dream Alliance Lobby Day.

Online, FCLCA’s Action Network members sent over 1,600 messages to their legislators on issues ranging from clean electricity and plastic pollution to nondiscrimination in housing and childhood poverty.

The FCL Education Fund sponsored presentations around the state and supported our advocacy to end the death penalty. Your support enabled us to take a lead role in organizing the California Interfaith Coalition, bringing together Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim and Quaker voices to take action together on statewide issues.
Below you will find a list of bills that FCLCA took action on during 2019, the first year of the two-year 2019-2020 legislative session. Upon the Legislature’s adjournment for 2019, bills that have not been passed by both houses are considered two-year bills. Bills that have not passed their house of origin must do so by January 31, 2020 in order to be eligible for consideration in the second house. Some “two-year bills” will be taken up again in 2020, but others, while they are technically still alive, will not advance in the second year.

FCLCA’s advocacy on bills includes a wide range of actions. The most intensive is co-sponsoring a bill: shepherding a bill from its inception through both houses and all the way to the governor. In the past five two-year sessions, FCLCA has co-sponsored 12 bills, 11 of which were passed by the Legislature and one which will be taken up next year.

On other bills FCLCA will typically write a letter of support or opposition to the committees hearing the bill and subsequently may attend committee hearings to voice our stance, visit individual legislative offices to lobby on a bill, use our communications platforms to organize public support or opposition, organize our supporters to weigh in on bills with their legislators and prepare floor alerts to all Members of a house before the floor vote.

If you would like more information on a particular bill below, visit www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov where you will find the complete bill language, the history and status of the bill, the analysis prepared by the committees hearing the bill and more. Please feel free to contact the FCLCA office for additional information.

**FCLCA Co-Sponsored Bills**

**SB 136**, by Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco). Eliminates the one-year sentence enhancement for each prior felony conviction that resulted in a prison or jail term. Signed into Law.

**SB 555**, by Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles). Eliminates commissions on communications and markup on commissary items in order to improve successful re-entry and ease the heavy financial burden placed on the families of incarcerated individuals. Two-year bill.

**Economic Justice Bills**

**AB 24**, by Autumn Burke (D-Marina del Rey). Creates a targeted child tax credit to reduce deep childhood poverty. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

**AB 91**, by Autumn Burke (D-Marina del Rey). Conforms state tax law with federal tax law which allows for an Earned Income Tax Credit against personal income tax. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into Law.

**AB 167**, by Blanca Rubio (D-Baldwin Park). Creates a state grant to increase toddlers and infants’ access to high quality childcare. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Held in Appropriations Committee. Policy was advanced through the state budget with $50 million for additional childcare slots.

**AB 196**, by Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego). Improves the formula for determining benefits for the Paid Family Leave program. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

**AB 217**, by Autumn Burke (D-Marina del Rey). Closes tax loopholes by conforming state tax law to federal law in order to create a refundable young child tax credit. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Incorporated into budget trailer bill and signed into law.

**AB 376**, by Mark Stone (D-Scotts Valley). Imposes new requirements on student loan servicers. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

**AB 378**, by Monique Limon (D-Goleta). Allows child care providers to bargain
collectively for wages and working conditions. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into Law.

**AB 516**, by Ed Chau, (D-Arcadia). Prevents low-income Californians’ cars from being towed for unpaid parking tickets and overdue vehicle registration fees. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

**AB 721**, by Tim Grayson (D-Concord). Requires the Workforce Development Board to establish and administer the Lifting Families out of Poverty Workforce Training Support Services Program. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

**AB 731**, by Ash Kalra (D-San Jose). Requires that large group healthcare policies to be subject to rate review when seeking to increase rates or costs to consumers. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into Law.


**AB 1004**, by Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento). Requires that Early and Periodic Screening include developmental screening services for children up to three years of age. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into Law.

**AB 1066**, by Lorena Gonzalez (D-Santa Barbara). Prohibits an employer with five or more employees (currently 50) to refuse to grant an employee’s request to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

**SB 171**, by Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara). Requires a private employer that has 100 or more employees to report specified pay data to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

**SB 298**, by Anna Caballero (D-Salinas). Establishes specific targets to end deep child poverty by 2024 and to reduce child poverty by 50 percent in California by 2039. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

**SB 321**, by Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles). Increases access to childcare for welfare-to-work participants by requiring that the childcare be full-time and by requiring first-stage childcare to be authorized for one year. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

**SB 329**, by Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles). Prohibits discrimination against those who apply for rental housing with Section 8 housing vouchers. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into law.

