

Pacific Yearly Meeting

Friends Committee on Legislation of California Representative

Report to Annual Session 2021

SUMMARY

In this first year of the 2021-2022 two-year session of the California legislature, FCLCA joined in coalition with other advocacy and faith-based groups to lobby in the areas of economic justice, racial justice, criminal justice reform, and environmental protection. To find out more visit our updated website at fclca.org.

REPORT

In response to growing need to advocate for just laws and a shrinking income stream, last year FCLCA optimized our organizational model to reduce expenses and increase the impact of Friends in the legislature. It's working! Of course, we will always need you to support us with your voice and donations so we can amplify our message of love and justice, but together we are succeeding as an important presence in the capitol. Our staff, Kevan Insko and Dale Richter, and contract lobbyist, Jim Lindburg, lobbied on 89 bills already this session and 65 are moving forward. Over 500 of you sent more than a thousand messages on our [Action Network](#). There are many ways to lobby for the causes you are passionate about. At this point in the pandemic, we still have not planned an "in person" Lobby Day but when that is a safe option, we will announce it through our meeting representatives. If you would like tips on advocating, see our [Bring Your Voice](#) publication.

Though many things have changed since the founding of FCLCA in 1952, there is still a dire need for our work and participation in democracy. California often leads the nation in proposing legislation to improve life for all, which fits with Friends calling to move toward love and justice. The spirit is moving through FCLCA and our original statement of purpose remains a testament to our continued movement.

"We are moved not by political allegiance to party or platform, but by religious faith which teaches that love of God and love of neighbor are inseparable...."

The support of Friends Meetings and individual Friends meant we could lobby for strong measures in the state budget and important bills to address equity in California. The state budget is a statement of our values and priorities as Californians. We are actively engaged in budget advocacy on these issues, among others:

- Health for All –Medi-Cal inclusion for undocumented seniors
- Additional supplemental paid sick leave for those affected by COVID-19
- Protected wage replacement for paid family leave and state disability insurance
- Free School Meals for All, so that no child goes hungry at school or when schools are closed in an emergency
- Tenant rental assistance for those affected by the pandemic
- Support for closing prisons and increasing investment in re-entry services and restorative justice
- Removing the Medi-Cal asset test
- Increased investments in climate change mitigation
- Prioritizing the needs of children, childcare, and services in the budget as part of the Children's Movement and End Child Poverty in California Campaign

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Below are a sample of the priority bills that are moving forward this year.

- **AB 256** - Racial Justice Act for All – makes retroactive the extension of civil rights protections in California courts to all people charged or convicted of a crime using racial bias
- **AB 478** - Establishes minimum recycled content of plastic containers to curb plastic pollution
- **SB 222** – Establishes Water Rate Assistance Fund to help with affordability of drinking water and wastewater services for people experiencing economic hardship
- **AB 4** – Expands eligibility for Medi-Cal to income eligible residents, regardless of immigration status
- **SB 17** - Defines racism as public health issue and establishes Office of Racial Equity
- **SB 2** – Establishes statewide police decertification process
- **AB 1177** – Establishes the BankCal public banking system
- **SB 62** – Protects garment workers from wage theft
- **AB 1041** - Allows job protected leave for extended and chosen family members

If you are interested in becoming an FCLCA representative to your meeting, please contact [Vicki Carroll](#).

The PacYM Representative to FCLCA is Vicki Carroll.

The FCLCA Board of Directors consists of James Alexander, Steve Birdlebough, Peggy Craik, Ellen Eggers, Shannon Fredianni, George Gastil, George Millikan, and Vicki Carroll, clerk.