

## Report on Friends Committee on National Legislation for LEYM 2021

FCNL's multi-issue advocacy connects historic Quaker testimonies on peace, equality, simplicity and truth with peace & justice issues which the US government is and should be addressing. Since its founding in 1943, FCNL has played a pivotal role in the creation of the Peace Corps, was instrumental in lobbying for the creation of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, helped lobby for the Civil Rights Act, and led efforts in Washington to oppose both the first and second Iraq wars.

FCNL is actually three interlocking non-partisan organizations, led by the General Secretary, working collectively to advance a vision of a peaceful, just and sustainable world, governed by a 180 member General Committee of representatives from 26 Yearly Meetings and organizations, plus members at large. In recent years FCNL has made multiple efforts to reach out to and include more young adults in the work, with programs for Young Fellows, Advocacy Corps, Summer Internships and Spring Lobby Weekend. The 2021 Spring Lobby Weekend took place March 12-15, when more than 500 young people gathered online to advocate to their Senators and Representatives about the Justice in Policing Act (HR 1280), visiting more than 140 congressional offices by phone and video.

Advocacy Teams in Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania have carried on the work of talking with congressional staff by video, phone and written word about passing bills to repeal the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF). They were successful in assisting with its passage in the House; the work on the Senate passage continues.

After ten years of dedicated and excellent service, Diane Randall is stepping down from the post of General Secretary. The search for a new Gen Sec is nearing the end: review of applications begins August 1 and the starting date for the successful candidate will be January 1, 2022. The new Gen Sec will be joining a staff of 65 in this vital and engaging work. You are encouraged to enquire about YOUR local Advocacy Team, and seriously consider joining it to carry forward your Quaker concerns for peace and justice.

Submitted by Nancy & Thomas Taylor for the LEYM Representatives to FCNL