**SB 611**, by Anna Caballero (D-Salinas). Establishes the Master Plan for Aging Housing Task Force. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Vetoed.

**SB 616**, by Bob Wieckowski (D-Fremont). Establishes an automatic exemption from bank account levies as defined and annually adjusted by the Department of Social Services. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into law.

### Criminal Justice Reform Bills

**AB 45**, by Mark Stone, (D-Scotts Valley). Prohibits the charging of fees for medical visits initiated by incarcerated persons in state prisons and local correctional facilities. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into Law.

**AB 1482**, by David Chiu (D-San Francisco). Limits annual rent increases to five percent plus the rate of inflation. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into Law.

**AB 1611**, by David Chiu (D-San Francisco). Ensures that patients only owe the same copay or deductible they would pay for in-network emergency care in the event that care is provided by an out-of-network hospital. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

**SB 135**, by Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara). Prohibits an employer with five or more employees (currently 50) to refuse to grant an employee’s request to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

**SB 243**, by Sydney Kamlager-Dove, (D-Los Angeles). Requires law enforcement officers to complete implicit bias training every two years instead of every five years. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

**AB 277**, by Kevin McCarty, (D-Sacramento). Incentivizes persons on parole to take advantage of educational and rehabilitative programming credits in order to reduce their term of parole. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

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AB 392, by Shirley Weber, (D-San Diego). Tightens the circumstances under which use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer is justifiable. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into Law.

AB 580, by Tom Lackey, (R-Palmdale). Requires the Board of Parole Hearings to serve a 30-day written notice to the district attorney before the Governor acts upon an application for a commutation of a sentence of death. FCLCA OPPOSES. Two-year bill.

AB 607, by Wendy Carrillo, (D-Los Angeles). Deletes various crimes relating to controlled substances from those prohibitions against granting probation or a suspended sentence. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

AB 646, by Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento). Implements ACA 6 upon passage by the voters to restore the voting rights of formerly incarcerated citizens while on parole. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 656, by Eduardo Garcia (D-Coachella). Creates the Office of Healthy and Safe Communities, under the direction of the Department of Public Health to develop and implement a program for violence prevention, safety and healing. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

AB 680, by Kansen Chu (D-Milpitas). Requires that mental health identification and awareness training are included in public safety dispatcher training. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

AB 964, by Jose Medina (D-Riverside). Requires all local jails and detention facilities to offer in-person visitation. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

AB 1076, by Philip Ting (D-San Francisco). Requires the Department of Justice to identify eligible persons and to expunge their arrest records without a petition or motion. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into law.

AB 1077, by Susan Eggman, (D-Stockton). Allows judges to relieve debt for non-felony traffic offenses and permits the reinstatement of a driver's license when an indigent defendant participates in a collaborative court program. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

AB 1423, by Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland). Enables a person to file a motion to transfer their case back to juvenile court when the basis for their transfer to adult court is no longer valid. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into law.

AB 1641, by Kevin Kiley (R-Rocklin). Limits California’s Youth Offender Parole Law by repealing its application in cases of first and second degree murder. FCLCA OPPOSES. Held in Assembly Public Safety Committee.

ACA 6, by Kevin McCarthy (D-Sacramento). Amends the California Constitution upon passage by voters to restore voting rights to persons on parole. FCLCA Supports. Currently in Senate. (Not subject to two-year deadlines.)

SB 42, by Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley). Regulates the release of people from county jails so that they are not released in the middle of the night. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Vetoed.

SB 144, by Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles). Ends the assessment and collection for various fees imposed against people in the criminal justice system and expunges all previous related debt. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

SB 164, by Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg). Allows a person convicted of an infraction to elect to perform community service in lieu of paying a fine that would create economic hardship. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into law.

SB 284, by Jim Beall (D-San Jose). Increases counties’ cost to commit youth to the Dept. of Juvenile Justice from $24,000 a year to $125,000 per year to encourage that incarcerated youth are housed in county facilities. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Vetoed.

SB 310, by Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley). Eliminates the prohibition for people with prior felony convictions to serve on juries. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into law.
SB 394, by Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley). Authorizes the court to place a caregiver of dependent children into a diversion program in lieu of incarceration for a misdemeanor and non-violent/non-serious felony. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into law.

SB 678, by Steven Glazer (D-Orinda). Requires the Board of State and Community Corrections to establish the Restorative Justice Pilot Program and to make 5-year grants to up to 3 counties to establish and operate restorative justice diversion programs. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

**Environmental Justice Bills**

AB 35, by Ash Kalra (D-San Jose). Requires Cal-OSHA to open an investigation into lead in the workplace within six months of discovery by Dept. of Public Health officials. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into law.

