

Pacific Yearly Meeting Friends Committee on Legislation of California Report to Representative Committee 2021

SUMMARY

2020 was an unusual year and brought many changes to Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA). We changed our meetings from in-person to virtual and found that frequent shorter, focused meetings served us better. Our ongoing financial struggles have been ameliorated by moving our office location and reducing staff hours and positions. In 2021, we are looking to expand our Board of Directors and to further organize grassroots involvement by Friends, including young Friends, in our mission to bring a voice of conscience to the California legislature.

Accomplishments in 2020

In the 2020 session, FCLCA played a key role in coalitions focused on specific pieces of legislation and lobbied on over 75 bills and state budget measures in the areas of economic justice, racial justice, criminal justice reform, immigrant rights and environmental protection.

FCLCA worked with the CalEITC Coalition to win the inclusion of tax filers who use Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers, mostly undocumented immigrant workers, in the California Earned Income Tax Credit and Young Child Tax Credit. These credits are recognized as among the most effective anti-poverty measures we have and now over 600,000 low-income people will benefit, including an estimated 245,000 children. In addition to direct lobbying, FCLCA also organized involvement from other faith-based groups as a coordinator of the California Interfaith Coalition.

FCLCA was part of the workgroup behind the California Racial Justice Act, landmark legislation signed by Gov. Newsom that makes it possible for a person charged or convicted of a crime to challenge a conviction or sentence on the basis of bias based on race, ethnicity or national origin.

FCLCA advocated for passage of AB 3070 to address racial bias in jury selection and in the passage of SB 823 to close the Department of Juvenile Justice and move its mandate to the Dept. of Health and Human Services.

FCLCA participated actively in the California Work and Family Coalition—a key accomplishment of the Coalition was Gov. Newsom's signing of SB 1383, a landmark bill to ensure job protection for people, typically low-income wage earners, who need to take family leave (that they have paid for through disability insurance deducted from their paycheck) to care for themselves, ill family members or a newborn.

FCLCA looks forward to keeping the Meetings of the Pacific Yearly Meeting informed about its work in 2021 through the Action Center on its website, <http://www.fclca.org/>, and through presentations and interest groups at PacYM, and the Quarterly Meetings.

The PacYM Representative to FCLCA is Vicki Carroll (Central Coast).