



SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS
Friends Committee on National Legislation
A Quaker Lobby in the Public Interest

2018 Report to Yearly Meetings

Since the early days of the Religious Society of Friends, God's spirit has led Friends to take action in the world. As Friends, our faith and experience convince us to work for the peaceful, just, equitable, and sustainable world we seek. This year we celebrate our 75th anniversary. Founded in 1943 in Richmond, Indiana, FCNL has been bringing the concerns, experiences, and testimonies of Friends to bear on policy decisions in the nation's capital for the past seven decades.

Setting the Legislative Priorities for the 116th Congress

One of the distinctive features of the Friends Committee on National Legislation is our practice of asking Quakers around the country to help shape our collective work. Every two years, FCNL asks Friends and their meetings, churches, and worship groups all over the country to discern which public policy issues they feel are most pressing for the next Congress.

The core question as part of this process is, where is the spirit leading us? How are Friends called to influence government today? Your discernment is the foundation for the lobbying priorities that FCNL will establish at our annual meeting in November of 2018. This summer, FCNL's Policy Committee will read all the responses and consider a set of priorities to bring to the annual meeting.

Learn. Lobby Lead. Update on Annual Meeting 2017

FCNL's Quaker Public Policy Institute and Lobby Day drew some 450 people to Washington, DC to lobby against huge increases in Pentagon spending. More than 300 of that number stayed for FCNL's Annual Meeting which celebrated the successful conclusion of our World We Seek Capital Campaign, affirmed the direction of the Forward Plan outlined by staff, and showed off the first materials prepared for celebrations of FCNL's 75th Anniversary in 2018.

One of the most exciting moments of the 2017 Annual Meeting was the celebration of the successful conclusion of FCNL's five-year capital campaign and opening of the new Quaker Welcome Center at 205 C Street. On October 5, we held a ribbon cutting event attended by



Washington, DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, as well as FCNL's Executive and Education Fund Board. In the past few months, we have begun hosting conversations and programs to promote the world we seek. We are excited to offer the Quaker Welcome Center as a meeting space where lawmakers and staffers can have quiet conversations and speak across political divisions. FCNL has always been known as a place where people across the political spectrum feel welcome, and the Quaker Welcome Center will help us continue that tradition.

Every aspect of this building's construction minimized environmental impact and furthered the goal of creating a carbon-neutral building. FCNL was honored to be able to open the first LEED-certified building on Capitol Hill in 2005, and we're glad to continue our legacy of lobbying for an earth restored with this new Quaker Welcome Center, located next door to our office. The convenient location means that partner organizations working for peace and justice can easily take part in workshops and trainings as part of their lobbying efforts, and we look forward to welcoming FCNL supporters and activists like you before your visits with congressional offices.

We invite you to visit the Quaker Welcome Center and enjoy our expanded presence on Capitol Hill.

The Critical Role of Young Adult Friends

As we look to sustain FCNL's persistent and prophetic advocacy for another 75 years, we know how critical it is for young adults to play a central role in both FCNL's advocacy work and its governance. We are glad to report that FCNL's Standing Committees are stronger because of young adult participation. We are blessed to have these young adults playing leadership roles in the governance of FCNL.

We are also grateful to the 25 Yearly Meetings that have appointed members to serve on FCNL's General Committee. Thank you for sharing the nurturing gifts of these wise and committed Friends. With their guidance, we seek to remain open to where God's spirit leads us.



With gratitude for your partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bridget Moix".

Bridget Moix
Baltimore Yearly Meeting
Clerk, FCNL General Committee