AB 468, by Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance). Would prohibit the use of pesticides containing chlorpyrifos on school grounds. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

AB 495, by Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance). Would prescribe that a cosmetic is adulterated if it contains asbestos, lead, or any of several specified intentionally added ingredients. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

AB 619, by David Chiu (D-San Francisco). Permits a local enforcement agency to allow a temporary food facility to use multiuse utensils that are cleaned, rinsed, and sanitized as an alternative to single-use utensils and clarifies provisions of law governing the ability of consumers to bring empty containers to food facilities intended for refilling with food or beverages. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into Law.

AB 792, by Philip Ting (D-San Francisco) and Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks). Requires plastic beverage containers to contain a minimum recycled content of 50 percent by 2030. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Vetoed.

AB 958, by Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters). Creates the California Organic-to-School Pilot Program to provide grants for school lunch programs to purchase organic food. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1080, by Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego) and SB 54, by Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica). Requires CalRecycle to develop and implement a program to curtail the manufacture of single use plastic packaging products and to require that all plastic either be recycled or composted. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bills.

SB 1, by Tony Atkins, (D-San Diego). Requires that federal requirements and standards pertaining to air, water, protected species and workplace safety requirements that were in effect January 1, 2017 to remain in effect in California. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Vetoed.

SB 200, by William Monning (D-Carmel). Establishes the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund to ensure that water systems provide an adequate and affordable supply of safe drinking water for all Californians. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into Law.

SB 210, by Connie Leyva (D-Chino). Requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop a pilot program for the purposes of implementing a comprehensive heavy-duty vehicle smog inspection program. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into law.

SB 307, by Richard Roth (D-Riverside). Puts the Cadiz Project to extract Mojave Desert water on hold until the state fully assesses the proposed project’s environmental impacts. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into law.

SB 386, by Anna Caballero (D-Salinas) Authorizes a local publicly owned irrigation district to count electricity generated by the Don Pedro Hydroelectric Project towards its renewable energy portfolio requirements. FCLCA OPPOSES. Held in Senate.

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SB 458, by Maria Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles). Prohibits the use of a pesticide that contains the active ingredient chlorpyrifos. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill. (The Department of Pesticide Regulation reached an agreement with manufacturers to ban the chemical in California beginning in 2021).

SB 526, by Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica). Requires interagency working groups to develop and implement a Mobility Action Plan for Healthy Communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

SB 574, by Connie Leyva (D-Chino). Requires the disclosure of fragrance and flavor ingredients in cosmetic products. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

SB 647, by Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles). Reduces the lead content limits for metal-containing jewelry. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into law.

SB 669, by Anna Caballero (D-Salinas). Creates the Safe Drinking Water Fund to be funded with General Fund revenues. FCLCA OPPOSES. Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Immigration and Civil Rights Bills

AB 4, by Joaquin Arambula (D-Fresno) Extends Medi-CAL eligibility to all income-eligible adults up to age 26 regardless of immigration status. FCLCA SUPPORTS, Two-year bill. (This provision was included in budget trailer bill language.)

AB 32, by Rob Bonta, (D-Alameda) Prohibits entering into contracts with for-profit correctional institutions and detention facilities beginning in 2020. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into law.

AB 163, by Cristina Garcia (D-Bell Gardens). Requires the Department of Social Services to create a facilities liaison position within its immigration services unit to assist in the provision of services to undocumented youth. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

AB 222, by Randy Voepel (R-Santee). Allows information regarding the release or transfer of an individual to immigration authorities without a warrant or judicial probable cause determination if the individual has been convicted of misdemeanor or felony assault or battery against a law enforcement officer or firefighter, as specified. FCLCA OPPOSES. Hearings canceled in Public Safety and Judiciary Committees.


AB 1282, by Ash Kalra (D-San Jose) Prohibits CDCR from facilitating the transfer by private security companies of persons to ICE upon their release from prison. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Vetoed.

AB 1753, by Wendy Carrillo (D-Los Angeles). Specifies that only persons authorized to practice law, or who are otherwise authorized by the federal government, may provide professional services related to any immigration matter. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

ACR 1, by Rob Bonta (D-Alameda). Condemns regulations recently adopted by the Department of Homeland Security to prescribe how a determination of inadmissibility for a person who is not a citizen is made based on the likelihood that the person will become a public charge and urges repeal of these regulations. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Chaptered and Filed with Secretary of State.

