

Photo by Joe Molieri/FCNL



Friends Committee on National Legislation

Lobbying with Quakers



The Friends Committee on National Legislation is a national, nonpartisan Quaker organization that lobbies Congress and the administration to advance **peace, justice, and environmental stewardship.**

Our Approach

FCNL draws on the expertise of lobbyists in Washington, D.C., the commitment and passion of people around the country in our advocacy network, and the relationships we cultivate with elected officials and community leaders.

We meet both policymakers and advocates where they are and seek opportunities to work together. We pursue policies informed by our belief that there is that of God in every person and that all creation has worth and dignity.

Grounded by faith and morality, we combine a pragmatic and results-driven strategy with a clear-eyed, ambitious vision of the world we seek.



Photo by DAG Photo/FCNL



Friends Committee on National Legislation

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The World We Seek

We seek a world free of war and the threat of war.

We seek a society with equity and justice for all.

We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled.

We seek an earth restored.

2024 Priorities



Ceasefire

Relying on militarism and weaponry is not just ineffective but counterproductive to resolve complex foreign policy challenges.

The ongoing conflict in Gaza underscores this reality. Israelis and Palestinians deserve to live in peace, and we have seen over and over again that this cannot be achieved through repeated cycles of bloodshed. U.S. policymakers must prioritize an immediate ceasefire, ensure unfettered humanitarian access, restore funding to UNRWA, the U.N. agency that provides humanitarian relief for Palestinians, and reject the introduction of further arms that only fuel escalation and distance us from the possibility of a peaceful resolution.



Unfunded Priorities Lists

Since 2017, Congress has required the Pentagon to provide a wish list of weapons and projects the administration didn't ask for, known as

the Unfunded Priorities Lists (UPLs). These lists offer a back door to boosting already excessive military spending and have received criticism from both sides of the aisle as well as the Pentagon itself.

The UPLs for fiscal year 2025 seek an additional \$25.8 billion in military spending, significantly up from last year's \$16.4 billion, on top of the administration's requested military budget of \$895.2 billion. FCNL supports the bipartisan Streamline the Pentagon Budgeting Act (H.R.4740), which proposes ending the requirement to provide UPLs. These funds would be better reallocated towards more pressing domestic challenges and human needs.



Child Tax Credit

The Child Tax Credit (CTC) is one of the most effective bipartisan pro-family,

anti-poverty policies we have in the U.S. In 2018, the CTC lifted about 4.3 million people out of poverty, including about 2.3 million children.

However, 19 million children do not receive the full CTC amount because their parents, who are mostly working, do not earn enough money. Congress should expand the Child Tax Credit so low-income families can claim the full CTC amount.



Violence Interrupters

Disinvestment, historical and generational trauma, drugs, and lack

of access to mental health care are directly tied to community-level gun violence—the second highest instance of gun violence—across the country. Although society needs law enforcement, policing is not enough. Violence interrupters know their communities and understand the challenges so they can step in when conflicts arise to prevent them from becoming violent or deadly.

U.S. policymakers should provide robust funding for the Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVI) federal program, which funds violence interrupter programs nationwide.