

# Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA) Report to Annual Session 2019

## SUMMARY

FCLCA needs volunteers, activists and champions to continue making an impact:

- Friends Interested in serving on FCLCA's General Committee or Board please contact Vicki Carroll, Clerk, [vickicar@gmail.com](mailto:vickicar@gmail.com)
- Friends Meetings in California are urged to ensure that they have at least one representative to FCLCA's General Committee, please contact Vicki to confirm
- Friends are encouraged to become grassroots activists with FCLCA by
  - signing up for FCLCA action alerts at [www.fclca.org](http://www.fclca.org)
  - following FCLCA on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/fclca.org/>
  - Twitter @KevanInsko and our websites: <http://www.fclca.org/> and Action Center <https://cqrcengage.com/fclca/home>
  - meeting with their legislators in district or in Sacramento. For more information, contact Kevan Insko, co-director, [kevan@fclca.org](mailto:kevan@fclca.org)
- Friends and Meetings are encouraged to participate in the Champion Campaign to keep FCLCA strong and active by:
  - Holding a Meeting Fundraiser
  - Hosting a house party or small get -together to introduce people from their community to FCLCA
  - Sharing information on FCLCA through networks and social media
  - Making a Meeting or Individual Donation
    - FCLCA 1225 8<sup>th</sup> Street, #220, Sacramento, CA 95814 or [www.fclca.org](http://www.fclca.org)
    - Contact: [kevan@fclca.org](mailto:kevan@fclca.org)

## Current Activities - 2019

Thanks to the support of Pacific Yearly Meeting, California Friends Meetings and individual Friends, FCLCA and the FCL Education Fund continue to bring a voice of conscience based on Quaker principles to California's legislative process.

Your support has allowed FCLCA to co-sponsor two bills this year, to advocate for measures to end child poverty through the budget and related bills, and to lobby for dozens of bills in the areas of economic justice, environmental justice, criminal justice reform and immigrant rights.

Our co-sponsored bills include:

SB 136 (Wiener), which eliminates the one-year sentencing enhancement that is served consecutively for each prior felony conviction that required prison or jail time. This is one of the most commonly applied and therefore most costly enhancements and typically snags persons convicted of lower-level felony offenses. SB 555 (Mitchell), which regulates the cost of jail telephone calls and commissary items and places restrictions on expending so-called "Inmate Welfare Funds."

One of FCLCA's major efforts this year is in the area of reducing, and eventually ending, child poverty in California. We have the highest child poverty rate in the nation - almost 23% of our children. FCLCA is a leader and convenor working with other faith-based groups in the End Child Poverty Campaign – through bills and the budget we seek to increase assistance through CalWORKs and establish a Targeted Child Tax Credit so that no family has to live in deep poverty (less than 50% of the federal poverty level). We are also supporting a major expansion

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of the California Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to more low-income workers, including immigrants and “Dreamers” who work with Individual Taxpayer numbers rather than Social Security numbers. EITC is one of the most effective anti-poverty measures there is.

FCLCA is also advocating for more investment for the elderly and homeless. We recently appeared at a Senate hearing in support of a new task force to develop more affordable housing for seniors and the disabled, to forestall homelessness and allow those who wish to age in their homes. We are also lobbying for expanded family leave and an increase in childcare slots and facilities so that low and middle-income families no longer have to feel torn between caring for their families and making a living.

Over the last few years – with your support and encouragement - we have significantly expanded FCLCA’s voice in the environment/climate change arena. We are advocating extensively to provide safe and affordable drinking water to the over 1 million Californians who lack access, and in support of groundbreaking plastic pollution bills that would require regulations to reduce and recycle 75% of single-use packaging and products sold or distributed in California by 2030.

### **FCLCA Lobby Day and Grassroots Advocacy**

In June 2019, FCLCA held a successful Lobby Day – 40 attendees came together in Sacramento and made 30 visits to legislators, advocating for bills to address sentencing reform, plastic pollution and child poverty. Since last summer, close to 900 activists have sent 2,600 messages through our online Action Network to the governor and their legislators.

### **Challenges and Champions**

FCLCA faces a significant challenge in raising enough funds each year to participate in an increasingly complex and technologically sophisticated environment. FCLCA has launched the Champion Campaign to engage more supporters at all levels and to accomplish the goal of raising \$400,000.

California has always been a bellwether state, but in the current national climate, California’s progress is critical to moving our country forward. It’s now more urgent than ever to keep our voices strong.

FCLCA can help make sure that strategic and effective advocacy continues. To do that, we need partners – we need Champions.

Our goal with the Champion Campaign is to build a community of partners who together will provide \$400,000 in contributions each year. That’s what it will take to sustain our impact and build for the future. We invite all Friends Meetings and individuals to give generously so that FCLCA may sustain its impact on California public policy and its work with the Quaker community. More information at [www.fclca.org](http://www.fclca.org) or by contacting Kevan Insko, co-director, 916 443-3734.

The FCLCA and FCL Education Fund boards consist of Steve Birdlebough, George Gastil, James Alexander, Ellen Eggers, George Millikan, Peggy Craik, Shannon Frediani, Stephen Myers, Vicki Carroll (Clerk)