

2025 Report to Yearly Meetings

Spring 2025

Dear Friends,

Our Quaker faith and practice call us to bring into being the world we seek. Since 1943, the Friends Committee on National Legislation has carried on this witness of the Spirit through national advocacy. At this challenging time for the country and the world, FCNL endeavors to cultivate moral courage in our community and in members of Congress. Your engagement, financial contributions, and spiritual support make this work possible.

Pursuing Peace with Justice in an Uncertain World

The Trump administration is operating at a whirlwind pace and sowing chaos as it goes. FCNL is striving both to maintain the steadiness of our commitment to peace, justice, and an earth restored and to respond to the need for new partners and tactics to meet this moment. We are seeing more people than ever joining our calls and programs, highlighting the need for FCNL's strategic and prophetic approach. Our legislative priorities, identified by Friends in a bi-annual process, are at fcnl.org/priorities. Updates at fcnl.org/issues.



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Stand Up for Foreign Aid. The administration's dismantling of USAID and termination of 90% of foreign aid programs are hurting vulnerable people around the world. FCNL is leading the call with our peacebuilding and interfaith partners to save foreign aid, working in rapid response to meet with members of Congress across the aisle and in both chambers. As one of the first groups to mobilize around these cuts, FCNL has played a key role in supporting our partners and our network in calling on Congress to take action.

Ceasefire Now. FCNL leads a coalition lobbying Congress for a ceasefire in the Israel-Palestine War, the release of hostages, a halt to U.S. weapons transfers to Israel, and humanitarian aid to Gaza. In 2024, more than 100 members of Congress went on record calling for a permanent ceasefire, and more than 130 members called to condition or block offensive weapons sales to Israel amid growing violence and escalation. FCNL has helped ensure reintroduction of legislation to restore aid to UNWRA, the United Nations relief effort focused on Palestinians in the region. FCNL's sustained grassroots lobbying has brought new attention to efforts to promote aid, not arms, in the Middle East. Ongoing violence makes this work imperative to continue.

Love Our Neighbors, No Exceptions. FCNL is advocating for a secure, thriving, and compassionate United States for all, including immigrant communities. The Trump administration's efforts to deport millions of migrants and operate immigration enforcement as a military operation move us in the opposite direction. FCNL is working with Friends and others to lift their voices—through meeting minutes, letters to the editor, signs opposing immigration enforcement in houses of worship, vigils, lobby visits, invitations to share stories, and more. FCNL is ensuring that members of Congress have to take these perspectives into account.

Prevent Cuts to Medicaid and SNAP. As Congress considered taking medical and food assistance away from potentially tens of millions of people, FCNL mobilized. Our 2025 Spring Lobby Weekend brought more than 300 people to Washington, DC. In more than 100 lobby visits, young adults shared how Medicaid and SNAP have touched their lives and what motivates them to support these vital programs and oppose shifting that money to cut taxes for the wealthiest people in the country and funnel money into detention, deportation, and family separation.

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Nationwide Advocacy & Radical Hospitality

Our conviction that there is that of God in every person leads us to advance this work through a focus on relationship: among advocates, Friends, and FCNL staff and with decision-makers. We foster a community by engaging amid conflict, uplifting each other, and finding creative ways to make change in the face of the many crises in our world.

In the Advocacy Team program's 10th year, we celebrate having 135 teams in 48 states. The two remaining states should have teams launched by year's end! Teams focused on reining in Pentagon spending in 2024, with team members recording 342 lobby visits and 103 published op-eds during the year. In 2025, Teams are calling on Congress to restore aid to UNWRA. Teams are also protecting investments in climate policy. More information at fcnl.org/teams.

Friends Place on Capitol Hill continues to welcome visitors and offer training and advocacy programming. In 2024, Friends Place facilitated lobby training for 18 visiting groups (315 people) saw 11 groups (199 guests) lobby during their time in DC, and hosted 1,830 guests. Friends Place is supporting FCNL's new Campus Chapters Program designed to cultivate engagement among students. More at friendsplacedc.org and fcnl.org/campus-chapters.

▼ Spring Lobby Weekend brought more than 300 people to Washington, DC.



▲ Advocates at the Friends Place Fly-In on climate justice, Feb 2025.

Charting a Course Toward the World We Seek

Creating the world we seek begins with our own transformation. At a time when pressure to back away from commitments to anti-racism, anti-bias, justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (AJEDI) is strong, FCNL is leaning into this work by holding these commitments as central pillars of our work. It is essential to align the experience of people in our community with the values we hold.

Integrating these principles into our work is a key part of our strategic plan, which is now in its second year of implementation and remains a steady roadmap for our advocacy and organizational evolution. In addition to our AJEDI work, under the plan FCNL is moving to strengthen its nonpartisan influence among federal policymakers; build its advocacy network into a powerful, diverse, strategic, and intergenerational movement; shape prophetic narratives; and restructure and boldly resource FCNL to support current needs and future capacities. More at fcnl.org/strategicplan.

Thank you, Friends, for all the ways that you participate in this work to build a better world. 

In peace,

Michael Fuson

Clerk, FCNL General Committee

Granville Friends Meeting » Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

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