ACR 99, by Evan Low (D-Campbell). Calls upon religious leaders to counsel on LGBTQ matters from a place of love, compassion and knowledge of the psychological harms of conversion therapy and asks all Californians to embrace the individual and social benefits of family and community acceptance. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Chaptered and Filed with Secretary of State.

SB 29, by Maria Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles). Extends eligibility for full-scope Medi-Cal benefits to income-eligible adults age 65 and older regardless of immigration status. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.
SB 132, by Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco). Requires the CDCR to consider an incarcerated person’s gender identity when determining where they will be housed. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

SB 225, by Maria Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles). Provides that undocumented residents may serve on state boards and commissions provided they meet other eligibility requirements. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into law.

Firearms Legislation

AB 276, by Laura Friedman (D-Glendale). Requires a person who is 18 years of age or older to ensure that any firearm that person owns or controls is securely stored against theft or unauthorized access. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.


AB 1064, by Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance). Provides more accountability, transparency, and security for all gun transactions. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AJR 4, by Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters). Firearms: Urges Congress to swiftly enact House Resolution 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019, to require background checks for all firearm sales. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Chaptered and Filed with Secretary of State.

SB 55, by Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara). Places a 10-year firearm prohibition on those who have been convicted of two or more drug or alcohol related misdemeanor offenses within a three-year period. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

SB 61, by Anthony Portantino (D-La Canada Flintridge). Limits the purchase of long guns by an individual to one per month and prohibits the sale of semiautomatic centerfire rifles to persons under 21. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into law.

Other Bills

AB 362, by Susan Talamantes Eggman (D-Stockton). Authorizes the City and County of San Francisco to operate safe consumption sites with overdose prevention programs for persons 18 years of age or older. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

AB 629, by Christy Smith (D-Santa Clarita). Allows human trafficking victims to seek compensation from the Victim’s Compensation Board for lost wages. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into law.

AB 1548, by Jesse Gabriel (D-Encina). Establishes the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program to improve the physical security of these organizations at risk of violent attacks or hate crimes due to ideology, beliefs or mission. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into law.

AB 1764, by Wendy Carrillo (D-Los Angeles). Establishes the Forced or Involuntary Sterilization Compensation Program to be administered by the Victim Compensation Board. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Two-year bill.

SB 139, by Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica). Requires counties with populations over 400,000 to create independent redistricting commissions. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Vetoed.

SB 305, by Ben Hueso (D-San Diego). Would prohibit hospitals from prohibiting a terminally ill patient’s use of medical cannabis within the health care facility. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Vetoed.

SB 428, by Richard Pan (D-Sacramento). Requires the Department of Education to identify an evidence-based training program on youth mental and behavioral health for school employees having direct contact with pupils in order to identify at-risk students. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Vetoed.

SB 464, by Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles). Requires facilities that provide perinatal care to implement an evidence-based implicit bias program in order to reduce disparate infant mortality rates among African-American women. FCLCA SUPPORTS. Signed into law.
The Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA) includes Friends and like-minded persons, a majority of whom are appointed by Monthly Meetings of the Religious Society of Friends in California.

Expressions of views in this newsletter are guided by Statements of Policy prepared and approved by the FCLCA Committees. Seeking to follow the leadings of the Spirit, the FCLCA speaks for itself and for like-minded Friends. No organization can speak officially for the Religious Society of Friends in California.

While we strive above all for correctness and probity, we are quick to recognize that to err is human. We therefore solicit and welcome comments and corrections from our readers.

AB 4, by Joaquin Arambula (D-Fresno), which would allow all income-eligible California residents to apply for Medi-Cal regardless of immigration status, is now a two-year bill. Through a budget compromise, Medi-Cal eligibility will be extended to age 26 regardless of immigration status.

SB 29, by Maria Durazo (D-Los Angeles), which would extend Medi-Cal eligibility for all income-eligible Californians age 65 and over regardless of immigration status, is also a two-year bill. Senator Durazo pulled the bill after Gov. Newsom agreed to work with the Senator to find the funding to expand coverage in next year’s budget.

Assembly Member Cristina Garcia (D-Downey) introduced AB 163, which requires the Department of Social Services to create a facilities liaison that will connect undocumented minors in group homes, foster homes and resource family homes to legal services, mental health services and public health benefits. It is now a two-year bill, as is AB 1753, by Wendy Carrillo (D-Los Angeles). Immigration law is extraordinarily complex. Carrillo’s bill amends the Business and Professions Code to stipulate that persons who provide professional immigration legal services must be an attorney or an accredited representative authorized by federal law. Undocumented residents will be allowed to serve on state boards and commissions thanks to SB 225, also by Maria Durazo, which was signed by Gov. Newsom.

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– Jim Lindburg