

Pacific Yearly Meeting Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA) Representative Report to Representative Committee 2020

Friends Committee on Legislation of California and the FCL Education Fund are grateful for all who have supported FCLCA. Your activism, involvement, and contributions through Meetings, fundraisers and individual giving really made a difference. Because of you, last year we were able to successfully cosponsor sentencing reform, play an important role in the campaign to end child poverty, organize interfaith support of environmental and social justice legislation, and weigh in on over 100 bills. The new year of the Legislature, year two of the 2019- 2020 session has begun as FCLCA begins its 68th year of lobbying and bringing your voice to the state Capitol.

This year, we will work on bills to curb plastic pollution, to end child poverty, supporting bills to expand the California Earned Income Tax Credit to immigrant taxpayers, and expand childcare and paid family leave. We'll also be weighing on criminal justice reform bills and developing our recommendations on the many crucial ballot initiatives we expect to see this year. And we're providing coordination to the California Interfaith Coalition, which brings together Catholic, Muslim, Protestant, Lutheran, Jewish and Quaker statewide advocacy organizations to collaborate on issues of mutual concern.

One of our goals this year to increase support for activists in our circle both through online action alerts and through in-district visits. If you are interested in meeting with your state legislators or helping to coordinate a team, please let your FCLCA General Committee representative know or contact Kevan directly at kevan@fclca.org.

Because FCLCA is your lobbying and advocacy organization, we want to be transparent and forthcoming about our future. While our program and results are still strong thanks to contributions from our current supporters and generous bequests, we struggle to raise the funds to keep our work at its current level. You may recall that last year we launched our Champion Campaign. The Campaign will be ongoing, with a goal of developing a circle of supporters who donate approximately \$400,000 a year to cover annual expenses and begin the following year with sufficient operating funds. Our interim goal for 2020 is to raise \$300,000 to fund our impact in 2020 and begin strong in 2021. We still need to widen our circle to include 135 more supporters, including 50 who are able to contribute \$1,000 or more a year. Without additional support, FCLCA may soon face the prospect of downsizing its program and effectiveness. We ask everyone to consider the importance of having a state lobbying and advocacy organization that speaks with your values. Please consider becoming a monthly sustainer, increasing your contribution if your circumstances permit, or becoming a champion of FCLCA or FCL Education Fund, if you are not currently contributing. We appreciate donations of any size.

FCLCA works on state level legislation, funded separately through direct donations to FCLCA. The FCL Education Fund, which receives tax-deductible donations, provides trainings, educational presentations and materials. With your help, FCLCA can continue to work with others to make a significant difference in California, which in turns inspires change throughout our country. Thank you again for all your support, activism and involvement. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to talk with your General Committee representative or contact us.

(Excerpted by Vicki Carroll from a letter from Kevan Insko, February 5, 2020.)

The Representative to FCLCA is Shannon Frediani.