



July 10, 2018

FCLCA – July Update

From: Kevan Insko, Co-Director, FCLCA and FCL Education Fund

The Legislature is now in recess until August 6.

Thanks to your support, this year FCLCA co-sponsored four bills and played an important role in Senate Bill 100, a landmark environmental bill to move California to 100% renewable energy by 2045.

I'm excited to tell you that SB 100 (which had already passed the Senate) just had a great hearing last Tuesday in the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee and passed by a vote of 10-5! Now it goes to the Assembly floor.

The author, Sen. De Leon, eloquently presented his bill, and an overflow crowd (including FCLCA staff) was there lining up to voice support for this history-making legislation.

FCLCA's Legislative Director, Jim Lindburg, has been actively organizing faith-based groups in support of SB 100 – over 50 organizations and congregations signed on to ask the committee to pass the bill.

Thank you for helping keep California in the forefront of environmental policy!

We also worked hard on two key state budget provisions to address our state's alarming poverty rate: increasing aid to families on CalWORKs assistance so that no child has to live in deep poverty and expanding the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) to include groups previously excluded.

In fact, one of our co-sponsored bills, Senate Bill 982 – is not moving forward this year, but for a very positive reason. Its goal of increasing CalWORKs aid to a level above deep poverty (defined as 50% of the federal poverty level) was incorporated into the 2018-19 budget!

The new budget also expanded the CalEITC to adults under 25 and over 65. Again, your support helps FCLCA advocate every year for a budget that respects the dignity of each person.

Two of our other co-sponsored bills are moving forward. SB 1393, to restore a judge's discretion whether or not to impose a 5-year sentencing enhancement for a previous felony conviction (right now it's mandatory) recently passed the Assembly Public Safety Committee 5-2. It's now in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

And AB 3131, to regulate the acquisition of military equipment by local law enforcement, passed the Assembly, passed two Senate policy committees and is now set to be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on August 6 after the legislative recess.

You might remember how your support last year enabled FCLCA to organize in support of Senate Bill 54, the “sanctuary state” bill to limit state and local law enforcement collaboration with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

This year we continue to advocate for humane treatment of immigrants. Last week, Jim Lindburg spoke at a hearing in support of SB 183 to protect immigrants from ICE in state buildings, public schools and community colleges.

And I was honored to voice our support of Senate Resolution 114, denouncing the treatment of asylum seekers and the treatment of parents and children, at our border.

August 31 will be the last date for the Legislature to pass bills and September 30 will be the last day for the governor to sign or veto bills.

We invite you to sign up for our Action Alerts and to follow us on Twitter and “like” us on Facebook.

We’ll keep you updated as the process moves into its final months. Thanks again for making it possible for us to bring a voice of conscience to California policymaking.

Friends Committee on Legislation of California

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