Report to College Park Quarterly Meeting

From Kevan Insko, Friends Committee on Legislation of California October 14, 2017

Sunday, October 15, is the last day for Gov. Brown to sign or veto bills. This has been a very successful year for good legislation and we want to thank the members of the Meetings for their support and activism.

Together with you, our FCLCA community and our coalition partners, we successfully advocated for bills that kept California moving forward as a beacon of progress.

This past Wednesday, Gov. Brown signed a raft of criminal justice reform bills - among them, two sentencing reform bills co-sponsored by FCLCA. SB 180, authored by Sen. Holly Mitchell, repeals the three-year sentence enhancement for nonviolent drug convictions that are added to any new conviction. SB 620 restores judicial discretion regarding the imposition of firearm sentencing enhancements.

Another big victory that you helped make happen and that FCLCA was deeply involved in was the passage and signing of the California Values Act, SB 54. The bill helps protect California's immigrants from the federal deportation machine. SB 54 faced many hurdles and daunting opposition - this was not an easy task - and we are so grateful to the many grassroots activists who organized, rallied, visited their legislators and sent messages to lawmakers and the governor in support of this bill.

Overall, FCLCA supporters participated in more than a dozen in-district visits to legislators and 1,500 members of our Action Network sent over 6,000 messages to lawmakers just this year alone.

A number of other important bills FCLCA staff and supporters advocated for were signed by the governor this week:

SB 63, the New Parent Leave Act, will provide job-protected paid family leave to over 2.7 million workers so that parents can bond with their newborns - so important for our children.

The Disclose Act, AB 249, will mean greater transparency for us to know who is really paying for political campaign ads.

AB 1316 expanded lead testing to more children, particularly those living in "hot spots" of lead contamination. SB 50 protects federal lands in California from being conveyed into private hands and mandates that California have the right of first refusal to acquire federal lands.

All in all, FCLCA - with your support - weighed in on over 80 bills this session. With your partnership, together we will continue to make progress in our state - towards more compassion, justice and equity.

Now that we've reached the end of the session we turn our attention to our annual Fund Drive. We aim to raise $100,000 by the end of 2017 to continue to deliver the impact that is so important, now more than ever. This year we celebrate 65 years of advocacy and we are committed to many decades more. So our goals are ambitious in this anniversary year: We'll be asking our supporters to help us reach and maintain financial sustainability by doubling their contributions. And for those who can, we invite to join us as FCLCA "champions," making a contribution of $1,000 or more. Donations can be made online anytime at www.fclca.org.

Thank you again for supporting a voice of conscience!

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